

April 8, 1999

SECY 99-105

For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
/s/
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING APRIL 2, 1999

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C
Incident Response Operations	D*
General Counsel	E*
Administration	F
Chief Information Officer	G
Chief Financial Officer	H*
Human Resources	I
Small Business & Civil Rights	J*
Enforcement	K*
State Program	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Program	N
Office of the Secretary	O
Region I	P
Region II	P
Region III	P
Region IV	P
Executive Director for Operations	Q
Congressional Affairs	R

*No input this week.

James L. Blaha
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 1999

Reactor Oversight Process - Transition Task Force Activities

On Friday, March 26, 1999, the staff briefed the Commission on the progress made in developing improvements to the regulatory oversight processes. The briefing focused on the significance determination process developed by the staff for evaluating inspection findings, the integration of enforcement with the other oversight processes, and the plans for conducting the upcoming 6-month pilot program. The Nuclear Energy Institute and the Union of Concerned Scientists made presentations subsequent to the staff presentation.

Preparations continue on schedule for the Performance Indicator (PI) workshop to be held the week of April 12 in the vicinity of Region III. Staff work continues on developing the industry PI reporting manual and on preparing the training material for the workshop.

The staff has completed the first draft of the procedures for the new risk-informed baseline inspection program and issued these procedures for comment on Tuesday, March 30, 1999. Procedures out for comment include both the inspection procedures and the program procedures, such as inspection documentation. Comments are due by April 12 to support the inspection program training session to be held in the vicinity of Region II during the week of April 26.

Ongoing Communications on Revised Oversight Plan

The Director, NRR and members of the Inspection Program Branch held an all hands meeting with the Region III staff to discuss recent proposed changes to the reactor oversight process. A second meeting between regional branch chiefs and members of the Inspection Program Branch provided an opportunity for in-depth discussion of the oversight process. Both meetings were well attended and provided for a good discussion of a variety of topics.

Wolf Creek Generating Station

On March 31, 1999, the staff issued license amendments which replace the Wolf Creek technical specifications in their entirety with new technical specifications based on the improved Standard Technical Specifications (STS). This is the 46th unit that has been approved to convert to the improved STS. The licensee will implement these revised technical specifications by December 31, 1999. Issuance of these amendments completes an item in the Commission Tasking Memorandum. This application was part of a cooperative effort in concert with the licensees for the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, the Callaway Plant, and the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station. Staff review of this overall effort is nearing completion as well and amendments for the remaining plants (Callaway and Diablo Canyon) are expected at approximately one month intervals.

Turkey Point License Renewal Plans

In a letter dated March 25, 1999, Florida Power & Light (FPL) announced its plans to accelerate a license renewal application for Turkey Point 3 & 4 from mid 2001 to December 2000. In that letter, FPL also requested meetings with the NRC to discuss their plans for referencing Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) aging management reports, and the staff's perspective of lessons learned thus far from the Calvert Cliffs and Oconee reviews. A meeting with FPL has been arranged on April 14, 1999. The staff has tentatively arranged a complementary meeting with the NEI License Renewal Task Force on April 13, 1999, to discuss the development of a standardized format for license renewal applications, which will be attended by FPL, Southern Company and other utilities who are planning license renewal applications in the next few years.

South Texas Unit 1 - Control Rods

Rod drop testing (March 27, 1999) at the end of Cycle 8 for South Texas Unit 1 revealed four control rods that stuck at 6 steps. All rod drop times were well below the Tech Spec limit, although some rods experienced a greater than normal increase from the beginning of the cycle (BOC). The results were unexpected for two reasons. First, the burnup level on the three standard fuel assemblies with the incomplete rod insertions (IRI) was 26.4 GWD/MTU, while the prior lowest burnup for a standard assembly experiencing IRI was over 30 GWD/MT. Second, the fourth assembly was a Phase 1 assembly with 25.2 GWD/MTU. The Phase 1 fuel incorporated changes that were expected to mitigate the IRI problem including the use of ZIRLO guide tubes and a protective bottom grid. The Phase 2 fuel, currently loaded into Unit 2 and which is the fuel planned for all future Unit 1 and Unit 2 reloads, is expected to eliminate the IRI problem. The licensee and the vendor are investigating the issue further. Cycle 8 was an aggressive 18-month cycle which had a higher than normal fuel duty. The present cycle (Cycle 7) for Unit 2 and Cycle 9 for Unit 1 are approximately 12-month cycles with lower fuel duty. In addition, no further use of Phase 1 fuel in rodded locations is planned. The Reactor Systems Branch will continue to follow this issue.

Meeting with NEI to Discuss Reactor Fire Protection

On March 25, 1999, managers and staff of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research held a 1-day meeting with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). The main objective of the meeting was to discuss NRC and industry initiatives involving (1) fire protection inspection and assessment, (2) fire protection standards and guidance development, (3) fire induced circuit failures, and (4) the development and use of risk methods to address fire protection issues. The NRR staff presented its newly-developed reactor fire protection draft master plan. For each topical area, within the context of the master plan, the staff and NEI representatives discussed the scope of work, schedules and status; organizational interfaces; and opportunities for coordination and cooperation. The meeting participants also discussed reactor fire risk and the NRR staff presented the method it is developing to assess the risk significance of fire protection deficiencies (e.g., inspection findings). This methodology will be incorporated into the new reactor oversight process. A number of conceptual and technical understandings and scheduler agreements were reached during the meeting. The staff will issue a meeting summary.

