

August 21, 1997

SECY 97-189

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 15,
1997

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*No input this week.

James L. Blaha
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
N. Dudley, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 15, 1997

Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2

Restart Status - Reactor startup of Salem Unit 2 has been delayed because of agreement problems between the group rod position indication (GRPI) and the individual rod position indication (IRPI) of various control rods. A problem was noted with the method under which the baseline temperature data was gathered for each rod. The temperatures used as a baseline were established after only a 10-minute soak as opposed to the recommended one hour soak. The licensee is in the process of calibrating the IRPI using the one hour soak. Criticality is now scheduled for August 15, 1997.

Fire Barrier Penetration Seals - By letter dated August 5, 1997, David Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists sent the staff 10 questions regarding the fire barrier penetration seals at Salem and other nuclear plants. Both Mr. Lochbaum and the staff agree that the questions need not be resolved prior to restart of Salem Unit 2. A meeting between Mr. Lochbaum and the staff to discuss the 10 questions is scheduled for September 10, 1997, at 10:00 a.m. in Room O-8B11. The meeting will be transcribed and Mr. Lochbaum plans to show a videotape of a qualification test of a fire barrier penetration seal.

Crystal River 3

Florida Power Corporation (FPC) voluntarily shut down Crystal River Unit 3 in September 1996, to address several performance and design weaknesses. FPC is taking extensive corrective actions to improve performance. FPC expects to submit approximately 30 licensing submittals that require NRC approval prior to restart. The following table provides the status of licensee submittals and the NRR review effort.

STATUS OF EXPECTED LICENSING SUBMITTALS THAT ARE REQUIRED FOR RESTART

Submittals/Requests				Received from FPC	Completed & Issued by NRR
Planned	Addition	Withdrawn	Total Expected		
31	0	1	30	12	1

Several of the licensing submittals are related to Appendix R issues involving thermo-lag, the reactor coolant pump oil collection system, hot shorts, and remote shutdown capability.

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Another license amendment submittal involves the small break LOCA mitigation strategy, which includes emergency diesel generator upgrades and emergency feedwater system redesign. Several NRR technical review branches including reactor systems, plant systems, electrical, and human factors, are actively involved in the review of this complex submittal.

The Crystal River Restart Panel meets monthly with the licensee. The meetings have been beneficial in monitoring the licensee's corrective actions and submittal schedule. The next meeting is scheduled for at August 21, 1997 at the Crystal River 3 site.

Watts Bar Units 1 and 2

The NRC staff held a public meeting on August 7, 1997, in the vicinity of the Watts Bar plant to receive comments on the licensee's proposal to insert four Lead Test Assemblies (LTAs) containing tritium producing boron absorber rods (TPBARs) into the Watts Bar reactor during the next fuel cycle. The meeting was held in response to the December 10, 1996, staff requirements memorandum on SECY-96-212.

Presentations were made by DOE, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the NRC staff. There were about 100 attendees at the meeting including representatives of the media and federal, state, and local governments. The comments provided during the meeting were broadly based and most comments were beyond the scope of TVA's proposed irradiation of the four LTAs in the next fuel cycle. The transcript of the meeting has been received by the staff and a meeting summary will be prepared and placed in the Public Document Room.

Observation of National Nuclear Accrediting Board Meeting

On August 13 - 14, 1997, the Acting Chief, Human Factors Assessment Branch, observed the August meeting of the National Nuclear Accrediting Board at the Institute of Nuclear Power Operation's offices in Atlanta, Georgia. During the meeting, the Board reviewed selected utilities' training programs for renewal of accreditation. Observation of these meetings is one of the ways the NRC monitors the industry's performance in implementing the NRC's training requirements in 10 CFR 55 and 10 CFR 50.120.

