

September 4, 1997

SECY 97-200

For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 29, 1997

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*Original signed by
James L. Blaha*

James L. Blaha
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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Contact:
T. Hiltz, OEDO

Document Name: C:\WEEK829.

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

INFORMATION REPORT

September 4, 1997

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For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 29, 1997

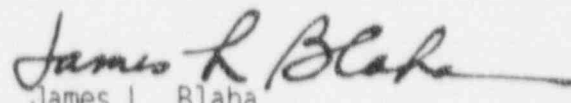
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*No input this week.


James L. Blaha
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
T. Hiltz, OEDO

SECY NOTE: TO BE MADE PUBLICLY
AVAILABLE IN 5 WORKING DAYS FROM
THE DATE OF THIS PAPER

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 29, 1997

ABB-CE Part 21 Report

On August 14, 1997, ABB-CE issued a Part 21 report indicating that energy redistribution factors (ERF) used in its large break LOCA analyses do not directly reflect the effects of moderator voiding, and are underpredicted by 0.5% to 1.5%. This corresponds to a 20 to 60°F increase in peak cladding temperature (PCT) during large break LOCAs. The report identified the affected plants to be: Palo Verde Units 1, 2, and 3, San Onofre Units 2 and 3, Waterford Unit 3, ANO-2, Calvert Cliffs Units 1 and 2, and St. Lucie Unit 2. Because the existing large break LOCA analyses of these plants have PCTs ranging from 2143°F to 2165°F, a potential 60°F increase could result in the PCT exceeding the 2200°F acceptance criterion specified in 10 CFR 50.46.

The licensee for St. Lucie-2 submitted a 30-day report based on 60°F PCT increase from the ERF modeling error. ABB-CE performed a unit-specific estimate of the impact on PCT from the modeling error for St. Lucie-2. The result is an increase of less than 30°F in PCT. The resulting PCT with the model correction is 2173°F, still below the acceptance criterion.

The licensees of other affected plants have not submitted reports and have indicated that a 30-day report may be submitted depending on the results of their analysis. The plant-specific large break LOCA re-analyses are underway by ABB-CE to determine whether the error is significant (impact on PCT greater than 50°F) and whether the PCT will remain below 2200°F. In the meantime, these plants have conservatively assumed the maximum effects of 1.5% in ERF and 60°F in PCT. To ensure compliance with the PCT limit of 2200°F for LOCA events, licensees have taken actions as appropriate, including limiting peak linear heat rates to compensate for the ERF error.

In summary, the licensees of the plants affected by the ERF modeling error have been notified by ABB-CE, and have taken appropriate compensatory measures to ensure continued operation in compliance with the acceptance limit.

BWR Fuel Channel Seal Spring Failures Update

In a letter dated August 11, 1997, entitled "Notification of Potential Existence of a Defect Pursuant to 10 CFR 21.21", Siemens informed the staff of the potential problem of seal spring failure per 10 CFR 21 notification requirements. Failed lower tie plate seal springs were found in eight Siemens' fuel assemblies at a foreign plant in July 1997. The failed seal springs could cause debris fretting wear and more bypass flow. Although their safety evaluation concluded that there were no safety concerns, Siemens notified its domestic BWR customers possessing fuel assemblies with the same manufacturing process and material lot of the problem. Siemens has prepared to support justifications for continued operation and safety evaluations of domestic plants. Siemens further indicated that a fuel examination team is being mobilized to plan inspections at several sites. Discussions with the affected utilities are currently in progress to develop schedules and

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ENCLOSURE A

examination scopes. Siemens will provide a final report to the NRC and affected licensees. However, Siemens concludes that, at the present time, it has not determined that this matter is reportable under 10 CFR 21.

Oyster Creek

At the request of GPU Nuclear (GPU or licensee), a public meeting was held on August 26, 1997, in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) offices at Rockville, Maryland. The licensee made a presentation regarding their options to shut down, sell or continue to operate their Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS). The presentation primarily centered on the activities associated with decommissioning OCNGS in the year 2000.