Beaver Valley Units 1 and 2

On March 26, 1999, Duquesne Light Company (DLC) announced that it has executed definitive agreements providing for the exchange of its partial interests in five power generation stations for three wholly-owned generating facilities from First Energy Corp. The ownership interests transferred by DLC to First Energy include the Beaver Valley Power Station Units 1 and 2 and Perry Nuclear Station as well as three fossil units. DLC will then incorporate these three new facilities into a generating portfolio to be divested via formal auction. The definitive agreements provide First Energy exclusive ownership and operating control of all generating assets that now are jointly owned and operated under the Central Area Power Coordination Group (CAPCO; comprised of Ohio Edison, Pennsylvania Power, The Illuminating Company, Toledo Edison and Duquesne Light) agreement. DLC and First Energy expect to submit the License Amendment Request for the asset transfer in April 1999 as well as making necessary filings with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The swap is expected to be completed by year end 1999.

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

On December 21, 1998, Boston Edison Company (Boston Edison) submitted an application that requested approval to transfer the Facility Operating License for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (Pilgrim) from Boston Edison to Entergy Nuclear Generation Company (Entergy Nuclear). Boston Edison, the current owner, is also the licensed operator of Pilgrim. On February 16, 1999, petitions for intervention were filed by the Utility Workers Union of America, and the Massachusetts Attorney General, and a request for hearing was filed by the Citizens Urging Responsible Energy (CURE).

The Utility Workers Union petition states that Entergy Nuclear has not assumed the collective bargaining agreements currently in place with Boston Edison. As a result, Boston Edison's licensed operators, and other staff, cannot commit to becoming employees of Entergy Nuclear. Furthermore, the Union states that under the current agreement, Boston Edison's operators and other staff can exercise their right to remain with Boston Edison at other facilities. Therefore, if the license transfer occurs prior to execution of the collective bargaining agreements, a lack of qualified personnel could occur which, according to the petitioners, would make it extremely difficult for Entergy Nuclear to run the plant in a safe, economical, and efficient manner.

The Attorney General's petition states that Entergy Nuclear is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Entergy Corporation, a holding company. The effect of the proposal would be to transfer financial responsibility for Pilgrim from a rate-regulated electric utility to an exempt wholesale generator whose financial obligations would eventually be dependent on sales in a competitive market. Therefore, as a result of Entergy Nuclear's potential lack of adequate financial resources, the Attorney General's petition requests that the transfer include the condition that Entergy Corporation agrees to remain contingently responsible for the required safety and decommissioning expenditures in the event of a default by Entergy Nuclear. Failing the adoption of that condition, the Attorney General's petition requests a hearing on the issue of whether Entergy Nuclear can be reasonably assured of having the requisite financial qualifications to safely operate and decommission its ownership share of Pilgrim.

CURE requests that the NRC conduct a public hearing in the Plymouth area prior to its decision on the transfer application. CURE also requests that the open allegations involving the licensee be resolved prior to terminating their license.

North Anna Nuclear Plant, Surry Nuclear Plant

Dominion Resources Inc., (DRI), the parent company of Virginia Electric and Power Company and Consolidated Natural Gas Co., announced on February 22, 1999, their merger to form the nation's fourth largest electric and natural gas utility, serving nearly 4 million retail customers in five states. Market capitalization of the combined entity will exceed \$25 billion, have an energy portfolio of more than 20,000 megawatts of power generation, and 17,000 employees. The combined company will be named Dominion Resources and be headquartered in Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Thomas E. Capps, who is presently the chairman, president and chief executive officer of DRI, will be the president and chief executive officer of the combined company. The companies anticipate minimal workforce reductions as a result of the merger. The transaction is conditioned, among other things, upon the approvals of various federal regulatory agencies, and the completion of regulatory processes in the states where the combined company will operate. The details of the merger will be reviewed by NRR and OGC to determine whether any NRC action or approval is required.

Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Unit 1

Watts Bar Unit 1 shut down for its second refueling outage on February 27 after completing a 353 day continuous run. By March 9, 1999, the tritium producing burnable absorber rods (TPBARs) had been removed from the reactor.

Monticello & Prairie Island

Northern States Power Co. (NSP), the licensee for Monticello and Prairie Island, and New Century Energies Inc. (NCE), announced today that they have entered into a definitive merger agreement. The merged company will stretch from Mexico to Canada (the 8th-largest integrated electrical system in the U.S.), and also will have a strong global presence, with operations in the United Kingdom, Central Europe, Australia, and South America. It will be headquartered in Minneapolis, and certain key business units or operations will be based in Wisconsin, Denver, and Amarillo, TX.

NCE, the holding company of Public Service Co. of Colorado, Southwestern Public Service Co. of Amarillo, and Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Co., serves about 2.5 million electric and natural gas customers in Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, Wyoming, Kansas, and Oklahoma. NCE does not have nuclear interests, although one of its operating companies (Public Service Co. of Colorado) was the licensee for the now-decommissioned Fort St. Vrain nuclear plant in Colorado. NSP serves about 1.9 million electric and natural gas customers in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, and Michigan. NCE has about 6300 employees; NSP has about 6900. Based on year-end 1998 capacity, the combined entity will have a total generating capacity of 21,720 MW, of which 15,133 MW is regulated in the United States, and will have revenues of \$6.4 billion, earnings of \$618.8 million, and assets totaling about \$15.1 billion.

The merger is expected to be a tax-free, stock-for-stock exchange for shareholders of both companies, and to be accounted for as a pooling of interests. NCE and NSP anticipate that the merger will be accretive in the first full year and thereafter to both sets of shareholders assuming realization of anticipated net cost savings. Upon completion, holders of NCE stock will receive 1.55 shares of the merged company stock for each share of NCE stock. Each share of NSP

stock will continue as one share of the combined company.

