

August 7, 1998

SECY 98-191

For: The Commissioners

From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of
the EDO

Subject: /s/
WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JULY 31,
1998

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*No input this week.

James L. Blaha
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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\ Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 31, 1998

Fifth NRC/ASME Symposium on Valve and Pump Testing on July 21 to 23, 1998

On July 21 to 23, 1998, the NRC and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) jointly sponsored the Fifth Symposium on Valve and Pump Testing in Washington, DC, to facilitate the exchange of information on technical and regulatory issues associated with the testing of valves and pumps used in nuclear power plants. The Mechanical Engineering Branch (EMEB) of the NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) was responsible within the NRC staff for organizing and coordinating the Symposium. Over 300 individuals from the U.S. and other countries participated at the Symposium representing nuclear power utilities, equipment manufacturers and vendors, consultants, and regulatory agencies. Symposium participants included NRC staff members from NRR, the NRC Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, the NRC Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data, and several Regions.

The Symposium opened with a presentation by NRC Commissioner Nils J. Diaz on the importance of the proper performance of pumps and valves in nuclear power plants and the need to apply risk insights into the application of appropriate requirements for their successful performance. Following his presentation, Commissioner Diaz was inducted as an ASME Fellow in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the safe application of nuclear power. Also, at the opening session of the Symposium, Dr. Brian W. Sheron, Acting Associate Director for Technical Review, NRR, discussed the importance of achieving a proper balance between the responsibilities of the ASME, the industry, and the NRC in the future.

The Symposium included sessions on risk-informed testing of valves and pumps; general issues related to pumps, air-operated valves, safety-relief valves, check valves, and motor-operated valves; ASME Operation and Maintenance Code issues; and regulatory issues related to valve and pump testing. Approximately 45 technical papers were presented at the Symposium. The technical papers have been issued as NUREG/CP-0152 (Volume 2, July 1998), "Proceedings of the Fifth NRC/ASME Symposium on Valve and Pump Testing."

Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) on NRC Staff Nuclear Power Plant Year 2000 Problem Program Inspections and Industry Contingency Planning Guidance

On July 22, 1998, the staff met with NEI and representatives from several nuclear power plant licensees at the NRC office in Rockville, Maryland to discuss industry comments on the proposed Temporary Instruction (TI) containing guidance for the staff's sample inspections of licensee Year 2000 problem programs as a follow up to Generic Letter 98-01, "Year 2000 Readiness of Computer Systems at Nuclear Power Plants" and industry guidance on Y2K contingency planning. During the meeting, NEI and industry representatives identified several areas in the draft TI for revision in order to ensure consistency in the inspections and provide for better assessment of licensee Y2K programs. The staff agreed to make several wording changes to address the industry input. NEI also provided a copy of a draft version of NEI/NUSMG 98-07, "Nuclear Utility Year 2000 Readiness Contingency Planning." NEI indicated that this is the document they plan to provide to all licensees with guidance on development of Y2K contingency plans. They intend to finalize the document for issuance in August 1998. The staff indicated it would provide any comments to NEI on NEI/NUSMG 98-07 by July 31, 1998.

Post-Fire Safe Shutdown Circuit Analysis Workshop

On July 27, 1998, the Plant Systems Branch of the Division of Systems Safety and Analysis, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation held a one-day workshop on Post-Fire Safe Shutdown Circuit Analysis. There were 167 attendees of which approximately 140 were from licensee, engineering, industry consultant and/or industry group organizations. The NRC made presentations on post-fire safe shutdown circuit analysis history and safety significance and circuit analysis issues recently identified through inspection, licensing actions and event experience. The Nuclear Energy Institute summarized its views on the regulatory history and industry positions. There were also six industry presentations on various technical subjects relating to circuit analyses, two NRC and industry panel discussions on circuit analysis process and completeness, and an open question and answer session for an NRC staff and industry panel. The staff also accepted written questions, comments, and issue papers for consideration. In closing, NEI stated that it would establish an issue working group to work with the staff to achieve technical resolution of the issue.

The staff will prepare a detailed meeting summary that will include the staff's observations, all presentation materials, handouts, panel discussion summaries, question and answer session summaries, written comments, and listings of the submitted questions and issue papers which the staff will be considering. The staff will also consider the results of the workshop and the

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proposed NEI effort and determine whether or not it should revise its Circuit Analysis Resolution Plan.