Proposed Rule Affecting Initial Licensed Operator Examination Requirements

The proposed 10 CFR Part 55 rule change, which affects initial licensed operator examination requirements, was published in the Federal Register on August 7, 1997 on (62 F.R. 42426). The proposed rule change would require licensees to prepare, proctor,

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and grade written examinations and to prepare the operating tests, which the NRC uses to evaluate the competence of individuals applying for operator licenses. NRC examiners, without contractor assistance, would administer all of the operating tests. The proposed rule change is expected to improve the NRC staff's focus on operator performance.

The proposed rule change would require licensees to submit each examination and test for NRC review and approval, and would preserve the NRC's authority to prepare the examinations and tests. The NRC would prepare examinations on a for cause basis or to maintain NRC examiners' proficiency. The public comment the proposed rule change ends on October 21, 1997.

Delay in Completion of Risk-Informed Inservice Testing Pilot Plant Safety Evaluations

In a memorandum dated June 17, 1997, the staff informed the Commission of a delay in the expected issuance of safety evaluations for implementation of risk-informed inservice testing (RI-IST) at Comanche Peak and Palo Verde. In that memorandum, the staff stated that it expected to be able to issue the safety evaluation on the Comanche Peak RI-IST program in October 1997 was based on the assumptions that:

- TU Electric would adequately respond to both the second and final round requests for additional information (RAIs) by August 8, 1997.
- The staff would complete its safety evaluation within four weeks of receiving the licensee's written response.
- Managers would review and the Commission would approve the safety evaluation for issuance within six weeks of the staff's completion of the safety evaluation.

In a letter to the NRC dated July 31, 1997, TU Electric stated that due to the large volume of NRC draft PRA documents, additional time was needed to determine how the Comanche Peak RI-IST program comports with the documents. TU Electric has found the task of reviewing its RI-IST program against these documents to be both challenging and resource intensive. TU Electric plans to respond to the second and third RAIs by September 23, 1997. This would delay issuance of the safety evaluation on the Comanche Peak RI-IST program until late December 1997.

In a letter to the NRC dated August 1, 1997, Arizona Public Service Company (APS) informed the staff that its resources must be diverted from the RI-IST program development effort in order to complete other activities (e.g., the 10 year IST program

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update and improved technical specification implementation). Therefore, due to the resource constraints and operational priorities discussed above, APS will not be in a position to resume supporting the RI-IST implementation effort until mid-1998. At that time, APS will provide the NRC staff with a schedule for responding to the third RAI.

The next PRA Implementation Plan quarterly update to the Commission will reflect these schedule changes.

Callaway Nuclear Power Plant

On August 13, 1997, NRC staff members met in Rockville, Maryland, with representatives of Union Electric and Framatome Technologies Inc. (FTI). The purpose of the meeting was for the NRC staff to present the outstanding issues and concerns related to the ongoing electrosleeve license amendment review.

The NRC staff described its issues, which were related to qualification of the non-destructive examination (NDE) technique used to inspect the electrosleeves. The major NDE issues dealt with: an inadequate range of flaw sizes, an insufficient analysis of the existing qualification data, and applicability of non-sleeved NDE data for use in the sleeved tube qualification data set.

In response, the licensee presented information which indicated that they have collected four tubes from the recently replaced Salem Unit 1 steam generators. These tubes which contained approximately 23 flaws, were electrosleeved, non-destructively examined (ultrasonic examination), and then destructively examined. The licensee indicated that this data would provide additional information that would resolve the questions raised by the NRC staff. NRC staff requested that when the new information is provided on the docket the licensee specifically address how the additional data resolves issues.

The licensee stated that the electrosleeve repair process is ready to be field implemented, once the NDE issues are resolved. At least two utilities have expressed an interest in implementing this repair during spring 1998 outages.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending August 15, 1997

Resources for Strengthening International Safeguards

In response to a July 17, 1997, request from the Executive Branch, NRC staff members are actively assessing the potential impacts of implementing selected measures of the International Atomic Energy Agency's strengthened safeguards system in the U.S. This assessment includes a determination of the ability of information currently acquired by the NRC to satisfy new IAEA-related information collection requirements, and of the possible need for new legislative and/or regulatory authority to permit the acquisition of information and complementary access to facilities that would be required under the strengthened safeguards system. Other U.S. agencies are performing similar assessments.