James J. Howard, president, chairman and CEO of NSP will serve as chairman of the combined company for the first full year of operations. Wayne H. Brunetti, vice chairman, president and COO of NCE will be president and CEO upon closing and will assume the responsibilities as chairman upon Howard's retirement. Bill D. Helton, current chairman and CEO of NCE, will retire upon completion of the merger. The board of directors will consist of an equal number of members from NSP and NCE.

The merger requires the approval by the shareholders of the two existing companies, as well as approval or regulatory review by the SEC, FERC, FTC, DOJ, FCC, NRC, and state regulators in nine of the states currently served by the two companies. The merger is expected to take from 12-18 months to complete.

As reported previously, NSP is also engaged in a recently formed alliance of mid-western nuclear utility companies involving NSP, Wisconsin Electric, Wisconsin Public Service, and Alliant-IES. The nuclear plants involved in this alliance are Monticello, Prairie Island, Point Beach, Kewaunee, and Duane Arnold.

Wolf Creek

On March 25, 1999, the staff met with representatives from the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) and industry to discuss the staff's review of WCAP-14986, Revision 1, "Westinghouse Owners Group Post Accident Sampling System Requirements: A Technical Basis," which was submitted on October 26, 1998. Based on its current understanding of core damage accidents and the current guidance for bringing plants to a safe stable state following a core damage accident, the WOG is recommending that many of the current PASS requirements be eliminated. A small number of PASS requirements (RCS boron and containment hydrogen sampling and analysis) were found to provide information that could be useful in the recovery from accidents that involve core damage, and therefore, the WOG is recommending that these PASS requirements be maintained.

By letter dated November 10, 1998, Wolf Creek submitted a request to modify its commitments regarding PASS as the lead plant for the WOG. Wolf Creek concluded that the majority of the PASS samples and analyses performed do not aid emergency response personnel or plant personnel in any accident control functions. Therefore, Wolf Creek views the cost of maintaining the majority of the current PASS requirements as an unnecessary regulatory burden.

The staff is scheduled to present its preliminary conclusions during an ACRS subcommittee meeting on April 30, 1999, and during a full committee meeting the week of May 3, 1999.

Yankee Rowe

An ASLB Conference Call With All Parties to Hearing on License Termination Plan was held on March 31, 1999. In addition to the ASLB, those in attendance were: NRC staff from NRR, OGC and NMSS, licensee, and interveners. The ASLB addressed licensee's motion for reconsideration of the ASLB's admission of Contention 4 related to scenarios for calculation of final release doses and the ASLB asked for an April 9, 1999, response to Motion from other

parties. The ASLB established the following schedule: (1) discovery period April 11 to June 11, 1999; (2) hearing begins September 27, 1999; and (3) prefiled testimony due two weeks before hearing. ASLB will issue an order specifying the exact dates. ASLB also requested that the licensee and interveners begin a dialog toward a negotiated settlement. The interveners and licensee stated that such dialog has begun. ASLB asked about status of EA and the PM promised to get it issued quickly. The staff also stated that it would issue its SER in the next two months. Commission notification is required prior to issuance of the license amendment termination because there is an ongoing hearing. The PM is preparing a memo to the Commission informing the Commission of the staff's plan to issue the license amendment.

Three Mile Island

On Monday, March 29, 1999, Commissioner Merrifield toured the Three Mile Island site. He was accompanied by Dr. William Travers, EDO, and Hub Miller, RI Administrator, and other staff members. Congressman George Gekas, whose district includes TMI, joined the group for a portion of the day's activities. The site visit ended with a press briefing attended by representatives from TV, radio, and print media.

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

On March 29, 1999, a public meeting regarding the possible early shutdown and decommissioning of Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station was held at the Oyster Creek site in Forked River, New Jersey. The licensee made a presentation on their ongoing activities related to the possible early shutdown of the plant and the scheduling of submitting license amendment requests in the event they do shutdown early. The NRC also made a brief presentation addressing the decommissioning process at the meeting. The meeting was attended by 24 people; of those 3 members of the press and 1 member of the public were in attendance. Two representatives of the State of New Jersey also were present.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 1999

Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes

On March 24-25, the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI) met with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to discuss the revision of 10 CFR Part 35, "Medical Use of Byproduct Material." The meeting was held to obtain early input from ACMUI on the staff's proposed resolution of the comments that were submitted on key issues in the proposed rule that was published in the Federal Register on August 13, 1998. Major areas for discussion included the training and experience criteria for authorized users (physicians); requirements for a radiation safety committee; and the reporting thresholds for different types of events.

Society of Nuclear Medicine

On March 26, 1999, a representative from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety made a presentation on the revision of 10 CFR Part 35, "Medical Use of Byproduct Material," at the 44th annual meeting of the Southwestern Chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. The presentation included information on the background and status of the rulemaking project, and a summary of the proposed changes in Part 35. Meeting participants were particularly interested in the proposed revision to the training and experience requirements because they felt that the safe handling of radioactive material is directly connected to the training and experience requirements for authorized users (physicians).

American Society of Non-Destructive Testing

During March 25-26, 1999 a management representative from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety participated in the winter meeting of the American Society of Non-Destructive Testing (ASNT) in Orlando, Florida. The participation included meeting with representatives of ASNT responsible for their radiography certification program and providing a presentation to the attendees regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff's reaction to requests from ASNT and the Non-Destructive Testing Management Association for extension of the June 27, 1999, deadline for radiography certification. The options considered by the staff were presented along with the staff's current thinking. The group was advised that the matter will require a Commission policy decision and that a Commission paper is currently under development for this purpose. The staff's preferred option, i.e., enforcement discretion rather than extension of the rule deadline, was well received by the attendees. The ASNT representatives expressed some concerns, primarily of an administrative nature, which the staff will consider in preparing a proposal for Commission consideration.

