

April 24, 1997

SECY 97-089

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING APRIL 18, 1997

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*No input this week.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 18, 1997

Thermo-Lag Status -- Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station

On April 3, 1997, the NRC staff met with Centerior Energy, the licensee for Davis Besse Nuclear Power Station, to discuss the status of Thermo-Lag corrective actions. The licensee has decided to eliminate reliance on Thermo-Lag fire barriers by circuit modifications, fire hazard reanalysis, and installing alternate fire barrier materials. The licensee has a five phase program. Phase I consisted of removing the Thermo-Lag from circuits in three rooms and from fire dampers in five rooms. Phase I is complete. Under Phase II, which is scheduled for all of 1997 and the first two quarters of 1998, the licensee will remove the Thermo-Lag from containment and install new radiant energy heat shields. Under Phase III which is scheduled for the second and third quarter of 1997, the licensee will install new fire barrier material for circuits for which it had removed the Thermo-Lag during Phase I. Under Phase IV, which is tied to Cycle 11 Refueling outage scheduled for the second quarter 1998, the licensee will remove the Thermo-Lag radiant energy heat shields from the annulus and install new 3-hour fire barrier material. Under Phase V, which is scheduled for the third quarter 1997 through all of 1998, the licensee will complete the installations on circuits that had the Thermo-Lag removed in Phase III. The licensee plans to complete its program by the end of the fourth quarter 1998. The licensee is considering accelerating its schedule to be complete by the end of the second quarter 1998. On the basis of the information provided by the licensee during this meeting, the staff concluded that the licensee is applying appropriate management attention to the Thermo-Lag issues at Davis Besse, is making progress towards the overall resolution of the issues, and the completion schedule is acceptable.

Thermo-Lag Status -- River Bend Station

On April 8, 1997, the NRC staff called Entergy Operations, Incorporated, the licensee for River Bend Station, Unit 1 (RBS), to discuss its corrective action schedule and to obtain information needed to determine whether or not a management meeting was needed. During the call, the licensee demonstrated management involvement in resolving the Thermo-Lag issues. The licensee also demonstrated that it has made measurable progress towards overall resolution of the issues. For example, the licensee is implementing 10 plant modifications to fully resolve the Thermo-Lag issues. These include, for example, Thermo-Lag removal and cable rerouting. The licensee has removed all Thermo-Lag from the containment and has removed about 80 percent of the other Thermo-Lag barriers that it plans to remove. The

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licensee plans to complete all of the modifications during the September/October 1997 refueling outage. On the bases of the information provided during the call, the staff concluded that the licensee has been and will continue to make progress towards the overall resolution of the Thermo-Lag issues at RBS, the completion schedule is acceptable, and a senior management meeting is not needed.

Thermo-Lag Status -- Limerick 1 and 2 and Peach Bottom 2 and 3

On April 14, 1997, the NRC staff met with representatives of PECO Energy Company, the licensee for Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, and Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3, to discuss the status of Thermo-Lag corrective actions. The licensee has installed substantial amounts of 1-hour and 3-hour Thermo-Lag fire barriers at Limerick and 3-hour barriers at Peach Bottom. The licensee is in the process of completing a safe shutdown reanalysis which it initiated in 1992. The revised safe shutdown configurations include the combining of fire areas and new manual operator actions. The licensee expects that the safe shutdown reanalysis will eliminate the need for up to 70 percent of the Thermo-Lag fire barriers. For the remaining barriers, the licensee is considering exemptions, circuit modifications, upgrades, and replacement with other fire barrier materials.

The licensee stated that it will require two outages to complete corrective actions at both Limerick (April 1998 for Unit 1 and April 1999 for Unit 2) and at Peach Bottom (October 1998 for Unit 2 and October 1999 for Unit 3). The licensee has not completed the preparatory work needed to complete modifications and is not considering accelerating its schedule. On the basis of the information provided by the licensee during the meeting, the staff could not evaluate the progress made by the licensee. Before the staff can fully assess the acceptability of the licensee's schedule, additional details of the work already performed and a detailed plan to complete corrective actions are needed. The staff will meet again with the licensee to discuss the details of the licensee's plans and schedules.