The licensee is considering deferral of a number of commitments pending their final decision which is expected in late 1997 or early 1998. The NRC informed the licensee that any requested change in their commitments should be submitted on the docket with adequate justification and risk assessment to allow the NRC staff to evaluate their requests.

Crystal River 3 Restart Progress

Florida Power Corporation (FPC) continues to maintain its target for completing the corrective actions and restarting the facility by December 1997. FPC expects to submit 32 licensing submittals that require NRC approval prior to scheduled restart in December 1997. The status of currently identified licensing submittals and other emerging issues challenge the restart schedule.

In the monthly Restart Panel meeting with the licensee on August 21, 1997, the staff indicated that the large number of licensing submittals that are required to be processed within a very short period poses a significant challenge to staff resources. The licensee was informed that it is imperative that the licensee submittals be timely and of high quality. The staff is arranging a meeting with the licensee to discuss issues identified with submittals and schedules to complete all technical reviews.

The staff plans to conduct a Safety System Functional Inspection (SSFI) during September/October 1997. The high and low pressure safety injection systems have been chosen for the inspection.

The licensee is addressing design deficiencies in the control complex habitability envelope (CCHE) and the control room emergency ventilation systems. CR3's control complex is unique in that it does not have a positive pressure capability and the CCHE design is a "zone" which can be isolated with filtered recirculated air. Currently, the licensee is not required and has never tested the leakage of the CCHE. The licensee plans to replace certain dampers and install additional dampers in each isolation path, and demonstrate via tests that the total envelope in-leakage is within allowable limits.

Braidwood, Units 1 and 2 -- Unit 1 Station Auxiliary Transformer Sprayed by Station Fire Water

During the conduct of a fire protection alarm surveillance at Braidwood, Unit 1 on 08/25/97, the station auxiliary transformer (SAT) was sprayed for 10 to 20 seconds before a non-licensed operator closed a manual shutoff valve. Because there are corrosion products in the fire water, the licensee indicated that it will be removing the Unit 1 SAT from service on 08/28/97 for cleaning.

According to the licensee's initial assessment, the causal factors are poor surveillance procedure, poor communication between the several non-licensed operators conducting the surveillance, and inadequate training. The licensee indicated that they identified a generic weakness in their training program. Non-licensed operator training activity has been stopped until retraining of the trainers has been completed.

LaSalle, Units 1 and 2 -- First Line Supervisor Assessments

LaSalle has completed a month long effort to evaluate all of the first line supervisors on site with the exception of the Operations Department (the operations supervisors had previously been evaluated as part of the High Intensity Training program for operators).

This assessment was an extension of an evaluation of site senior management that resulted in a number of senior management changes during the last year. The assessments of the first line supervisors consisted of an evaluation of essays on supervisory competencies prepared by the supervisors, and peer evaluations. Of the 60 supervisors evaluated, four were rated unsatisfactory and may take positions within ComEd but outside of the nuclear organization. Nine supervisors were determined to require remediation. Each of these supervisors will develop a remediation plan consisting of developmental training and a re-evaluation every two weeks. The remediation will continue until 12/22/97 at which time, management will determine which supervisors will be retained. The licensee has no plans to conduct a site-wide assessment of mid-level managers but will let each department determine the need for and method of evaluating its mid-level managers.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 29, 1997

10 CFR Part 35 Working Group meeting

On August 19-21, 1997, the working group developing alternatives for a major revision of 10 CFR Part 35 and associated draft guidance documents met to discuss the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's 1979 Medical Policy Statement, development of a modality approach to Part 35 regulations, structural alternatives for Part 35, and regulatory options concerning: the medical quality management program requirements; radiation safety committees; training and experience; patient notification; and record keeping. The working group is comprised of representatives from the Organization of Agreement States, the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, and the NRC. The meeting was open to the public, and was attended by several individuals representing professional societies and international organizations.

Termination of Quality Assurance Approvals for Radiographers

During August 11-28, 1997, the Spent Fuel Project Office notified 207 radiographers regarding the termination of quality assurance (QA) programs for transportation that had been approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in accordance with 10 CFR Part 71. Changes to the licensing requirements in 10 CFR Part 34 that became effective in June 1997 eliminated the need for a separate NRC QA program approval.