Meeting with a Representative from Ghana

On March 24, 1999, a representative from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety met with an economic and commercial specialist from the Commercial Section, U.S. Embassy, Ghana. Specifically, Ghana is seeking information to: (1) assist with developing a new system of regulation for medical uses of radiation; and (2) address training requirements for medical occupational workers. An overview of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) process for

developing regulations and involving stakeholders was provided. Additionally, 10 CFR Part 19, 10 CFR Part 35 training and experience of authorized users, and related supervision requirements were described. The discussion also included explanations of NRC process and infrastructure for implementing medical regulations: license application, review, renewal, and termination; inspection; enforcement; and decommissioning.

Further discussion included the following topics: (1) medical research and related concerns (e.g., use of human research review committees and protocols); (2) NRC implementation of risk informed, performance based regulation; (3) licensing streamlining efforts; (4) brief explanation of the new enforcement process; (5) security and control of material; (6) transportation issues; (7) disposal issues; (8) review of regulatory models in other countries; (9) brief explanations of medical uses regulated by NRC; (10) regulatory flexibility to address new medical uses/devices; (11) NUREG 1516, "Management of Radioactive Material Safety Programs at Medical Facilities," concepts (a copy was provided); and (12) foreign assignee possibilities. NRC regulation of other byproduct material applications that are used or planned for use in Ghana were also highlighted, including radioisotope production, tertiary recovery, and food irradiation. Additionally, copies of 10 CFR Parts 19, 20, 35, and 71 were provided, as well as regulations addressing various types of licensing and commercial use requirements. Draft and final volumes of NUREG 1556, "Consolidated Guidance about Materials Licenses," were furnished.

Approval of the National Assurance Corporation International Dual-Purpose (Spent Fuel Storage and Transport) System

Staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) have completed a preliminary safety review of the National Assurance Corporation International Multi-Purpose Canister (NAC-MPC) system. On March 25, 1999, the preliminary Safety Evaluation Report and Certificate of Compliance (CoC) were completed and forwarded to initiate the rulemaking process required to add the NAC-MPC design to the 10 CFR Part 72 list of approved casks for use under the general license at reactor sites. The NAC-MPC system utilizes a welded closed stainless steel transportable storage canister to confine the Yankee Class pressurized water reactor spent fuel assemblies, which are then placed within a vertical concrete cask for storage.

Additionally, on March 25, 1999, SFPO issued an amendment to the NAC Storage Transport Cask (NAC-STC) design. The 10 CFR Part 71 CoC amendment authorizes the transport, within the previously approved NAC-STC transport cask cavity, of the identical transportable storage container and spent fuel contents that are undergoing the Part 72 rulemaking process in the NAC-MPC storage system.

The Part 72 rulemaking to add the NAC-MPC system to the list of approved storage casks is expected to take approximately 11 months. Following the final rulemaking, Yankee Rowe Nuclear Plant plans to be the first facility to use this dual-purpose system.

Issuance of Certificate of Compliance to Holtec International for the HI-Star 100 Transportation Cask

On March 31, 1999, the Spent Fuel Project Office issued Certificate of Compliance (CoC) No. 9261 to Holtec International (Holtec) of Marlton, New Jersey, for the HI-STAR 100 transportation cask. The HI-STAR 100 transportation cask is part of Holtec's HI-STAR 100

dual-purpose cask system for the transportation of spent nuclear fuel. A preliminary CoC for the HI-STAR 100 storage cask is currently going through the rulemaking process so that it can be included in 10 CFR 72, Subpart K, as one of the casks approved for use under the provisions of Part 72 for general licensing for storage of spent fuel at power reactor sites. The HI-STAR 100 is also compatible with the Holtec HI-STORM storage cask, which is proposed for use by Private Fuel Storage in its application for a license for an away-from-reactor independent spent fuel storage installation on the reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians. The HI-STORM storage cask is currently undergoing staff review.

Issuance of Spent Fuel Storage License to the Portland General Electric Company

On March 31, 1999, the Spent Fuel Project Office issued a license to the Portland General Electric Company (PGE) to permit spent fuel from the Trojan Nuclear Plant to be placed in dry storage at an independent spent fuel storage installation at the facility. Only spent fuel from the Trojan Nuclear Plant may be stored under the license. The independent spent fuel storage installation license is for 20 years. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations permit PGE to request renewal. Trojan ceased operation in November 1992 and is currently being decommissioned. The first cask is expected to be loaded in late April or early May 1999.

Department of Energy Loads First Cask in TMI-2 Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation

On March 31, 1999, the Department of Energy's Idaho Operations Office successfully placed its first loaded dry shielded canister containing core debris from the TMI-2 reactor into the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) for the TMI-2 reactor core debris. The 10 CFR Part 72 license for the ISFSI was issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on March 19, 1999. An NRC inspection team, led by Region IV personnel, was on site at the time.

Public Meeting on Proposed 10 CFR Part 63 Technical Criteria for Yucca Mountain

Staff from the Division of Waste Management held public meetings on March 23, 1999, in Las Vegas, Nevada, and on March 25, 1999, in Beatty, Nevada, to discuss the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) proposed regulations for the licensing of a possible future high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain. The meetings opened with an NRC presentation of the background and technical content of the proposed rule. A representative of the Department of Energy (DOE) was provided a brief opportunity for comment on NRC's proposed criteria. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was also invited, but declined to send a participant. An observer from EPA's Region 9 was in the audience. Approximately 150 persons attended the meeting at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Alumni Center; and approximately 60 persons attended the meeting at the Beatty Community Center.