Calvert Cliffs Unit 2

During a diving operation in the Unit 2 Spent Fuel Pool on April 3, 1997, to repair components affecting the operation of the Unit 2 fuel handling transfer cart/upender, a diver left the approved diving area, moved to an area that was in closer proximity to stored spent fuel, and received an unplanned exposure when he entered a significantly higher radiation field. The event occurred due to lack of continuous visual observation of the diver, a misunderstanding of the limited extent of the approved dive area (an area that was comprehensively surveyed and characterized to support diving operations, i.e., general area

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dose rates between 50 and 100 millirem per hour), and a lack of understanding of the approved work. While, direct visual observation was not maintained, remote monitoring of the divers multiple dosimetry systems and survey probes by the assigned radiation protection technicians indicated that the diver had entered a high radiation field of 9 rem per hour and increasing. Consequently, the diver was warned and prevented from further exposure, and was subsequently removed from the spent fuel pool.

Preliminary evaluation based on the multiple TLD (thermoluminescent dosimeter) elements that the diver was wearing indicates a whole body exposure of 245 millirem and an extremity exposure (right hand) of 790 millirem, compared to annual regulatory limits of 5000 millirem, total effective dose equivalent (whole body), and 50,000 millirem, maximum shallow dose equivalent for extremities. While significant personnel exposure was averted in this instance, due to the quick actions of the assigned radiation protection technicians in responding to alarms from the diver's teledosimetry systems, potential for significant personnel exposure existed. Post dive surveys, performed to characterize the area that the diver entered, revealed accessible (within a few feet of where the individual was warned of the increasing radiation field) dose rates in excess of 12,000 rad per hour due to the proximity of stored spent fuel.

While no exposure in excess of regulatory limits is apparent, based on preliminary assessment, the individual has been restricted by the licensee from performing further radiological work activities until a final exposure evaluation is completed.

Nine Mile Point Unit 1

On April 14, 1997, the NRC held a public meeting in Fulton, N.Y., to discuss the cracks in the Unit 1 core shroud and anomalies regarding the design and installation of the shroud tie rod assemblies. The meeting was well attended by local citizens and officials who demonstrated concern for the safety of the facility and asked several related questions regarding the associated evaluations and plans.

The NRC staff is reviewing proposed modifications to the tie rod assemblies and will complete the review prior to restart. The licensee's present schedule for restart is April 30, 1997.

Watts Bar -- TVA Proceeding with SFP Reracking

The TVA licensing contact for Watts Bar informed the PM on April 15 that TVA is proceeding with the reracking of the Watts Bar spent fuel pool in advance of having an amendment of the license authorizing installation of the replacement racks.

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The unit is currently in its first fuel cycle. The current racks only have a capacity of 484 fuel assemblies. TVA plans to replace them with racks previously used at Sequoyah for 13 years for a capacity of over 1300 fuel assemblies. The staff is reviewing TVA's application to install the Sequoyah racks in the Watts Bar pool and does not expect to complete its review until mid-summer 1997.

The PM consulted with the Plant Systems Branch and no reason has been identified to preclude TVA from removing the current racks from the pool or from installing the Sequoyah racks in the Watts Bar pool. TVA understands that they are proceeding at their own risk under this approach and will have to keep the fuel in the reactor until the staff issues the amendment to the license authorizing use of the replacement racks specifically for use at Watts Bar or, failing that, until TVA reinstalls the original racks.

The first refueling outage for Watts Bar Unit 1 is scheduled to begin September 6, 1997. The new fuel for that outage is scheduled to arrive onsite about mid-July.