Meetings on Atlas Corporation

On August 19, 1997, Division of Waste Management (DWM) staff met with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 staff in Denver, Colorado, to discuss the status of ground and surface water contamination at the Atlas Corporation (Atlas), Moab, Utah, uranium mill site. EPA was interested in the roles of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the State of Utah with respect to the cleanup of the contamination at the site. At the meeting, DWM staff discussed additional characterization and cleanup measures that could be performed.

On August 21, 1997, DWM and Office of Congressional Affairs staff participated in a meeting and site visit at the Atlas site by staff from the Utah Congressional delegation, a staff member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, representatives of the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service, the local government, and Atlas Corporation. The meeting and the site visit were initiated at the request of the House Committee staff member.

On August 22, 1997, DWM staff participated in a meeting at Atlas' offices in Denver, Colorado, between Atlas and the Department of Interior. The meeting was held to discuss the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS) draft biological opinion (DBO) on the proposed reclamation of the Moab, Utah site, and Atlas' comments on the DBO. FWS stated that it would consider Atlas' and NRC's comments on the DBO in preparing its final biological opinion.

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Meeting with Native Americans at the White Mesa, Utah, Uranium Mill

In response to Native American concerns conveyed to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by the State of Utah, on August 20, 1997, staff from the Division of Waste Management (DWM) held a public meeting to discuss NRC regulation of uranium mills and to introduce the NRC staff responsible for the review of uranium mills to the local Indian tribes. Information on the meeting was provided to eight local tribes, the San Juan County Council, and the City of Blanding, Utah. An environmental consultant for one tribe and a San Juan County Commissioner attended the meeting. Of particular concern to the environmental consultant was NRC responsiveness to Indian tribes. The San Juan County Commissioner felt NRC needed to do more to inform the public about the safety of the mill and nuclear power. Staff of the International Uranium Corporation (the White Mesa licensee) attending the meeting committed to provide copies of the information that NRC made available at the meeting to the Utah Radiation Control Board.

American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Mixed Waste Symposium

On August 18-21, 1997, Division of Waste Management staff participated in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Fourth Biennial Mixed Waste Symposium in Baltimore, Maryland. "Mixed waste" is waste that contains both hazardous waste subject to Environmental Protection Agency regulations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and radioactive material subject to Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations under the Atomic Energy Act. The Symposium is designed to bring together individuals and organizations responsible for the management and regulation of mixed waste, in order to exchange information on current and proposed regulations and policies; existing and emerging technologies for the storage, treatment, and disposal of mixed waste; and recent research related to mixed waste management. The NRC staff taught several modules of a mixed waste fundamentals course offered to Symposium participants, provided an update on NRC's mixed waste and decommissioning activities as part of the Plenary session, presented a paper on the NRC's recently issued Technical Position on the disposition of Cesium-137-contaminated electric arc furnace dust, and chaired a technical session.

Kazakhstan Material (Sapphire)

On August 21, 1997, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) completed its monthly inspection of the downblending activities at the B&W Naval Nuclear Fuel Division plant. No problems were reported. In addition to the normal inspection activities, the IAEA inspectors witnessed the loading of the sea/land containers that hold the downblended product.

Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc.

From August 25-27, 1997, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff met with representative of Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) at their Erwin, Tennessee, site to discuss NFS' integrated safety analysis program and NFS' program to make new naval fuel.

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ENCLOSURE B

Hanford Tank Waste Remediation Systems

On August 27, 1997, Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff met with the Department of Energy Tank Waste Remediation System Regulatory Unit (DOE\RU) to discuss DOE proposed disposition of NRC's comments on recent Lockheed Martin Advanced Environmental Systems (LMAES) submittals. LMAES delivered their first contractual submittal, defining standards selection, to DOE\RU on July 28, 1997. NRC staff delivered comments on the submittal to DOE\RU by letter dated August 15, 1997.