The public discussion began with a panel of representatives on the major interests affected by the proposed regulations, including county governments, the State of Nevada, the Western Shoshone Nation, the Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force, and the Nuclear Waste Study Committee. Commenters expressed concern at both meetings, but especially at Beatty, that the proposed criteria (25 millirem at 20 kilometers) are less stringent than those in place for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico (15 millirem at 5 kilometers, plus separate limits for concentrations in groundwater), and that the 25 millirem, all pathway dose limit is insufficiently

protective of infants and children. Comments also asserted that the recent report of DOE's peer review panel cast serious doubt on the maturity of performance assessment as a suitable basis for determining compliance. Both Nye and Inyo County representatives argued for the inclusion of groundwater protection criteria comparable to those provided under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Several speakers inquired and expressed concern about the transportation risks associated with moving spent fuel to Yucca Mountain. At both meetings on the proposed rule, there were requests that NRC extend the public comment period that currently expires on May 10, 1999. Citing a multitude of important milestones and documents related to Yucca Mountain, all of which warrant careful review and significant comment (e.g., DOE's viability assessment, draft Environmental Impact Statement, possible EPA standards, etc.), several speakers asked that NRC afford the public up to 6 months to prepare comments on the proposed 10 CFR Part 63 regulations.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 1999

Assessment of Westinghouse Reactor Protection System Reliability

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research is issuing a final report, "System Reliability Study: Westinghouse Reactor Protection System, 1984–1995," NUREG/CR-5500, Volume 2. The study is part of our ongoing evaluation of the reliability of risk-significant safety systems. The final report incorporates comments and suggestions obtained during internal and external review with industry and the public. Using data obtained from licensee event reports and the Nuclear Plant Reliability Data System (NPRDS), the study provides an estimate of the associated system unavailability (i.e., the probability the system will fail when demanded, including maintenance unavailability) based on actual and test demands between 1984 and 1995. The study also identifies that the dominant failure mode is associated with the under-voltage drive cards. The report also identifies that the values found in this study are similar to those used in individual plant examinations and in ATWS rule analyses.

Meeting at DOE on the MELCOR Accident Consequence Code System (MACCS)

On Friday, March 19, 1998, RES and contractor personnel working with the MACCS2 code met with personnel from the Department of Energy's Offices of Environmental Safety and Health and Defense Programs to discuss the resumption of DOE's support of the development and maintenance of MACCS2. MACCS2 version 1.12 is the latest version of the NRC's official severe-accident consequence-analysis code. DOE uses MACCS2 in safety assessments of its nuclear facilities and is interested in performing a quality assurance exercise on MACCS2. The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board also has expressed an interest in MACCS2's quality assurance. No thorough quality assurance exercises have been done on MACCS since the late 1980s on Version 1.5 of MACCS, a predecessor to MACCS2. The MACCS2 quality assurance effort is expected to involve Sandia National Laboratories, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and Westinghouse Safety Management Solutions, Inc. NRC will provide support for this effort through Sandia.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 1999

Training

On April 1, 1999, the Division of Contracts and Property Management conducted an "Acquisition for Project Managers" training module entitled "Negotiation of Project Terms and Conditions." This workshop addresses the role of the Project Manager in negotiation of terms and conditions of NRC contracts and DOE Laboratory agreements and documenting the negotiation in accordance with the FAR, NRCAR, and MD 11.7.

Rulemaking Activities for the Week Ending March 26, 1999

On Thursday, April 1, 1999 (64 FR 15876) the proposed rule entitled, "Revision of Fee Schedules; 100% Fee Recovery, FY 1999," was published. The rule would revise Parts 170 and 171 to ensure NRC compliance with the Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act of 1990, which mandates that the NRC recover approximately 100 percent of its budget authority in Fiscal Year 1999, less amounts appropriated from the Nuclear Waste Fund and the General Fund. The amount to be recovered for FY 1999 is approximately \$449.6 million.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 1999

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of
March 26, 1999 through April 1, 1999:

OI authority to conduct criminal investigations, 10/15/82 M. Malsch, OGC, memo to J. Fitzgerald, OI. (FOIA/PA 99-168)

Hazardous materials, status at Hanna City Air Force Station, Hanna City, IL. (FOIA/PA 99-169)

License for mobile high dose rate unit. (FOIA/PA 99-170)

Environmental Impact Statement relating to endangered animal species. (FOIA/PA 99-171)

Depleted uranium licensee listing. (FOIA/PA 99-172)

Self, OI investigation case no. IV-98-037. (FOIA/PA 99-173)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 1999

Arrivals		
SACKETT, Gregory	HEALTH PHYSICIST	NMSS
Retirements		
BARTH, Charles	SR LITIGATION ATTORNEY	OGC
MURPHY, Daniel	OPERATIONS OFFICER	OI
STANSBERRY, Walter	PHYSICAL SECURITY SPECIALIST	RII

Office of Public Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending April 2, 1999