LaSalle Units 1 and 2

On July 24, 1998, the NRC lifted the Confirmatory Action Letter for LaSalle Station. Both units have been shutdown since September 1996. The CAL required the licensee to develop and implement a restart plan, meet with the staff periodically, and meet with the NRC once one of the units was ready for restart. A public restart meeting was held on July 24, 1998, satisfying the final criteria of the CAL. The licensee entered startup mode for Unit 1 on August 1, 1998. Region III has planned for 24-hour inspector coverage for approximately the first week of the startup. Unit 2 is expected to restart in early 1999. The staff has not yet determined the form and extent of oversight for Unit 2 restart.

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station

On July 30, 1998, the staff issued license amendments which replaced the Susquehanna Units 1 and 2 technical specifications in their entirety with new technical specifications based on the improved Standard Technical Specifications (STS). These are the 30th and 31st units that have been approved to convert to the improved STS. The licensee plans to implement these revised technical specifications within 90 days.

Management Changes

Joseph Hagan has resigned as Vice President - Operations for Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. This resignation was announced by Jerry W. Yelverton, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Office, of EOI. As of August 7, 1998, Mr. Hagan will leave Grand Gulf and take a position as Vice President - Nuclear at the corporate headquarters of the Philadelphia Electric Company (PECO).

Mr. William Eaton, General Manager at Grand Gulf, was named to permanently replace Mr. Hagan as Vice President - Operations, and Mr. Joseph Venable, Operations Manager at Grand Gulf, was promoted to General Manager to replace Mr. Eaton. The person to be the Operations Manager at Grand Gulf will be identified soon.

On July 21, 1998, Wisconsin Electric Power Company announced management changes at its Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant. Scott Patulski, the current Site Vice-President will assume another position within the company outside of the nuclear business unit.

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Mark Reddemann, the current Plant Manager, will assume the Site Vice-President position. Richard Mende, the current Operations Manager, will become Plant Manager. John Anderson, formerly with Northern States Power Company at its Prairie Island plant, will become the Operations Manager. Dennis McCloskey, formerly with Public Service Electric and Gas, will become the new Maintenance Manager. These changes will be effective August 1, 1998.

On July 22, 1998, the recently appointed Southern Nuclear Operating Company Vice President for Plant Vogtle, Mr. B. Beasley, announced several management changes at Vogtle (Mr. Beasley has been permanently assigned to the Vice President position). Mr. J. Gasser, Assistant General Manager of Plant Operations, was appointed General Manager of Plant Vogtle, replacing Mr. B. Beasley. Mr. S. Chesnut, currently Operations Manager, was appointed Assistant General Manager of Operations. Mr. G. Frederick, currently Assistant General Manager of Plant Support, was appointed Operations Manager. Mr. Ken McCoy, the previous Vogtle Vice President, is on a leave of absence from Southern Nuclear for personal reasons, which resulted in these management changes.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
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Lifting of Confirmatory Action Letter Issued to Sierra Nuclear Corporation

On July 22, 1998, the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) lifted a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) issued to Sierra Nuclear Corporation (SNC). The CAL was issued on May 16, 1997, to document SNC's commitment to resolve cracking problems identified while welding the closure lids onto the VSC-24 spent fuel storage cask. In lifting the CAL, the staff affirmed that SNC had adequately: (1) determined the root cause of the problems; (2) implemented corrective actions to preclude the recurrence of the problems; and (3) assessed the feasibility for cracking to have occurred during the loading of casks currently in use. The staff issued a Technical Evaluation Report (TER) to SNC to document staff's conclusions. Separate CALs remain in effect for the three utilities using the VSC-24 to confirm their commitments not to load additional casks until the utilities have implemented the corrective actions discussed in the TER. Wisconsin Electric Power Company plans to address all of the commitments in writing to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) by July 31, 1998, and resume loading VSC-24s at Point Beach on August 30, 1998. Entergy Operations, Inc., plans to address all of the commitments in writing to NRC by August 28, 1998, and resume loading VSC-24s at Arkansas Nuclear One on September 14, 1998. Provided the licensees' submittals are complete, the SFPO schedule for lifting the respective CALs will support the utilities' loading schedules.

Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board's Radiation Advisory Committee Public Teleconference

On July 23, 1998, the NMSS Senior Level Advisor for Health Physics attended the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board's (SAB's) meeting regarding its resolution of comments on Federal Guidance Report (FGR) 13, *Health Risks from Low-Level Environmental Exposure to Radionuclides*. The meeting discussed the SAB's Radiation Advisory Committee subcommittee report on FGR 13 that was released as a draft public review document on June 29, 1998. In general, the SAB proposed several recommendations to revise FGR 13 which are in agreement with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission concerns. Some of these concerns were related to the incomplete treatment of uncertainties in the document, the unavailability of the CD-ROM containing the DCAL software and users manual, and the potential

for misapplication of FGR 13 by users. The SAB plans to finalize its review of FGR 13 and issue a final report summarizing its concerns and recommendations to EPA Administrator Browner by Fall 1998.

U.S. Enrichment Corporation, Inc.

On July 28, 1998, the U.S. Enrichment Corporation, Inc., (USEC Inc.) was formally privatized by the U.S. Treasury Department and USEC Inc. began trading on the New York Stock Exchange. The government received approximately \$1.9-billion from the USEC Inc. sale.

Department of Energy Publishes Licensing Guidance for a Low-Level Waste Assured Isolation Facility

The Department of Energy's National Low-Level Waste (LLW) Management Program recently published "Licensing an Assured Isolation Facility for Low-Level Radioactive Waste." This report was prepared at the request of six states. It consists of two volumes: (1) Licensing Strategy & Issues; and (2) Recommendations on the Content and Review of an Application. The purpose of the report is to provide a detailed set of proposed criteria and guidance for preparation of an assured isolation facility (AIF) license application for submittal to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). An AIF is essentially a long-term, monitored and maintained, retrievable storage facility for LLW. The report is intended to provide a detailed planning basis upon which a prospective applicant may begin pre-licensing discussions with NRC and initiate development of a license application. The report also states that it may be useful to NRC or to state regulatory bodies that may be asked to review an AIF license application in formulating application review guidance. The guidance in the report is based exclusively on NRC licensing criteria as interpreted by the developers. Because of the potential wide variation in state requirements, no effort was made in the report to identify and address such differences.

Video Conference with Congressman Houghton and the West Valley Citizen Task Force

On July 29, 1998, staff from the Division of Waste Management participated in a video conference with Congressman Houghton and the West Valley Citizen Task Force (CTF). The CTF was convened by New York State Energy Research and Development Authority with support from the Department of Energy (DOE) in January 1997 to seek advice from stakeholders on the decommissioning and closure of the West Valley Demonstration Project. The CTF completed its

deliberations and forwarded recommendations to New York State and DOE in June 1998. The CTF's objective in the video conference was to enlist the support of Congressman Houghton in ensuring consideration of the CTF's recommendations, along with sustained funding and high-level support for the long-term decommissioning of West Valley. As a result of the call, Congressman Houghton agreed to arrange a meeting with DOE Secretary designate Richardson after the Secretary is confirmed by the Senate. In the interim, Congressman Houghton also committed to arrange a meeting with DOE Acting Assistant Secretary Owendoff to obtain DOE views on the CTF's recommendations.

Following the discussion with the Congressman, the CTF received a resolution from the Seneca Nation endorsing the Committee's guidelines and recommendations, heard reports about the League of Women Voters workshop on DOE radioactive waste management in San Diego (June 1998), received an update from DOE on availability of additional technical assessments, and discussed next steps. The next meeting of the CTF is planned for September 16, 1998. In the interim, several members plan to contact various elected officials to ensure consideration of the CTF's recommendations.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
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DG-1029

On July 23, 1998 a meeting was held to discuss the public comments and proposed resolution for DG-1029 Guidelines for Evaluating Electromagnetic Interference and Radio Frequency Interference(EMI/RFI) in Safety-Related I&C Systems. In attendance were, RES, NRR and the RES contractor Oak Ridge National Laboratory, as well as NEI, and several vendors and utility representatives. The industry representatives and staff discussed key issues that were identified in the public comments on the draft Reg. Guide. The discussion focussed on NEI's concerns about the differences between the draft Reg. Guide and the EPRI guideline in the areas of conducted and radiated emissions. The staff had previously initiated a review of the technical basis for emission envelopes in the light of consideration brought out in the public comments and presented the technical basis at the meeting. The proposed modifications to the emission envelopes that are being considered based on that review were discussed at the meeting. The resolutions of these issues are being documented in the staff response to the public comments. This meeting provided a useful exchange of information and all parties were satisfied that their points of view are being considered. The comments received by the staff at the meeting will be factored into the Reg. Guide and will be presented to the ACRS and CRGR later this year for review.