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ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 29, 1997

Attendance at SMIRT-14 by Division of Engineering Technology Staff

The NRC has been concerned about the integrity of a number of key components, including reactor pressure vessels and BWR internals and about containment integrity and the seismic design of piping. RES has invested significant resources in resolution of these concerns. Progress with these topics was highlighted at the 14th Conference on Structural Mechanics in Reactor Technology (SMIRT-14), held in Lyon, France. An NRC staff and contractor team, led by Lawrence Shao, Director, DET/RES, participated in the conference.

Among the technical presentations, the staff learned of concerns being raised by French researchers about limitations on the size of the test specimens that are used to index the generic fracture toughness curves to a specific material. This new information from the French, coupled with concerns the staff has identified, raise questions about the eventual usefulness of the new approach.

The staff also learned of a German study into the integrity of BWR core shrouds and other internal components. The Germans have completed a seismic and dynamic analysis of a BWR vessel and internals that is directly related to work the staff has been planning. The staff is reviewing the paper and a follow-on meeting has been planned in conjunction with the Water Reactor Safety Meeting in October.

Additionally, the staff learned of the results of several recent large-scale piping tests conducted in France and Japan, as well as their plans for future tests. These results and planned research will supplement our efforts and provide missing data that could lead to resolution of some of the piping design issues.

Pilot Training Course on Radiation Health Risk Assessment

RES contracted with the Brookhaven National Laboratory to develop a course intended to provide the NRC staff with the basic elements of radiation health risk assessment as it relates to the development of regulatory standards. This course was developed to update the knowledge of NRC technical staff in the current scientific bases that are used to support regulatory decisions.

RES and the Technical Training Center (TTC) staff attended a pilot session of the course held on August 20 and 21. Following incorporation of staff comments, the initial session of the course will be presented in Headquarters on October 22-23, 1997, for RES and other interested staff from other offices.

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 29, 1997

State Outreach

On August 18 and 19, 1997, two members of the IRD conducted a State Outreach session on incident response for representatives of the States of Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin as well as utilities in those States. State decision makers, utility vice presidents, and plant managers attended. The workshop was extremely well received and was followed by request for individual and additional repeat sessions by many participants. This effort is a part of the State Outreach program in AEOD. The goal is to conduct workshops with each State, utility, and regional Federal organization on incident response-related issues on a three-year cycle.

Preliminary Notifications (PNs)

- a. PNO-I-97-053, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. (Vermont Yankee 1), SPECIAL SECURITY INSPECTIONS AT VERMONT YANKEE, PILGRIM AND INDIAN POINT Unit 3
- b. PNO-III-97-068, Ctl Engineering Incorporated, STOLEN NUCLEAR GAUGE
- c. PNO-III-97-069, Weavexx Corporation, STOLEN PORTABLE THICKNESS GAUGE
- d. PNO-III-97-070, Rivervalley Local School District, BURIED SOURCE OF RADIATION FOUND ON SCHOOL CAMPUS
- e. PNO-IV-97-045, Law Engineering, TEMPORARY LOSS OF A MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE
- f. PNO-IV-97-046, West Los Angeles Medical Center, REPORT OF TELETHERAPY MISADMINISTRATION

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Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 29, 1997

USEC Privatization

SEC staff met with DOE and USEC representatives on August 27, 1997, to discuss the protocol for conducting Foreign Ownership, Control, or Influence (FOCI) reviews on those entities seeking to purchase USEC. The primary purpose was to discuss the NRC's/DOE's preliminary FOCI assessment of bids received and their determination of whether a particular bidder should be authorized access to USEC data rooms based on FOCI concerns. All parties agreed to meet again in the near future after discussion of the issues with their respective management.

Executive Order 12968, "Access to Classified Information"

On August 6, 1997, the EDO informed the Commission that he had approved the standard investigative scopes, mandated by Executive Order 12968, and developed by the Security Policy Board, for use by all Executive Branch agencies and departments. He also advised the Commission of the status of actions by staff to implement other requirements of the Executive Order. The standard investigative scopes represent one of several significant Federal personnel security enhancements mandated by the Executive Order. The standard investigative scopes are to be used for initial background investigations and reinvestigations that serve as the bases for granting and continuing security clearances.