Media Interest

Jerry Mauck, NRR, was interviewed by CNN on the Y2K issue.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
99-61	NRC Seeks Comment on Proposal to Amend Licensing, Inspection and Annual Fees
99-62	Arthur Andersen Consultants Assess NRC Planning, Budgeting, and Performance Management Process
99-63	Note to Editors: ACRS Reports
99-64	NRC Issues License to Portland General Electric for Storage of Trojan Fuel in Independent Storage Installation
Regions:	
I-99-22	NRC to Hold Public Meetings on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Calvert Cliffs License Renewal Application
I-99-23	NRC Proposes \$5,500 Fine for Washington, D.C. Hospital for Temporary Loss of Nuclear-Powered Pacemaker
I-99-24	Note to Editors: Millstone Meeting April 7
II-99-09	NRC Staff Issues Order to Puerto Rico Company Prohibiting Involvement in NRC-Licensed Activities
II-99-10	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Harris in Latest Review
II-99-11	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Brunswick in Latest Review
II-99-12	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Robinson in Latest Review
II-99-13	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Crystal River in Latest Review
II-99-14	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at St. Lucie in Latest Review
II-99-15	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Turkey Point in Latest Review
II-99-16	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' in Latest Review at Watts Bar
II-99-17	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' in Latest Review of Sequoyah
II-99-18	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Browns Ferry in Latest Review

II-99-19	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Summer in Latest Review
II-99-20	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Farley in Latest Review
II-99-21	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Hatch in Latest Review
II-99-22	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Vogtle in Latest Review
III-99-11	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Duane Arnold Nuclear Power Plant in Latest Review
III-99-11	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Monticello Nuclear Power Plant in Latest Review
III-99-12	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant in Latest Review
III-99-13	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Perry Nuclear Plant in Latest Review
III-99-14	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Davis-Besse Nuclear Plant in Latest Review
III-99-15	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at LaSalle Nuclear Station in Latest Review
III-99-16	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Byron Nuclear Power Plant in Latest Review
III-99-17	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Dresden Nuclear Power Station in Latest Review
III-99-18	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Braidwood Nuclear Power Station in Latest Review
III-99-19	NRC Find Performance 'Acceptable' at Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station
IV-99-11	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at WNP-2 in Latest Review
IV-99-12	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Palo Verde in Latest Review
IV-99-14	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Waterford in Latest Review
IV-99-15	NRC Finds Performance 'Acceptable' at Arkansas Nuclear One in Latest Review

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 1999

March 22-26 Meeting of the Board of Governors

Jodi Lieberman attended the IAEA Board of Governors meeting March 22-26, 1999. This meeting, informally considered the "Nuclear Safety" Board, included six nuclear safety-related agenda items, none of which were considered contentious. The Board requested that the Secretariat create an action plan for addressing the safety and security of radioactive sources, and opted for consideration of a less formal instrument which would enable broader participation by a larger number of Member States, such as a Protocol, Code of Conduct or Code of Practice. Towards the end of the meeting, Ambassador Ritch made a statement regarding completion of Senate Advice and Consent on ratification of the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

Office of the Secretary
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending April 2, 1999

Documents Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-99-061	3/3/99	Amendment to SECY-99-294: Changes to Paragraph (h) of 10 CFR Part 50.55a, "Codes and Standards"
Commission Voting Record on 99-061	3/26/99	(same)
M990326B	3/26/99	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session, 12:30 p.m., Friday, March 26, 1999: I. SECY-98-294 & SECY-99-061 - Changes to Paragraph (h) of 10 CFR Part 50.55a, Codes and Standards"
2. Commission Voting Record on SECY-98-294	3/26/99	Changes to Paragraph (h) of 10 CFR Part 50.55a, "Codes and Standards"
3. M990326A	4/1/99	SRM - Briefing on Proposed Reactor Oversight Process Improvements and Enforcement (SECY-99-007A), Friday, March 26, 1999
4. SRM	4/1/99	SRM - SECY-99-059 - Agreement State Compatibility for Criticality Requirements Applicable to Low-Level Waste Disposal Facilities
5. SECY-99-059	2/24/99	Agreement State Compatibility for Criticality Requirements Applicable to Low-Level Waste Disposal Facilities
SRM on 99-059	3/31/99	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 99-059	3/31/99	(same)
6. SECY-98-296	12/21/98	Agency Policy Regarding Licensee Recapture of Low-Power Testing or Shutdown Time for Nuclear Power Plants
SRM on 98-296	3/30/99	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 98-296	3/30/99	(same)

Negative Consent Documents		
1. SECY-99-017	1/13/99	Proposed Amendment to 10 CFR 50.55a
SRM on 99-017	3/26/99	(same)
2. SECY-99-069	3/5/99	Exemption from 10 CFR 72.212 and 72.214 Conditions of Use for the VSC-24 Dry Storage Cask at the Arkansas Nuclear One Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation
SRM on 99-069	4/1/99	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-99-078	3/12/99	Status of NRC Research Conducted by the Russian Research Center (I.V. Kurchatov Institute) and the Institute of Nuclear Safety of the Russian Academy of Sciences
2. SECY-99-081	3/18/99	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 12, 1999
3. SECY-99-082	3/18/99	Quarterly Status Report on the Probabilistic Risk Assessment Implementation Plan
Memoranda		
1. M990302A	3/26/99	Staff Requirements - Meeting with Commonwealth Edison, 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 2, 1999, Commissioner's Conference Room
2. M990209A (Revised)	4/1/99	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Fire Protection Issues, Tuesday, February 9, 1999
3. M990302C	3/31/99	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Status of 10 CFR 50.59 Issues (SECY-99-054), 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Representative Steven LaTourette, dated March 25, 1999, concerns the safety of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant (incoming dated February 4, 1999 also released).
2. Letter to Congress, dated March 25, 1999, responds to a direction in the "Final Senate FY99 Appropriations Report" to provide information regarding imposition of economic feasibility requirements on some uranium recovery license applicants.
3. Letter to Representative David Price, dated March 25, 1999, responds to constituent concerns regarding Shearon Harris (incoming dated February 11, 1999 also released).