LaSalle Units 1 and 2 -- Confirmatory Action Letter Supplement Issued

Both units at LaSalle have been shutdown since September 1996 due to various material condition, human performance, corrective action process, and design issues. On April 14, 1997, the NRC issued a CAL to LaSalle to require certain actions prior to restart of either unit. The CAL is a supplement to the CAL issued on July 2, 1996, in response to an event in which expandable foam grout was injected into the service water tunnel. The revised CAL confirms the licensee will:

- (1) develop and docket a restart plan;
- (2) update the NRC on the projected startup date to facilitate NRC inspection planning;
- (3) meet with the NRC monthly to discuss startup plan implementation;
- (4) meet with the NRC after completing the high intensity training program for licensed operators; and
- (5) meet with the NRC when one of the units is ready to restart.

A Plant Performance Improvement Review Panel consisting of regional and headquarters personnel meets approximately twice a month.

Status of Review of Licensee Responses to 50.54(f) Request on Design Bases

Phases 1 and 2 of the process for reviewing licensee responses to the 10 CFR 50.54(f) request for information on design bases are

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complete. In addition, the Regions and NRR have completed the initial effort for Phase 3 with a presentation of the results of the reviews at their respective Plant Performance Review/10 CFR 50.54(f) Assessment meetings.

During the weeks of April 7 and 14, 1997, regional management discussed the results of their reviews at the Senior Management Meeting screening meetings. Phase 3 will culminate in May 1997 with a status report to the Commission on the results of the initial reviews of the responses, identification of insights gained to date, and the recommendations for Phase 4 of the initiative.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
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Site Visit to Westinghouse Columbia Fuel Facility

On April 15, 1997, Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff visited the Westinghouse Electric Corporation Commercial Nuclear Fuel Division facility in Columbia, South Carolina. One purpose of the visit was to familiarize licensing staff and managers with the site and to improve familiarity with fuel fabrication technology and terminology. This part of the visit consisted of an entrance meeting and a walk through the complete plant, including uranium hexafluoride vaporization, ammonium diuranate conversion, pellet production, rod loading, assembly production, scrap recovery, and waste management areas. The visit also included discussions regarding implementation of risk-informed, performance-based conditions for criticality safety in Westinghouse's license, and the amount of flexibility the licensee has to change the basis for criticality safety without seeking a license amendment or prior review by the NRC.

West Valley Citizen Task Force Video Conference

On April 15, 1997, Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff participated by video conference in the seventh of a series of public meetings of the West Valley Citizen Task Force. This Task Force was convened in early 1997 by the Department of Energy and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority for advice on the decommissioning and closure of the Western New York Service Center after completion of the West Valley Demonstration Project, near Springville and Ashford, New York. The meeting focused on erosion at the West Valley site, its potential impact on the long-term stability of radioactive waste disposal facilities, and the risk to the public. The Task Force requested that the NRC participate in a meeting on May 20, 1997, as a follow-up to NRC presentations made at the April 2, 1997, Task Force meeting. Task Force participants expressed concern about time constraints and about the need for timely guidance from NRC regarding potential application of the draft final rule on radiological criteria for decommissioning, which is currently being reviewed by the Commission. The Task Force is particularly interested in regulatory alternatives to deal with closure of radioactive waste facilities at West Valley that could exceed the 500 millirem/year dose cap in the draft final rule.

Interagency Working Group on the Transport of Radioactive Materials

On April 15, 1997, the Interagency Working Group on the Transport of Radioactive Materials met at the Department of Transportation (DOT) headquarters in Washington, D.C. Attendees included staff

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from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Spent Fuel Project Office, DOT and the Department of Energy. Issues discussed included: planning and coordination for upcoming International Atomic Energy Agency meetings, status of jointly-funded guidance development for transport of radioactive materials, NRC's rulemaking for fissile material transport, status of uranium hexafluoride overpack revalidation, and follow-up to an American Association of Railroads meeting on the transport of spent fuel.

Interest in Establishing Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations

Representatives from the utilities operating the Duane Arnold, Peach Bottom and Palo Verde Nuclear Power Reactors have contacted the staff of the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) to discuss establishing independent spent fuel storage installations (ISFSIs) at their facilities by 1999. The SFPO staff met with representatives from Duane Arnold and Peach Bottom (April 3 and 10, respectively) to discuss their plans and lessons-learned experience on licensing an ISFSI. In the next week, SFPO expects to meet with representatives from Palo Verde.