"Q" Reinvestigation Program

The reinvestigation program is underway for NRC employees and other individuals who hold an NRC "Q" security clearance and whose background investigation is at least five years old. This year approximately 150 individuals are affected and were provided personnel security forms to complete and return to the DFS by August 18, 1997. To date, 106 security packets have been returned.

Procurement Reform

Mary Eileen O'Donnovan, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), visited the Division of Contracts and Property Management (DCPM), on August 29, 1997, to receive a demonstration of the Agency's external and internal Internet acquisition home pages, and to review the layout and materials made available to acquisition staff in DCPM's Market Research Center. Ms. O'Donnovan requested the demonstration as a follow-up to a visit by her management and a presentation made to the Small Agency Council Procurement Committee on NRC's Procurement Reinvention Laboratory. FEMA plans to create their own center and home pages and was particularly interested in NRC's approach.

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Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
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Significant FOIA/PA Requests Received during the 5-Day Period of August 22-28, 1997:

PECO Energy Co., violation of NRC codes and regulations. (FOIA/PA-97-321)

Vacancy Announcement 97-41009, list of qualified candidates. (FOIA/PA-97-322)

Materials Licensee Tracking System database for RII on diskette.
(FOIA/PA-97-323)

Atlas Mill in Moab, UT, violation notice and various meeting summaries.
(FOIA/PA-97-324)

Salem Generating Station, OI case report 1-95-013, Docket 50-272 and 50-311.
(FOIA/PA-97-325)

San Onofre power plant, OI investigation regarding safety allegations made in 1989. (FOIA/PA-97-326)

Audit reports regarding named contractors, referred by Department of Defense.
(FOIA/PA-97-327)

Civil and administrative violations assessing monetary penalty for calendar year 1996 on diskette. (FOIA/PA-97-328)

Materials Licensee Tracking System database on disk for program code 03121.
(FOIA/PA-97-329)

Millstone, list and status of OIG reports related to NRC's handling of certain information. (FOIA/PA-97-330)

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Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 29, 1997

Arrivals

BALMAIN, Peter*	OPERATIONS ENGINEER	NRR
BYWATER, Russ**	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RIV
BLAMEY, Alan	REACTOR ENGINEER	RI
GOODWIN, Judith C.	SECRETARY (OA)	HR
GNUGNOLI, Giorgio	IAEA RETURNEE	ACRS
WRONA, David J.	RESIDENT INSPECTOR	RII

* Transfer from RII to NRR

**Transfer from RIII to RIV

Retirements

WEIDENHAMER, Betty	MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT	RES
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Departures

COFFMAN, Catherine	SR COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANAL	ADM
FORMAN, Alice	SUMMER TECHNICAL INTERN	NMSS
FREUDENBERGER, Richard	SR RESIDENT INSPECTOR	RII
HERKES, Marilyn J.	SECRETARY	RIII
NAGEL, James	SUMMER CLERICAL	IRM
SALICRUP, Sheilla	GENERAL ENGINEER INTERN	NRR

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Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 29, 1997

Media Interest

The Chairman was interviewed on Howard University's Channel 32 television station, along with former Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary.

The North County Times published articles on seismic concerns at San Onofre.

School Volunteers Program

Pat Castleman, NRR, spent four evenings this week helping Boy Scouts from the Francis Scott Key District earn their atomic energy merit badges at Camp Airy. He covered atomic terms and structure, fission, chain reactions, radiation, and nuclear power generation. Pat used OPA classroom kits "Your Grandmother's Attic" and the reactor model to illustrate his teachings.

Press Releases

Headquarters:

- 97-124 25th Annual NRC Water Reactor Safety Meeting to be Held
October 20-22 in Bethesda, MD
- 97-125 NRC Issues Draft Environmental Impact Statement for
Decommissioning of Contaminated Site in Pennsylvania
- 97-126 NRC Issues Two Policies on Agreement State Program

Regions:

- I-97-111 NRC Staff Cites Ambric Engineering, Inc. for Violation of NRC
Requirements
- I-97-112 Note To Editors: Four Meetings on Millstone Scheduled
- I-97-113 NRC, B&W to Discuss Apparent Violations at Pennsylvania
Facility
- II-97-61 NRC Staff Issues Order to Former McGuire Nuclear Plant
Employee Prohibiting Involvement in NRC-Licensed Activities
- II-97-62 NRC Staff Proposes \$330,000 in Fines Against Oconee Nuclear
Power Plant
- III-97-78 Special NRC Team to Evaluate Performance at Clinton Nuclear
Power Plant