Holtec Hi-Star 100 Impact Limiter Drop Tests

On August 12, 1997, Holtec International (Holtec) provided the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) staff with the summary results of drop tests performed for the transportation component of the Hi-Star 100 dual-purpose cask system, which is currently under review by the SFPO staff. The results were unacceptable. Holtec indicated that it would redesign the impact limiters and then retest the modified impact limiter and support structure.

National Academy of Sciences Naturally-Occurring Radioactive Materials Committee

On August 5-6, 1997, NRC staff members attended the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Committee on Evaluation of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidelines for Exposure to Naturally-Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) meeting in Washington, DC. Meeting attendees included the Committee members and NAS staff, EPA, NRC, State, and industry representatives. The major purpose of the Congressionally-mandated study being performed by the Committee is to summarize agreements and differences between EPA's guidelines, those of other advisory bodies such as the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, and peer-reviewed research. The study will categorize whether differences stem from risk management/policy or from scientific and technical issues. The study will attempt to answer whether there is scientific justification for treating NORM differently from other radioactive materials, which EPA regulates, including Atomic Energy Act (AEA) material.

During the meeting, EPA reviewed its statutory authority for radiation protection, which it has applied to NORM. In addition

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to submitting the NAS/NORM report to Congress in 1998, EPA will also transmit its plans and policy for NORM guidance, including the scientific and technical basis for that guidance. Representatives of industry, the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, the American National Standards Institute, the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, and a former EPA division director discussed guidelines for radon, uranium mill tailings, and draft NORM standards.

The Committee concluded there is no difference in radiation risk between NORM and AEA-licensed materials, and will concentrate on whether there are risk assessment or exposure differences. Since the 10 CFR Part 20 NRC standards, which the States are currently applying to NORM, were created for AEA materials, the Committee will assess the differences between EPA and NRC standards.

The Committee will also examine EPA's standards for radionuclides in drinking water and air emissions, as well as its draft Federal Radiation Protection Guidance, since these also apply to NORM. The Committee has developed a draft outline for its report, which will summarize existing NORM regulations and guidelines, discuss the rationale for differences in radiation protection regulations, and recommend approaches for EPA consideration in setting standards for NORM.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
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Meeting with NEI on Decommissioning Regulatory Guidance

To apply the recently promulgated decommissioning criterion of 25 mrem, it is necessary to develop regulatory guidance to convert that dose criterion into acceptable radiation and contamination measurements. On August 14, 1997, the staff from RES and NMSS met with NEI (a public meeting) to discuss staff plans for soliciting public comment on the guidance. Representatives from several consulting firms and from Nucleonics Week also attended.

The staff explained its plans for developing the guidance in modules and placing working drafts of the modules on the NRC rulemaking web page to allow early interactive dialog. Working drafts will be placed in the Public Document Room and public workshops will be held. The staff expects the first working draft to be made available to the public by the beginning of September 1997, and the first workshop to be conducted at the end of September 1997. NEI expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn about the NRC staff plans and for the opportunity for public involvement in the development of the regulatory guidance. NEI also indicated that the first workshop addressing restricted release provisions may be the most important and encouraged NRC to solicit wide public attendance.

Public Workshop on Risk-Informed Regulatory Guidance

NRC's draft regulatory guidance on use of probabilistic risk assessments (PRAs) to support changes to a nuclear power plant's current licensing basis was the subject of a three-day public workshop on August 11-13, 1997. The RES and NRR staff described the draft regulatory guides, standard review plan sections, and supporting NUREG report, and addressed questions and comments from the participants. Comments received during the workshop were generally supportive of the risk-informed process contained in the draft documents. The main concern expressed by the industry representatives was that it may require a great deal of analysis and a long NRC review process to obtain approval of the proposed change. Comments received at the workshop will be combined with written comments provided to the staff, due by September 30, 1997. All comments will be used to help finalize the documents, now scheduled for completion by December 31, 1997.