Welds on UF6 Cylinders Found in Nonconformance with Requirements

On April 9-11, 1997, Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) staff conducted an inspection of the fabrication of Model 30 cylinders, used for transportation of uranium hexafluoride (UF6), at Amer Industrial Technologies, Inc., in Wilmington, Delaware. A representative of the Department of Transportation (DOT) and a staff member from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Region I office also participated in the inspection. The inspection team identified welds on 130 cylinders, manufactured in 1995 and 1996, that were not made in accordance with the standard, ANSI 14.1, required by the NRC Certificate of Compliance and DOT regulations. In addition, the team noted that the implementation of the quality assurance program was weak. The team presented their preliminary findings to Amer representatives in an exit meeting on April 11, 1997.

SFPO has issued an Information Notice informing cylinders users of the issues identified in the inspection. DOT is reviewing appropriate enforcement action.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff Briefs U.S. House of Representatives Staff on the Regulation of Mixed Waste

On April 11, 1997, Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff from the Division of Waste Management and the Office of Congressional Affairs met with staff members of the House Committee on Commerce and staff from the office of Congressman Michael G. Oxley, at the Rayburn Office building in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the NRC's role in the

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regulation of commercially-generated mixed waste and to discuss current issues associated with the regulation of mixed waste. Mixed waste is waste that contains both radioactive material subject to regulation by NRC or Agreement States under the Atomic Energy Act, and hazardous waste subject to regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), or EPA Authorized States, under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The Committee staff indicated they had previously been briefed by EPA staff on EPA's role in regulating mixed waste and that the meeting with NRC was intended to provide them with a better understanding of NRC's role in regulating commercially-generated mixed waste.

Meeting on Savannah River High-Level Waste Tanks

On April 15, 1997, Division of Waste Management staff met with Department of Energy (DOE) representatives from the Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina. The meeting was held as a follow-up to a December 20, 1996, letter requesting Nuclear Regulatory Commission review of DOE's methodology for the classification of the residual wastes remaining in 51 high-level waste (HLW) tanks once the tanks have been emptied of their contents. The DOE methodology uses the criteria specified in a March 1993 letter from NRC to DOE to classify the residual wastes as "incidental." The 1993 criteria were developed for the removal of wastes from HLW tanks, and NRC staff will evaluate the criteria to determine their applicability to the residual wastes remaining in the SRS tanks. The results of the NRC staff evaluation will then undergo Commission review. DOE waste classified as "incidental" would not be subject to NRC licensing.

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 18, 1997

Regional Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference

The Director of AEOD and support staff attended the Regional Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) conference in Eureka Springs, AR on April 15-17, 1997. Commissioner Dicus was a featured speaker along with Dr. Ross of AEOD at this conference. This regional conference provides an opportunity for emergency responders from the local, State, utility, and Federal organizations within FEMA Region VI and at the national level to address issues related to implementation of the REP program. The conference is held every year at a different location and is sponsored jointly by FEMA Region VI and NRC Region IV.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATIONS (PNs)

- a. PNO-I-97-022, Gpu Nuclear Corp., (Oyster Creek 1), GPU, INC.
ANNOUNCED INTENT TO EXPLORE OPTIONS RELATIVE TO FUTURE
OPERATION OF OYSTER CREEK GENERATING STATION
- b. PNO-I-97-023, Merck and Company, Inc., LOSS OF 880
MICROCURIES OF
IODINE-125
- c. PNO-III-97-031, Commonwealth Edison Co. (Quad Cities 1 2),
OUTAGE DUE TO INOPERABLE 4 KV BREAKERS
- d. PNO-III-97-032, Commonwealth Edison Co (Dresden 2 3), OUTAGE
DUE TO INOPERABLE MERLIN-GERIN BREAKERS
- e. PNO-III-97-033, Cozzi Iron and Metal, RADIOACTIVE SCRAP
METAL AND RADIUM INSTRUMENT DIALS FOUND
- f. PNO-III-97-034, Commonwealth Edison Co. (Zion 1 2), DECISION
NOT TO REPLACE STEAM GENERATORS
- g. PNO-IV-97-019A, Mattingly Testing Services, Inc., UPDATE ON
THEFT OF RADIOGRAPHIC EXPOSURE DEVICE (Event: 32084)