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Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
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Decision Documents Released to the Public

<u>Document</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1. SECY-97-137	June 30, 1997	Proposed Resolution to Petition for Rulemaking filed by the Nuclear Energy Institute
- Revised SRM on 97-137	August 22, 1997	(same)
- Commission Voting Record on 97-137	August 22, 1997	(same)

Negative Consent Documents Released to the Public

1. SECY-97-122	June 6, 1997	Integrated Review of the NRC Assessment Process for Operating Commercial Nuclear Reactors
- SRM on 97-122	August 19, 1997	(same)

Information Papers Released to the Public

1. SECY-97-189	August 21, 1997	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 15, 1997
2. SECY-97-192	August 21, 1997	Peer Review of the Arthur Andersen Methodology and Use of Trending Letters

Commission Correspondence Released to the Public

1. Letter to Yasuhiro Inagawa, Japan Ministry of International Trade and Industry, dtd 8/21/97 concern renewal of bilateral safety exchange and expresses congratulation on his new position
2. Letter to President Clinton dtd 8/21/97 concerns the 1997 Combined Federal Campaign
3. Letter to James B. King, OPM, dtd 8/21/97 provides comments on OPM's draft strategic plan
4. Letter to Joe F. Colvin, NEI, dtd 8/20/97 concerns a petition for reconsideration of the NRC's FY 1997 final fee rule

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5. Letter to Representatives Stephen Horn and Carolyn Maloney dtd 8/18/97 provides the August status report on the Year 2000
6. Letter to Congress dtd 8/18/97 provides legislative proposals for the 105th Congress
7. Letter to Congress dtd 8/18/97 concerns GAO report "Nuclear Regulation: Preventing Problem Plants Requires More Effective Action"
8. Letter to Senator Domenici and Representative McDade dtd 8/18/97 appealing the H.R. 2203 reduction

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Aharon Ben-Haim, Ph.D., Docket No. IA 97-065. Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (Bechhoefer/Lam/Kline)
2. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste: Procedures for Meetings
3. Statement of Principles and Policy for the Agreement State Program; Policy Statement on Adequacy and Compatibility of Agreement State Programs
4. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards: Procedures for Meetings

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Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 29, 1997

Meeting at the Watertown GSA Site, Watertown, MA

Staff from the Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch conducted a licensing\inspection visit to the Watertown GSA site in Watertown, MA on August 21, 1997. The purpose of the visit was to tour the site and discuss progress in remediating the site and removing the site from the NRC's Site Decommissioning Management Plan. The GSA site is in close proximity to the Watertown Arsenal site (recently removed from the SDMP), and the GSA site served as a waste collection and burn area for radioactive materials from the Arsenal.

The GSA site has undergone some characterization, with additional characterization work planned for late in 1997. Work is being sponsored by the Army Corps of Engineers, with significant contractor support. Discussions on August 21, 1997, also involved the Massachusetts Departments of Radiation Protection and Environmental Protection. The Army expects to submit a work plan to Region I by September 30, 1997, indicating that additional remediation is planned for 1998 and possible removal of this site from the SDMP in 1999. The need for public involvement in the process was also included in the discussions.

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Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 29, 1997

Virginia Electric and Power Company - Surry

The licensee held its emergency exercise on August 26, 1997. Individuals from the NRC, Region II, the States of Virginia and several local counties participated in the exercise.

On August 29, 1997, the NRC issued a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of a \$55,000 civil penalty to the licensee. The action was taken in response to the licensee's failure to implement key aspects of the NRC Maintenance Rule in 10 CFR Part 50. The licensee has thirty days to submit a response to the NRC.