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Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data
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Callaway Exercise

Members of the Incident Response Division (IRD) participated in the Callaway exercise on August 12, 1997, along with members of Region IV, Union Electric Company, and the State of Missouri. Commissioner McGaffigan headed the Executive Team, Ellis Merschhoff managed the base team, and Jim Dyer headed the site team.

Two IRD staff members attended the Callaway on site exercise to perform regional assessment.

Preliminary Notifications (PNs)

- a. PNO-I-97-049, Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Co. (Haddam Neck 1), CONTROL ROOM EVACUATION DUE TO INADVERTENT HALON ACTUATION - MEDIA INTEREST
- b. PNO-I-97-050, Consolidated Edison Co. of N.Y. (Indian Point 2), PRESSURIZER SAFETY VALVE SETPOINT UNCERTAINTY - SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS
- c. PNO-I-97-051, Jeanette Municipal Authority, RADIOLOGICALLY CONTAMINATED MUNICIPAL WASTE
- d. PNO-I-97-051A, Jeanette Municipal Authority, UPDATE OF PNO-I-97-051 RADIOLOGICALLY CONTAMINATED MUNICIPAL WASTE
- e. PNO-II-97-042, An Agreement State Licensee Syncor, Inc., MEDIA INTEREST EXPRESSED IN TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENT
- f. PNO-IV-97-044, U. S. Air Force (Brooks Air Force Base), MISSING CESIUM-137 CALIBRATION SOURCE

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
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OWFN Restack

The 17th floor construction phase of the OWFN Restack Project is 95% complete. All work, including final cleanup, will be completed the week of August 18, 1997, and the floor will be reoccupied on the weekend of August 22 by the following executives and their immediate staff: Executive Director for Operations; General Counsel; Chief Information Officer; Chief Financial Officer; and the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs.

License Term for Medical Use Licensees (Part 35)

A proposed rule that would amend the regulations pertaining to the medical use of byproduct material to eliminate the five-year term limit for medical use licensees was published in the Federal Register on July 31, 1997 (62 F.R. 40975). The license term for these licensees would be set, by policy, for up to ten years in the same manner as the license terms for other materials licensees are set. The NRC would retain the option to issue licenses for shorter terms if warranted by the individual circumstances of license applicants. The comment period for this action closes October 14, 1997.

Frequency of Reviews and Audits for Emergency Preparedness Programs, Safeguards Contingency Plans, and Security Programs for Nuclear Power Reactors (Parts 50 and 73)

A proposed rule that would amend NRC's regulations to change the frequency of licensees' independent reviews and audits of their emergency preparedness programs, safeguards contingency plans, and security programs was published in the Federal Register on July 31, 1997 (62 F.R. 40978). The proposed rule would allow nuclear power reactor licensees to conduct program reviews and audits in response to program performance indicators or after a significant change in personnel, procedures, equipment, or facilities, but in no case less frequently than every 24 months instead of the current requirement to conduct reviews every 12 months. The comment period for this action closes October 14, 1997.

Medical Use of Byproduct Material: Issues and Request for Public Input (Part 35)

A document announcing the NRC's program for revising its regulations governing the medical use of byproduct material was published in the Federal Register of August 6, 1997 (62 F.R.

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42219). The document describes the program for revising the medical use regulations, notifies the public of the availability of documents associated with this action, and solicits informal public input on the development of proposed rule language and associated documents. Public input is requested by March 1, 1998.

Reporting Requirements for Unauthorized Use of Licensed Radioactive Material (Part 20)

A document withdrawing a proposed rule that would have established requirements for reporting incidents involving the intentional unauthorized use of radioactive material was published in the Federal Register on August 11, 1997 (62 F.R. 42948). After reviewing extensive public comment indicating that the costs of implementing such a rule would far outweigh the anticipated benefits, the Commission reconsidered the need for the proposed rule.