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 18, 1997

Access to and Protection of Classified Information (Parts 25, 50, 54, and 95)

A final rule that amends regulations applicable to the protection of and access to classified information was published in the Federal Register on April 11, 1997 (62 FR 17683). The final rule ensures that classified information in the possession of NRC licensees and others under NRC regulatory requirements is protected in accordance with current national policies. The final rule becomes effective May 12, 1997.

Abnormal Occurrence Reports: Implementation of Section 208 Energy Reorganization Act of 1974; Revision to Policy Statement

A revised policy statement concerning the submittal of abnormal occurrence reports to Congress was published in the Federal Register on April 17, 1997 (62 FR 18820). The policy statement presents the revised criteria the Commission will use in - submitting the annual abnormal occurrence reports to Congress and to the public. The policy statement became effective April 17, 1997.

Rules Activity

The Rules and Directive Branch (RDB) reviewed a draft rule making plan concerning recycle and reuse and provided guidance to RES staff on the OFR requirements concerning incorporation by reference. RDB suggested alternative approaches to address EPA regulations in 10 CFR Chapter I.

DOE Tritium Irradiation

On April 14, 1997, the Director, Division of Facilities and Security (DFS) and staff, met with DOE Office of Safeguards and Security staff to discuss Cognizant Security Agency (CSA) responsibilities for the classified aspects associated with DOE's tritium irradiation test at a commercial light water reactor (CLWR). The facilities include TVA's Watts Bar and Westinghouse at Columbia, SC. NRC has agreed that DOE would be the CSA for this testing effort; that NRC would be provided copies of approved security plans to protect classified information and material; and that NRC would be kept apprised of any security reviews. This agreement will be re-evaluated following the testing phase and prior to the initiation of any long-term DOE contract to use an NRC regulated CLWR for this activity.

Foreign Ownership, Control or Influence (FOCI)

On April 14, 1997, a DFS representative met with DOE representatives to discuss a FOCI case involving a NRC 10 CFR Part 95 licensee that is bidding on a DOE classified contract. DOE will take the lead on this case. Because of shared interests, NRC and DOE will work together in making this FOCI determination.

Security Advisors Meeting

On April 15, 1997, DFS held the first of the FY 1997 semi-annual Security Advisors meetings. The Chief, Mail Section, Division of Administrative Services, was the guest speaker and discussed the mail room procedures for screening mail and packages. In addition, the following security related topics were discussed by DFS staff members: NRC's Drug Testing Program; heightened security measures implemented during April 1997; the new automated system for controlling classification actions; facility security upgrades (e.g., perimeter fence, lighting, guard booth); and the plans for development of a Security Home Page. Twelve Security Advisors attended the meeting. The next meeting will be scheduled in September 1997.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
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Requests Received during the 5-Day Period of April 10, 1997 -
April 17, 1997:

Temet USA Inc., exempt license and device safety evaluation application for a gas and aerosol detector. (FOIA/PA-97-0134)

San Onofre and Palo Verde plants enforcement activity, 1988 to present. (FOIA/PA-97-0135)

Oconee plant, Duke Power Co., OI report of 9/24/96 incident involving named individual. (FOIA/PA-97-0136)

Advanced Medical Systems, Inc., test results relating to Tank 222 and its contents. (FOIA/PA-97-0137)

Investigation of possible exposure of named individual to unauthorized materials transferred by ITT and DYNACORE. (FOIA/PA-97-0138)

Global Management Systems Inc., contract no. 33-93-194. (FOIA/PA-97-0139)

Anstec Inc., contract no. 33-93-201. (FOIA/PA-97-0140)

Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., 1994 discrimination case and related EA-96-116. (FOIA/PA-97-0141)