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data
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Public Meeting on Rulemaking for Power Reactor Reporting

A meeting notice was published in the *Federal Register* on July 30, 1998, to announce a public meeting on August 21, 1998, to discuss an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) regarding modification of power reactor reporting requirements.

The discussions will cover a number of concrete proposals regarding modification of 10 CFR 50.72 and 50.73 that were provided in the ANPR. These include:

- (1) objectives for the contemplated rulemaking, which are in summary,
 - (a) to better align the reporting requirements with the NRC's current reporting needs,
 - (b) to reduce the reporting burden, consistent with the NRC's reporting needs, and
 - (c) to clarify the reporting requirements where needed.
- (2) a number of contemplated amendments, including,
 - (a) amendments that would clarify the requirements for reporting of design issues and limit such reporting to design issues that exceed a specified level of significance, and
 - (b) amendments that would extend the required reporting time to 8 hours for events that do not involve emergencies but do warrant prompt notification.
- (3) a contemplated schedule that would lead to publication of a final rule by about January 7, 2000.

The discussions will also cover a request for public comments on other reactor reporting requirements, beyond 10 CFR 50.72 and 50.73, that could be simplified and/or made less burdensome and more risk-informed.

In addition to the public meeting at NRC Headquarters on August 21, 1998, these subjects will be discussed at a public workshop on the role of industry in nuclear regulation in Rosemont, Illinois on September 1, 1998.

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Meeting with NEI

On July 28, 1998, the staff held a public meeting with NEI to discuss progress in development of a top-down approach for assessing reactor performance. An outline of this concept was presented at the April 1998 Regulatory Information Conference and discussed with the staff in a public meeting on May 19, 1998. This concept includes proposals for implementation of an overall assessment process as well as performance indicators. The Union of Concerned Scientists was invited to participate in this discussion, but did not attend. Region IV participated via phone.

An NEI staff member presented the current status of NEI's program to develop indicators to measure commercial nuclear power plant performance and NEI's current thinking regarding application of the indicators to a regulatory oversight process. He discussed the background and concepts involved in the development of these indicators and presented an overall concept for a proposed regulatory oversight process that would include a risk-informed baseline inspection program, performance assessment and regulatory enforcement. During NEI's presentation, the staff asked numerous questions and provided comments and suggestions for consideration.

Because of the focus on the regulatory oversight process, the overall lead for this interaction with NEI was shifted to NRR, with AEOD retaining responsibility for the technical aspects of the performance indicators. An NRR staff member discussed the need for further interaction with NEI and the coordination of the IRAP public comment period and public workshops in September 1998. Additional interaction will be scheduled as needed.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-98-033, Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Co. (Haddam Neck 1), LEAK DURING REACTOR SYSTEM CHEMICAL DECONTAMINATION
2. PNO-III-98-036, Allied Signal, Inc., RELEASE OF URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE ON PLANT SITE
3. PNO-III-98-037, Commonwealth Edison Co. (La Salle 1 2), NRC STAFF FINDS SUFFICIENT IMPROVEMENT FOR LA SALLE 1 RESTART
4. PNO-IV-98-033, Weyerhaeuser Company, NOTIFICATION OF INCIDENT INVOLVING EXPOSURE OF CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL

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Office of Administration
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Garage Repairs

On July 30, 1998, negotiations with the GSA contractor were completed with agreement on prices and schedules that include the additional work identified through the "remapping" project completed in June 1998. Repair work will begin on the evening of August 3, 1998. The project, with all work to be performed at night or on weekends, is scheduled to be completed by March 3, 1999. Display boards depicting the current and upcoming phases of the project have been placed in the OWFN 2nd floor Administrative Services area and the TWFN plaza level exhibit area. A network bulletin was also issued reminding individuals using the garage to be alert for construction areas.