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Chief Information Officer
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Significant FOIA/PA Requests Received during the 5-Day Period of
August 8 through August 14, 1997:

Eastern Technology, Inc., license for nuclear laundry in state of PA. (FOIA/PA-97-295)

Contract No. NRC-04-97-046, Independent Evaluations for Severe Accident Research. (FOIA/PA-97-296)

Petition regarding exemption from Poison Prevention Packaging Act, submitted by Maryland Pharmaceuticals Inc., and Upjohn Co. (FOIA/PA-97-297)

ANSTEC, Inc. contract for ADP support services. (FOIA/PA-97-298)

OI report regarding case number 3-96-047. (FOIA/PA-97-299)

Savannah River plant, 2-27-95 documents re injury to named individual. (FOIA/PA-97-300)

NRC staffing figures, expenditures and testimony to Congressional Committees and identification of the Chairman, 1975-1997. (FOIA/PA-97-301)

Split Rock Mill Site, near Jeffrey City, WY, cost summaries and remediation efforts. (FOIA/PA-97-302)

Cuba visit, 6/3/88 memo from Shea re summary of and 1/25/90 memo from Denton re report of travel to Cuba. (FOIA/PA-97-303)

Records on self since 8/94 and 12/95. (FOIA/PA-97-304)

Contract NRC-OS-76-384, modifications 1 & 2, and bibliography or index. (FOIA/PA-97-305)

Oracle databases, version currently in use and names, addresses & phone numbers of three individual users. (FOIA/PA-97-306)

I.M.P.A.C. card holder listing. (FOIA/PA-97-307)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
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Arrivals

None

Retirements

WHITE, Nancy OFFICE AUTOMATION ASST (OPFT) NMSS

Departures

BARRICK, John SUMMER ADMIN INTERN (OPFT) NMSS
BUTLER, James SUMMER ADMIN INTERN (OPFT) NMSS
CAMPBELL, Kim SUMMER TECHNICAL INTERN (OPFT) NRR
DESANTIS, Noel SUMMER ADMIN INTERN (OPFT) OI
HALL, Robert GENERAL ENGR (INTERN) (PFT) NRR
JOLLY, Robert SUMMER TECHNICAL INTERN (OPFT) ACRS
KELLEY, Scott SUMMER TECHNICAL INTERN (OPFT) NRR
KIM, Min SECRETARY (OA) (OPFT) CSU

KOENIG, Adam SUMMER ADMIN INTERN (OPFT) NMSS
KOENIG, Sarah SUMMER ADMIN INTERN (OPFT) NMSS
LEES, Patrick SUMMER ADMIN INTERN (OPFT) IRM
LEY, Christina SUMMER TECHNICAL INTERN (OPFT) NMSS
LOGISZ, Daniel SUMMER CLERICAL (OPFT) IRM
LOOTENS, Christine SUMMER ADMIN INTERN (OPFT) ACRS
MILANS, Gregory SUMMER CLERICAL (OPFT) SECY
MORISSEAU, Dolores HUMAN FACTORS ANALYST (PFT) RES
RATHBUN, Howard MECHANICAL ENGR (PFT) NRR

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
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Media Interest

Time magazine is putting together a story on the announcement by Ontario Hydro that it would shut down seven of its 19 nuclear power plants.