April 2, 1999

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4. Letter to Congress, dated March 26, 1999, provides an NRC study entitled "Comparison of U.S. Reactor Regulation Programs with that of France, Japan and the United Kingdom."
5. Letter to Senator Christopher Dodd, dated March 26, 1999, responds to a constituent's concern regarding employment (incoming dated January 26, 1999 also released).
6. Letter to Senator Robert Bennett, dated March 26, 1999, concerns the Year 2000 status of mission-critical systems (incoming dated March 18, 1999 also released).
7. Letter to Gladys Gifford, Presbytery of Western New York, dated March 26, 1999, concerns the proposed criteria for the decontamination and decommissioning of West Valley (incoming of January 11, 1999 also released).
8. Letter to Eliot Spitzer, Attorney General of the State of New York, dated March 26, 1999, concerns the proposed criteria for the decontamination and decommissioning of West Valley (incoming of January 12, 1999 also released).
9. Letter to Joe Colvin, Nuclear Energy Institute, dated March 26, 1999, concerns the nuclear waste legislation before Congress and the alternative to the legislation proposed by DOE (incoming of March 5, 1999 also released).
10. Letter to Sandra Burke, dated March 26, 1999, responds to concerns about her husband's employment (incoming dated January 14, 1999 also released).
11. Letter to Brian Stutsman, dated March 26, 1999, expresses congratulations on his achieving the rank of Eagle Scout (incoming dated March 7, 1999 also released).
12. Letter to Donald Flater, Iowa Bureau of Radiological Health, dated March 26, 1999, concerns the "DOE exemption...contained in 10 CFR 30.12, 40.11, and 70.11" (incoming dated February 12, 1999 also released).
13. Letter to Arlen Specter and John Deutch, Commission to Assess the Organization of the Federal Government to Combat the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, dated March 26, 1999, provides information on the NRC's non-proliferation activities (incoming dated November 20, 1998 also released).
14. Letter to David Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists, dated March 26, 1999, concerns the independent review of the OIG Event Inquiry on the "NRC Staff's Handling of Harassment and Intimidation Complaints at Millstone" (incoming dated February 1, 1999 also released).
15. Letter to Susan Perry Luxton, Citizens Regulatory Commission, dated March 26, 1999, concerns the independent review of the OIG Event Inquiry on the "NRC Staff's Handling of Harassment and Intimidation Complaints at Millstone" (incoming dated February 11, 1999 also released).

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. State of Ohio: NRC Staff Assessment of a Proposed Agreement Between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the State of Ohio.
2. 10 CFR Part 2; Procedures Applicable to Proceedings for the Issuance of Licenses for the Receipt of High-Level Radioactive Waste at a Geologic Repository; Correction.
3. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Severe Accident Management; Notice of Meeting on April 30, 1999.
4. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Plant License Renewal; Notice of Meeting on April 28 and 29, 1999.
5. Gary Isakoff; Docket No. IA-98-006; Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (Bechhoefer/Cole/Kelber).
6. ACRS Joint Meeting of Subcommittees on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment and on Regulatory Policies and Practices; Notice of Meeting on April 21, 1999.

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 1999

Confirmatory Measurements at Pesses/Metcoa Site

On March 29-30, 1999, Region I staff performed confirmatory survey measurements inside the large warehouse building located on the Pesses/Metcoa site in Pulaski, PA. This site is listed on the NRC's Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) due to the presence of thorium contamination within the building and in exterior soil on the fenced six-acre portion of the 22.5 acre site. Laboratory data is pending from the confirmatory samples. This survey complements previous measurements of the exterior soils, which have met NRC criteria for unrestricted use. The Decommissioning Plan for the site, located in northwestern Pennsylvania, one and a half hours north of Pittsburgh, was approved utilizing the SDMP Action Plan criteria for release for unrestricted use. During the month of April, contractors are expected to load and ship the remaining 260 cubic yards of contaminated soil to the Waste Control Specialists (WCS) site in Texas. Following removal of the large waste pile and successful survey results, Region I staff will initiate actions to remove the site from the SDMP. Completion of all documentation and removal of the site from the SDMP is anticipated by the end of September, 1999.

Presentations on NRC Regulation of Licensees

On March 25 and 26, 1999, a Region I Manager made presentations to groups at the Columbia University School of Public Health and the Harvard School of Public Health regarding NRC regulation of Radioactive Material Licenses and the NRC Mission.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 1999

National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference

During the period March 29-31, 1999, the Regional State Liaison Officer attended the 9th Annual Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference, which was conducted in Baton Rouge, LA. The conference provided an excellent forum for the exchange of information between the applicable State/local governments, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Energy, other Federal agencies, NRC licensees, and the NRC.

The principal agenda topics included the following: FEMA Strategic Review, Deregulation and the future of the Nuclear Industry, Decommissioning, Radioactive Waste Transportation, Potassium Iodide Stockpiling, Emergency Alert system, and a host of other subjects.

Duke Energy Corporation - Oconee License Renewal

On March 30, 1999, NRC held three sequential meetings regarding plant operating license renewal with Baltimore Gas & Electric (Calvert Cliffs), Duke Energy (Oconee), industry representatives and NEI with the NRC License Renewal Steering Committee. The Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Safety, represented Region II at those meetings and provided to Duke representatives the approved Oconee License Renewal Inspection Plan.