Security Guards

With notification received in the afternoon of July 24, 1998, from the Maryland State Police, Licensing Division, that NRC's contractor guard company no longer had a license to operate as a business in the State of Maryland, action was taken to immediately terminate the contract. Temporary guard services were arranged through GSA and a GSA guard contractor which began at 7:00 p.m. on July 24, 1998. NRC is taking action to award a new guard contract which is expected to be in place by August 14, 1998.

Medical Uses of Byproduct Material; Public Meetings (Part 35)

A document announcing a series of facilitated public meetings concerning the Commission's proposed comprehensive revision of the regulations governing the medical use of byproduct material was published in the Federal Register on July 24, 1998 (63 FR 39763). The meetings will be held in San Francisco on August 19-20, 1998, Kansas City on September 16-17, 1998, and Rockville on October 21-22, 1998.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
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Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests Received during
the 5-Day Period of July 24, 1998 - July 30, 1998:

Generic Safety Issue 166, "Adequacy of Fatigue Life of Metal
Components," dated 8/26/96. (FOIA/PA-98-300)

Depleted uranium, Dept of Defense licenses and NRC guidelines for
handling, storage, disposal or use of depleted uranium.
(FOIA/PA-98-301)

Office of Human Resources
 Items of Interest
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Arrivals		
BROUILLARD, Silvia	Secretary	RIII
HATCHETT, Gregory	General Engineer	NRR
JOHANSEN, Jenny*	Senior Health Physicist	NMSS
KALINOUSKY, Douglas**	General Engineer	NRR
KEMERER, Myron	Senior IT Acquisitions Specialist	OCIO
LOPEZ, George***	Communications Specialist	OCIO
NOLAN, Mark	Project Manager	NRR
SEKERAK, Patrick	Project Manager	NRR
Retirements		
JAUDON, Johns	Director Division of Reactor Safety	RII
JOHNSON, Alma	Secretary	NRR
KELLOGG, Paul	Senior Project Manager	RII
McKEE, Phillip	Deputy Director Licensing and Oversight	NRR
MILLER, Merle	Reactor Inspector	RII
SHIDELER, Robert	Senior Assistant for Audit Policy	OIG
SLATER, Dorothy	Senior Budget Analyst	OCFO
VAGINS, Milton	Mechanical & Electrical Engineering Advisor	RES
Departures		
BROWN, Barbara	Secretary	RES
GARCIA, Joan	Licensing Assistant	RIV
McCORMICK-BARGER, James	Branch Chief	RIII
McCORMICK-BARGER, Mary	Reactor Engineer	RIII

McDUFFIE, Steve	Transportation & Safety Inspector	NMSS
RINGWALD, Jacob	Senior Resident Inspector	RIV

*Reassignment from Region I; **Returning Gradfellow;
 ***Reinstated

Office of Public Affairs
 Items of Interest
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Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
98-127	NRC Order to TU Electric Confirms Fire Barrier Corrective Actions at Comanche Peak Unit 1
98-128	Chairman and Vice-Chairman of NRC's Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Re-elected
98-129	NRC Identifies Nuclear Power Plants Warranting Increased Regulatory Attention
98-130	Note to Editors: ACRS Meeting
98-131	NRC to Hold Public Meeting on Reporting Requirements for Nuclear Power Plants
98-132	Note to Editors: ACRS Meeting
98-133	Note to Editors: ACRS Meeting
93-134	Note to Editors: ACNW Meeting
S-98-18	Chm. Jackson, A Full Plate: Current Regulatory Issues-July 20
98-135	Note to Editors: ACRS Meeting
Regions:	
I-98-89	Note to Editors: Haddam Neck Nuclear Plant
III-98-46	NRC Staff Finds Sufficient Improvements for Restart of Unit 1 of the LaSalle Nuclear Power Station

Office of International Programs
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United Kingdom

Mr. Laurence Williams, Director of Nuclear Safety and Chief Inspector, of the United Kingdom Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII), met with NRC Senior staff on July 27, 1998. Mr. Williams also traveled to the TMI reactor site to discuss decontamination topics of interest to the United Kingdom and attended the International Nuclear Regulators Association (INRA) meeting at NRC headquarters office.