Comprehensive Medical Evaluations, North Bergen, NJ, radioactive materials license. (FOIA/PA-97-0142)

Solicitation Number RS-IRM-97-171. (FOIA/PA-97-0143)

Crystal River plant, Florida Power Corp. - any records re mismanagement and safety issues from 4/95 through 4/97. (FOIA/PA-97-0144)

Requests Completed:

96-351
96-444
96-466
97-020 (No PDR)
97-064
97-106

Office of Personnel
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Arrivals

KALYANAM, Nageswaran
NRR

PROJECT MANAGER (PFT)

RHOTEN, Robert
(OPFT)

SECRETARY
OP/SPAC

Departures

FAULKINGHAM, Sydney
RI

SECRETARY (OPFT)

Office of Public Affairs
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Media Interest

Chairman Jackson and Joe Callan were interviewed separately by Inside NRC.

The Washington Post Sunday magazine is planning a story on Peter Atherton, the former NRC employee who raised safety concerns at Maine Yankee some twenty years ago.

School Volunteers Program

Debbie Jackson, NRR, is continuing a tutoring program at Rudolph E.S. She was also a judge in the Junior/Senior Division of the Prince George's County Science Fair.

Reginald Mitchell discussed NRC careers at Tilden M.S.

Ramin Assa, Ronaldo Jenkins, Vern Hodge, Tommy Le, George Hubbard, David Matthews, NRR, John Craig and Prasad Kadambi, RES, Heather Astwood and Mysore Natarja, NMSS, were judges in the Montgomery County Area Science Fair. Winners were invited to NRC to display their projects for the Commission and NRC staff on May 14.

Press Releases

Headquarters:

- 97-061 NRC Releases B&W Apollo Site in Pennsylvania for Unrestricted Use
- 97-062 NRC Releases Inspection Results for Sierra Nuclear Dry Storage Cask
- 97-063 NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet May 1-3

Regions:

- I-97-41 NRC Names New Resident Inspector at Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station
- II-97-33 Westinghouse Tells NRC Misplaced Reactor Fuel Rods Found at Temlin Nuclear Power Plant in Czech Republic
- III-97-37 NRC to Hold Predecisional Enforcement Conference With Centerior Service Co. on Apparent Violations

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of NRC Requirements at Perry Plant

- III-97-38 NRC to Hold Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Mallinckrodt Medical Inc. on Apparent Violations of NRC Safety Requirements
- III-97-39 NRC Staff Issues Letters to Commonwealth Edison Co. on Actions to be Taken Prior to Startup of Zion and LaSalle Nuclear Plants
- IV-97-28 NRC, NPPD to Meet for Discussion on Possible Violations at Cooper Nuclear Station

Office of International Programs
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Foreign Visitors -- France

Carl Paperiello, John Greeves and members of the Waste Management staff met recently with six members of the French HLW National Assessment Committee for an exchange of views. The visiting delegation was led by M. Tissot Chairman of the Committee and member of the French Academy of Science. The National Assessment Committee was established by law to review research and associated activities relating to the disposal of HLW in France and to make annual recommendations on the further direction of the national program. The Committee's final report is scheduled for issuance in 2006 in conjunction with the planned start of site activity on a permanent geologic repository in 2010.

Region I
Items of Interest
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NRC Staff Meeting with Heritage Minerals, Inc.

On April 10, 1997, representatives of Heritage Minerals, Inc. (HMI), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and NRC staff met at the Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. A representative from the NMSS Division of Waste Management participated by telephone. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the licensee's final status survey plans for the NRC-licensed portions of the site, which include two buildings and a monazite sand pile comprising approximately one-half acre. The NRC-licensed portion of the site is within a former processing area of 150 acres to be remediated in accordance with State of New Jersey regulations. The HMI site is an NRC Site Decommissioning Management Plan site. The licensee expects to request license termination by the Fall of 1997.

Region II
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International Visitors Hosted by Region II

On April 14, the Region hosted a group of International visitors, representing the countries of Russia and Armenia, on a visit and tour of the Barnwell Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility, located in Snelling, South Carolina.