Roof Systems Design

An Order Prohibiting Involvement in Licensed Activities for one year was issued on March 31, 1999, to Roof Systems Design and its president, Mr. Dale Todd. The Order is the result of an investigation conducted by the NRC Office of Investigations, which found that Roof Systems Design willfully possessed and used four moisture gauges, each containing 40 millicuries of Americium-241, in Puerto Rico, without a specific or general license. Mr. Todd had been previously licensed by the State of Maryland; however, he did not seek reciprocity from the NRC to conduct activities in Puerto Rico. Mr. Todd admitted that he had used the material in Puerto Rico since 1992. He transferred all his material back to the manufacturer in June 1998.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 1999

Illinois Power Company Management Change Announced - Clinton

On April 2, 1999, Illinois Power Company announced that Paul D. Hinnenkamp was named as Assistant Plant Manager for the Clinton Nuclear Power Station. Mr. Hinnenkamp has served in various management positions for PECO Energy Company. His most recent assignments included Plant Manager for Millstone Unit 3 and Millstone Unit 1.

Commonwealth Edison Company Management Changes - Quad Cities

On March 31, 1999, Commonwealth Edison Company announced that Mr. William Pearce, Station Manager for Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, will resign effective April 9, 1999. Mr. George Barnes, current Maintenance Manager, will be acting Station Manager until a replacement has been found.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 1999

Meeting with California Radiological Health Branch

The Regional State Agreements Officers and a representative from the Office of State Programs met with the Chief of the California Radiological Health Branch of the State Department of Health Services and members of his staff in the state's Sacramento, California, offices on March 23, 1999. This was a routine periodic meeting with the state to help both parties to remain knowledgeable of their respective programs and to conduct planning for the state's next Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation review.

Public Plant Performance Review Meeting at the Callaway Plant

On April 1, 1999, the Chief, Project Branch B, Division of Reactor Projects, held a public meeting with the Ameren UE Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer and other members of the Callaway staff at the site Emergency Operations Facility. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the results of the Plant Performance Review completed on February 11, 1999. Additionally, the new assessment process and NRC planning for Y2K issues were addressed. Subsequent to the meeting, the Branch Chief and the resident inspectors met with a local official and the press.

Public Plant Performance Review Meeting at the Cooper Nuclear Station

On March 30, 1999, the Director, Division of Reactor Projects held a public meeting with representatives of the Cooper Nuclear Station to discuss the results of the most recent NRC Plant Performance Review. Cooper management representatives included the Senior Vice President, Energy Supply, the Vice President, Nuclear Energy, the Plant Manager, and the direct reports to the Plant Manager. In addition to performance insights, the new assessment process and NRC activities associated with Y2K were discussed.

Public Plant Performance Review Meeting at Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station

On March 29, 1999, the Director, Division of Reactor Projects (acting for the Chief, Project Branch A) held a public meeting with TU Electric at the Comanche Peak site to discuss the results of the most recent NRC Plant Performance Review. Utility representatives included the Senior Vice President and Nuclear Officer, the Vice President Nuclear Operations and their direct reports. Additionally, the new assessment process and NRC planning for Y2K issues were addressed. Subsequent to the meeting, the Director met with local officials and the press.

Congressional Staff Visit to Washington Nuclear Project-2 (WNP-2)

On March 29, 1999, several Congressional staff members (House and Senate), and other members of the public, representing the power industry, toured the Washington Nuclear Project-2 facility. This tour was requested by the Washington State Public Utility Association as part of their annual tour of the different types of electrical generating stations (hydroelectric, nuclear and fossil) operating in Washington. This tour provided the staff members an

opportunity to see the activities and hardware associated with public utility operations.

WNP-2 Public Plant Performance Review Meeting

On April 1, 1999, the Chief, Project Branch E, Division of Reactor Projects, and the Project Manager, Project Directorate IV-1, conducted a public meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of Washington Public Power Supply System and other members of his staff. The meeting was held at the Multipurpose Facility in Richland Washington. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the results of the Plant Performance Review completed on February 11, 1999. Also discussed were the new assessment process and upcoming actions being taken in response to Y2K concerns. There was limited attendance by the public, the media, and state and local officials.

Office of the Executive Director for Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 2, 1999

Proposed Rule to be signed by the EDO

On March 31, 1999, the Executive Director for Operations approved a proposed rule that would amend 10 CFR Part 39, "Energy Compensation Sources for Well Logging and Other Regulatory Clarifications." The proposed amendments would acknowledge and accommodate the use of well logging technology that has been developed since the NRC promulgated well logging regulations in 1987. The proposed amendments would also improve, clarify, and update well-logging regulations to reduce confusion. These changes may also reduce the need for licensees to request exemptions from unnecessary requirements. The proposed rule is intended to reduce the potential burden on licensees without adversely affecting public health and safety.

This constitutes notice to the Commission that, in accordance with the rulemaking authority delegated to the EDO, the EDO has signed this proposed rule for publication in the Federal Register.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending April 2, 1999

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 13

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	Early April 2125 RHOB	TBA	TBA	Security Problems at DOE Labs	Reps. Bliley/Dingell Commerce
Gerke	04/21/99 342 DSOB	10:00	TBA	S. 746, Regulatory Reform	Senators Thompson/Lieberman Governmental Affairs
Combs	04/21/99 1324 LHOB	10:00	TBA	NEPA Oversight	Reps. Young/Miller Resources
Gerke	04/22/99 342 DSOB	10:00	TBA	S. 59, Regulatory Right-to-Know Act	Senators Thompson/Lieberman Governmental Affairs
Gerke	Late April	TBA	DOD, DOE	Y2K and Nuclear Issues	Senators Bennett/Dodd Special Year 2000 Tech Problem
Combs	TBA 1324 LHOB	TBA	Markup	H.R. 45, Amending Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982	Rep. Young/Miller Resources

Note: Congress is in a two-week recess, returning on April 12.