International Nuclear Regulators Association (INRA)

The International Nuclear Regulators Association (INRA) held its third meeting at NRC headquarters July 30-31. Attendees included Senior Regulators from eight countries: Dr. Agnes Bishop, President, AECB, Canada; Mr. Andre-Claude Lacoste, Director, DSNI, France; Mr. Gerard Hennenhofer, Director-General, BMU, Germany; Mr. Yoshihiko Sasaki, Deputy Director-General, MITI, Japan; Mr. Kazuo Sato, Chairman, NSC, Japan; Mr. Juan Kindelan, President, CNS, Spain; Mr. Lars Hoegberg, Director-General, SKI, Sweden; Mr. Laurence Williams, Chief Inspector, NII, United Kingdom; and Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairman, NRC, United States. Dr. Jackson chaired the two-day meeting. The meeting agenda included a continued discussion of commonalities and differences in national regulatory approaches and the Birkhofer Report on the OECD/NEA. The next INRA meeting will be held in January 1999 in Arlington, Texas, at the NRC Region IV office.

Office of the Secretary
 Items of Interest
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Documents Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-98-117	5/27/98	Shelwell Services, Inc., Risk Assessment
SRM on 98-117	6/30/98	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 98-117	6/30/98	(same)
2. SECY-98-144	6/22/98	White Paper on Risk-Informed and Performance-Based Regulation
3. COMEXM-98-004	7/14/98	Policy for Granting Enforcement Discretion as a Result of Natural Events
SRM on 98-004	7/28/98	(same)
Memo to fm J. Hoyle to Comm. McGaffigan on 98-004	7/28/98	(same)
Chairman Jackson comments on 98-004	7/22/98	(same)
Commissioner Diaz comments on 98-004	7/15/98	(same)
4. COMNJD-98-004	7/9/98	Clearance Rule - SECY-98-028
Cmr. McGaffigan's response to COMNJD- 98-004	7/17/98	(same)
Chairman Jackson's response to COMNJD- 98-004	7/23/98	(same)

SRM on COMNJD- 98- 004	7/30/98	(same)
5. SECY-89-171	7/10/98	Proposed Rulemaking on 10 CFR Parts 50, 52 and 72 Requirements Concerning Changes, Tests and Experiments and Staff Recommendations on Changes to Other Regulations and Enforcement Policy
Information Papers		
1. SECY-98-169	7/10/98	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending July 2, 1998
2. SECY-98-170	7/9/98	Response to Staff Requirements Memorandum of June 30, 1997, Regarding (1) The Use of Graphs or Charts at the Senior Management Meeting, (2) Improvements to Help the Public Understand the Linkages Between the Various Evaluation Mechanisms that the NRC Uses, and (3) Superior Performance Recognition (M970625A)
Memoranda		
1. M980717B	7/20/98	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session, Friday, July 17, 1998: I. SECY-98-140 - Quivira Mining Company -- Commission Review of LBP-97-20
2. M980729B	7/29/98	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session, Wednesday, July 29, 1998: I. SECY-98-167 - Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C.; Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Memorandum and Order, LBP-98-7 (April 22, 1998)

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Tomihiro Taniguchi, The University of Tokyo, dated July 22, 1998, provides regards for success in his new assignment (Incoming of June 1996 also released).

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Federal Register Notices Issued

1. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment; Notice of Meeting on August 26, 1998.
2. Policy on Conduct of Adjudicatory Proceedings; Policy Statement.
3. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena; Notice of Meeting on August 27, 1998.
4. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures; Notice of Meeting on September 1, 1998.
5. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting on August 27-28, 1998.

Region I
Items of Interest
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Limerick 1 & 2

Several Region I and NRR managers visited the Limerick site on July 27, 1998, including Regional Administrator Hubert Miller, DRP Deputy Director Richard Crljenjak, and Projects 4 Branch Chief Clifford Anderson; and NRR PD 1-2 Robert Capra. The site visit included a plant tour and meetings with licensee managers and staff.