The group is currently on a Decommissioning Study Tour in the U. S., and during this visit they had the opportunity to meet with officials of the State of South Carolina, and management representatives of the Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc.

After departing South Carolina, the group was scheduled to visit the Yankee-Rowe facility, which is currently being decommissioned.

Southern Nuclear Operating Company

Representatives from Southern Nuclear Company were in the Regional Office to attend two Predecisional Enforcement Conferences. The first meeting was held to discuss the transportation of a package which exceeded dose rate limits at Vogtle, and the second meeting was held to discuss associated penetration room filtration systems at Farley.

Tennessee Valley Authority -- Browns Ferry

The Director, Division of Reactor Safety, attended the exit of the Maintenance Team Inspection at the Browns Ferry plant. The inspection team found that TVA had developed a very good program for implementation of the maintenance rule at Browns Ferry. One issue developed was the status of the maintenance rule program for Unit 1, which has been shutdown and defueled for over ten years. The maintenance rule implementation for Unit 1 addresses those systems relied upon by the operating units, but it does not address other systems (i.e., Unit 1 only systems). Thus the team had no concerns with TVA's implementation of the rule from a safety perspective at Browns Ferry, but did develop a question of whether TVA's implementation of the maintenance rule met the regulatory requirements for Unit 1.

Sequoyah

On April 17, TVA management met with Region II management to discuss the results of a recent licensee assessment of performance problems at Sequoyah and proposed actions. The licensee also presented charts of Sequoyah using the Arthur Anderson performance measuring methodology.

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Carolina Power and Light Company - Brunswick

Brunswick Unit 1 completed staff training, equipment checks, and calibration the first part of this week in preparation for implementation of their five percent power uprate.

Westinghouse - Two Low-Enriched Uranium Fuel Rods Inadvertently Shipped by Westinghouse to the Czech Republic

On April 15, 1997, the Westinghouse Electric Corporation's Commercial Nuclear Fuel Division Columbia Plant in Columbia, South Carolina informed NRC that two low-enriched uranium fuel rods could not be located. The licensee had fabricated the rods in late 1996 and had initiated an investigation to locate them on March 24, 1997. Each fuel rod contained approximately 1588 grams of uranium and 57 grams of U-235 (3.8 weight percent U-235). On April 5, the licensee determined that the two rods might have been inadvertently included in two replica (non-fuel containing) assemblies manufactured by Westinghouse and sent to the Czech Republic for training purposes. On April 17, the licensee's investigation confirmed that the two rods were located in the replica assemblies at the Temelin reactor.

The State of South Carolina has been notified. NRC has informed the International Atomic Energy Agency staff responsible for tracking international transfers. The NRC has also notified the Department of Transportation.

The NRC, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards and Region II will conduct a special inspection of the incident.

Region III
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Confirmatory Action Letters issued to Commonwealth Edison Company

On April 14, 1997, Confirmatory Action Letters (CAL) were issued by NRC Region III to Commonwealth Edison Company regarding concerns with LaSalle and Zion Nuclear Power Stations. The CALs document ComEd's agreement to: develop plans to address corrective actions for the various performance deficiencies at Zion and LaSalle and submit the plans to the NRC. The plans will include the utility's criteria for assessing the effectiveness of the corrective actions; keep the NRC staff informed of the projected startup dates for the two plants; meet with the NRC periodically to discuss the status of the corrective action plans; meet with the NRC following the completion of the evaluation and training programs for reactor operators at the two plants to discuss the results of the training activities; and meet with the NRC to discuss the readiness of the initial unit at each site to resume operations once the utility has determined that the unit is ready for restart.

Management Meeting with Commonwealth Edison Company

On April 14, 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 Dresden Nuclear Power Station's progress in completing the actions outlined in the November 1996 Confirmatory Action Letter and other improvement initiatives.

Management Meeting with Illinois Power Company

On April 18, 1997, a management meeting was conducted at Illinois Power's Energy and Environmental Center, Clinton, Illinois, between management representatives from Illinois Power Company and members of the NRC staff to discuss the progress and effectiveness of Clinton Power Station Startup Readiness Plan.