Duke Power Company - Oconee

The NRC issued a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalties, totalling \$330,000 to the licensee on August 27, 1997. The penalties were for two sets of violations. One set stemmed from the failure to meet Technical Specification operability requirements for the High Pressure Injection (HPI) system on Unit 3 at the Oconee site in May of 1997. The second set of violation stemmed from the failure to establish any adequate inspection programs to detect cracks in the HPI lines in the reactor units at the Oconee site. As a result, cracks in Unit 2 remained undetected until a crack penetrated a line wall in April 1997. The licensee has thirty days to submit a response to the NRC.

Westinghouse Electric Corporation

On August 29, 1997, the licensee shut down a portion of its fuel manufacturing process. The purpose was to review the safety analysis for a piece of the ventilation system used in conjunction with fuel pelletizing equipment. The licensee is performing a nuclear criticality safety analysis of the piece of the ventilation system and will review with the NRC prior to use.

Marshall Miller & Associates Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL)

On August 29, 1997, Region II issued a CAL to Marshall Miller & Associates, a well logging licensee, to confirm actions in response to an event on August 20, 1997 in which a 125 millicurie cesium-137 source fell out of the logging tool. A licensee employee picked up the source with his bare hands and put it in a toolbox on a licensee vehicle, where it remained until August 27 when it was placed in a transportation shield. Initial dose estimates showed 10-30 Rem hand dose and 0.2-4 Rem whole body dose to the maximally exposed individuals. Region II will conduct a special inspection the week of September 2 to review the event.

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Region III
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Meeting with Zion Operators

On August 22, 1997, Regional Administrator A. Bill Beach met with NRC-licensed and non-licensed operators for the Zion Nuclear Power Station. The meeting, which was held in Gurnee, Illinois, was requested by the operators to discuss issues related to their ability to raise safety concerns at the plant. About 50 operators attended the meeting. Three other Region III staff members also attended the meeting.

Big Rock Nuclear Power Plant Permanently Ceases Operation

On August 29, 1997, Regional Administrator A. Bill Beach attended the Big Rock Point Success Celebration. He read a letter from Chairman Shirley Ann Jackson commemorating the operating history of the plant. Big Rock Point shut down at 10:33 a.m. (CDT) on August 29, 1997, three years prior to its license expiring.

LaSalle Nuclear Power Station

On August 28, 1997, a management meeting was conducted in the Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between management representatives from Commonwealth Edison Company and members of the NRC staff to discuss the status of the LaSalle Nuclear Power Station. The station's performance improvement actions and restart scheduled were discussed.

B.P. Chemicals Pond Closure Project -- Confirmatory Action Letter Issued

On August 21, 1997, Region III issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) to B.P. Chemicals Pond Closure Project, Lima, Ohio. In July, Region III personnel conducted an inspection at the Pond Closure Project at the B.P. Chemicals facility. As a result of numerous apparent violations and concerns identified during the inspection, NRC issued the CAL. The CAL discusses several actions that are to be completed prior to B.P. Chemicals placing any waste from either the North Deepwell Pond or the Burn Pond into the onsite disposal cell at its Lima, Ohio, facility. The actions included holding a meeting with NRC staff and sampling of the ponds. On August 29, 1997, Region III issued a closure letter to B.P. Chemicals indicating that the specific requirements of the CAL were completed.

AUGUST 29, 1997

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 29, 1997

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, No. 29					
OCA CONTACT	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	09/04 2123 RHOB	10:00	Members of Congress	Superfund	Reps. Oxley/Manton Finance & Hazardous Materials Commerce
Combs	09/04 406 DSOB	2:00	TBA	S. 8. Superfund Reauthorization	Sen. Chafee/Baucus Environment & Public Works
Gerke	09/05 2123 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Electric Utility Competition	Reps. Schaefer/Hall Energy & Power Commerce
Gerke	09/12 342 DSOB	9:30	TBA	S. 981. Revise Federal Rule-Making Procedures	Sen. Thompson/Glenn Governmental Affairs
Keeling	09/15 342 DSOB	2:30	TBA	Proliferation in the Information Age	Sen. Cochran/Levin Intl Security, Proliferation & Federal Services Governmental Affairs

The Senate returns on September 2 and the House on September 3 from the summer recess.

AUGUST 29, 1997

ENCLOSURE R