Haddam Neck Plant Halts RCS Decontamination Due to Significant System Leakage

At approximately 12:45 p.m. on July 27, 1998, the Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company Haddam Neck plant halted the decontamination of its reactor coolant system (RCS), which had been in process since about 10:00 p.m. on July 26th. Approximately 1000 gallons of water containing the decontamination solution, along with not more than 10 curies of activity (later estimated at about 2 curies), was released to the floor of the primary auxiliary building and the drain system as a result of leaks from piping systems attached to the RCS. There were no gaseous or liquid releases to the environment from the event. Region I staff including the Senior Resident Inspector and specialist inspectors are reviewing and monitoring corrective and recovery actions by the licensee. Region I issued a PN on the event on July 28th and is scheduled to meet with the licensee on Monday, August 3rd to discuss the event cause, corrective actions, and the licensee's readiness to proceed with the next phase of the RCS decontamination.

Bankruptcy of Allegheny Health, Education and Research Foundation

Region I continues to monitor the bankruptcy of Allegheny Health, Education, and Research Foundation (AHERF) and its affiliated Philadelphia area hospitals. The bankruptcy involves fourteen Philadelphia area licenses and an additional seven in the Pittsburgh area. At this time, the area hospitals continue to operate as usual. The Region recently received word that PNC Bank wished to resign as trustee of the AHERF standby trust. The appropriate licensees were notified and AHERF is arranging for Chase Manhattan Trust Company to assume the trusteeship.

Commissioner Diaz tours Haddam Neck Plant

On July 27, 1998, Commissioner Nils Diaz visited the Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company (CYAPCo) Haddam Neck plant in East Hampton, Connecticut. Mr. Diaz toured the facility with NRR Project Manager Tom Fredrichs, Region I Senior Resident Inspector for Haddam Neck Bill Raymond, Ralph Beedle from NEI, and Don Davis and Gary Bouchard from CYAPCo.

Region II
Items of Interest
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Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)

On July 29, 1998, Region II hosted a joint meeting of the ACRS Subcommittees on Plant Operations and on Fire Protection. The meeting was open for public observation and included presentations by Region II managers and staff. Topics discussed included actions in Region II to improve consistency of NRC policy implementation, staff training and development, fire protection functional inspection results, IPEEE results of Region II facilities, use of Senior Reactor Analysts, and the risk of on-line maintenance. Presentations were also made of the resident inspector program and the NRC's assessment processes.

This meeting in the Region II office followed a site visit and tour of TVA's Browns Ferry nuclear facility.

Region III
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Byron Nuclear Power Station SALP Public Meeting

On July 27, 1998, the NRC Region III Deputy Regional Administrator James Caldwell and other members of the NRC staff met in Byron, Illinois, with representatives of Commonwealth Edison Company to review the recently issued Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) for the Byron Nuclear Power Station. The plant received ratings of "superior" in maintenance and engineering and "good" in operations and plant support.

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Region IV
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Meeting with OPPD to discuss Fort Calhoun Station performance

On July 23, 1998, the Vice President, Omaha Public Power District, and members of his staff, met with the Deputy Regional Administrator and other members of the NRC staff, to discuss overall performance at the Fort Calhoun Station since the beginning of the current cycle of the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance.

Director, Division of Reactor Projects (Region IV) Visit to South Texas Project

On July 30, 1998, the Director, Division of Reactor Projects, participated in a licensed operator presentation ceremony at the South Texas Project in Bay City, Texas. Five senior operators were recognized for their recent successful licensing. The NRC presentation emphasized to all of the operating staff the importance of individual commitment to reactor safety, and the role that each individual and the staff, as a whole, has to assuring public health and safety. On July 31, 1998, he toured the facility along with members of the licensee management team.

Meeting with Entergy Operations, Inc., on Response to the Fire Protection Functional Inspection

On Wednesday, July 29, 1998, a meeting was held in Region IV with Entergy Operations, Inc., to discuss the results of the River Bend Station Fire Protection Functional Inspection (FPFI). This meeting, which was open to public observation, began with an approximate 1 hour overview of the River Bend FPFI issues, followed by an afternoon working meeting to discuss in detail the results of the FPFI.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 31, 1998

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, <u>NO. 25</u>					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	08/06/98 2247 RHOB	2:00	TBA	H.R. 4244, Improve Federal Procurement System	Reps. Horn/Kucinich Gov't Mgmnt, Info & Technology Gov't Reform and Oversight

The Senate has recessed until August 31.

July 31, 1998

ENCLOSURE R