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Wisconsin Public Service Corporation

On April 17, 1997, a predecisional enforcement conference was conducted in the Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between managers from Wisconsin Public Service Corporation and members of the NRC staff. The focus of the meeting was on the utility's failure to implement an effective testing program for two safety systems at the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Station. The safety systems that were discussed were the auxiliary feedwater system and residual heat removal system. The conference was scheduled

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as the result of findings from an NRC inspection in January.

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Centerior Service Company

On April 18, 1997, a predecisional enforcement conference was conducted in the Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between managers from Centerior Service Company and members of the NRC staff. Discussions will focus on instances of inadequate testing and corrective actions by the utility at the Perry Nuclear Power Station. The conference was scheduled as the result of findings from NRC inspections late last year.

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Region IV
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Cooper Pre-decisional Enforcement Conference

A Pre-decisional Enforcement Conference was conducted with Nebraska Public Power District (Cooper Nuclear Station) in the NRC Region IV office on April 15, 1997. Apparent violations associated with failures to update the Final Safety Analysis Report and failures to perform 10 CFR 50.59 evaluations were discussed. The conference was open for public observation.

River Bend Management Visit

On April 14, 1997, the Vice President Operations, the General Manager Plant Operations, and the Director, Nuclear Safety, from River Bend visited the Region IV office to discuss topics of current interest with the Regional Administrator, the Director, Division of Reactor Projects, and the Director, Division of Reactor Safety.

Visit at Arkansas Nuclear One

Dr. Denwood Ross, Director, Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data (AEOD), toured the Arkansas Nuclear Units 1 and 2 facilities on April 16, 1997. While on site, Dr. Ross met C. Randy Hutchinson, Vice President - Operations Arkansas Nuclear One, and the Resident Inspector.

FEMA IV/NRC IV Radiological Emergency Planning (REP) Workshop
(April 15-17, 1997)

Commissioner Dicus, Director, AEOD and Deputy Regional Administrator, Region IV, participated in the REP workshop in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The workshop was attended by representatives from FEMA, DOE, USDA, and FEMA IV States to discuss emergency planning activities.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending April 18, 1997

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, No. 14					
OCA ASSIGN- MENT	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Madden	04/22 124 DSOB	9:30	TBA	DOE's FY98 Budget, Environmental Management Program	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy & Water Development Appropriations
Madden	04/23 342 DSOB	10:00	OMB, GAO, CRS	Two-Year Federal Budget	Senators Thompson/Glenn Governmental Affairs
Gerke	04/24 311 CHOB	9:30	TBA	Federal Hiring from the Welfare Rolls	Reps. Mica/Moran Civil Service Gov't Reform & Oversight
Gerke	04/29 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Post FTS-2000 Procurement	Reps. Horn/Maloney Gov't Mgmt, Info & Tech Gov't Reform & Oversight
Keeling	04/29 TBA	TBA	DOE, Industry, PUCs	H.R. 1270, amend Nuclear Waste Policy Act	Reps. Schaefer/Hall Energy & Power Commerce
Gerke	04/30 2154 RHOB	9:30	TBA	Federal Employee Group Life Insurance	Reps. Mica/Moran Civil Service Gov't Reform & Oversight
Gerke	05/02 05/09	10:00	Chicago Dallas	Electricity Deregulation Field Hearings	Reps. Schaefer/Hall Energy & Power Commerce

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Gerke	05/08 366 DSOB	9:30	TBA	Effects of Competition on Fuel Use and Types of Fuel Generation	Senators Murkowski/Bumpers Energy & Natural Resources
Gerke	05/22 366 DSOB	9:30	TBA	Financial Implications of Restructuring the Electric Utility Industry	Senators Murkowski/Bumpers Energy & Natural Resources
Gerke	06/12 366 DSOB	9:30	TBA	Benefits and Risks of Restructuring to Consumers and Communities	Senators Murkowski/Bumpers Energy & Natural Resources

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