Press Releases

Headquarters:

- 97-118 NRC Provides Comments to Fish and Wildlife Service on its Draft Opinion on Cleanup Plan for Utah Uranium Mill Tailings Site
- 97-119 Note to Editors: ACNW report on predicting risk from igneous activity at Yucca Mountain
- 97-120 NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet September 23 and 25 in Las Vegas
- 97-121 NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet September 3-5
- 97-122 NRC Issues Final Policy Statement on Economic Deregulation of Nuclear Power Plants
- 97-123 NRC Authorizes Utah Uranium Mill to Receive and Process Material from Pennsylvania

Regions:

- I-97-103 NRC, PS&G to Discuss Apparent Violations at Hope Creek
- I-97-104 NRC Staff Proposes \$176,000 Fine for Alleged Violations at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant
- III-97-75 NRC Staff Issues Notice of Violation at Wisconsin Electric Co., No Fine Proposed for Violations at Point Beach Nuclear Plant
- III-97-76 NRC Chairman Shirley Ann Jackson to Hold News Briefing Following Visit to Clinton Nuclear Power Station

Office of International Programs
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IAEA Vacancy Notices

The following notices from the International Atomic Energy Agency have been posted on NRC bulletin boards:

P-3 Unit Head, Field Accounts & Commercial Claims
97-057
Administration

D-1 Director

97-058
Research and Isotopes

P-4 Technical Officer

97-059
Research and Isotopes

P-4 Radiation Source Specialist

97-060
Nuclear Safety

P-4 Country Officer

97-061
Technical Co-operation

P-4 Safety Information Officer (Technical Writer)
97-062
Nuclear Safety

P-4 Nuclear Engineer

97-063
Nuclear Energy

P-3 Soil Scientist

97-064
Research and Isotopes

P-4 Video Engineer

97-065
Safeguards

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P-5 Operational Safety Specialist
Nuclear Safety

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Office of the Secretary
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Commission Decision Documents Released to the Public

<u>Document</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1. SECY-97-148	July 15, 1997	Recommendation on Need for Rule on Advanced Light Water Reactor Severe Accident Performance
- SRM on 97-148		August 6, 1997 (same)
- Voting Record on 97-148		August 6, 1997 (same)
2. M970806B	August 14, 1997	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Shutdown Risk Proposed Rule for Nuclear Power Plants (SECY-97-168), 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, August 6, 1997
3. M970807A	August 14, 1997	Staff Requirements - Meeting with NRC Executive Council, 9:35 A.M., Thursday, August 7, 1997

Negative Consent Documents Released to the Public

1. SECY-97-168	July 30, 1997	Issuance for Public Comment of Proposed Rulemaking Package for Shutdown and Fuel Storage Pool Operation
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Information Papers Released to the Public

1. SECY-97-175	July 31, 1997	NRC Participation in the OECD/NEA Sponsored RASPLAV-Phase
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II Project at the Russian
Research Center (I.V. Kurchatov
Institute)

2. SECY-97-178 August 7, 1997 Weekly Information Report - Week
Ending August 1, 1997
3. SECY-97-180 August 6, 1997 Response to Staff Requirements
Memorandum of May 28, 1997,
Concerning Briefing on IPE
Insight Report
4. SECY-97-181 August 6, 1997 Implementation of New IAEA
Safeguards Measures in the
United States

Commission Correspondence Released to the Public

1. Letter to Masami Katsuragawa, Japanese Power Reactor and
Nuclear Fuel Development Corp., dtd 8/6/97 concerns his
departure from PNC and move to Nuclear Energy Systems
2. Letter to Representative Thomas Bliley concerns costs of
regulation and other administrative procedures
3. Letter to Robert Backus of Backus, Meyer, Solomon, Rood &
Branch dtd 8/4/97 concerns "undue risk" standard as opposed
to the "substantial regulatory compliance" standard
4. Letter to Senator Olympia Snowe dtd 8/1/97 concerns an
anonymous letter regarding issues at the Maine Yankee Atomic
Power Station

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Final Policy Statement on the Restructuring and Economic
Deregulation of the Electric Utility Industry, 10 CFR Part
50 dtd 8/13/97
2. Notice of Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear
Waste, September 23-25, 1997, Las Vegas, Nevada dtd 8/8/97
3. Notice of Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor
Safeguards, September 3-5, 1997 dtd 8/11/97

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Region I
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PreDecisional Enforcement Conference

The Chief of the Region I Nuclear Materials Safety Branch No. 2 attended and supported predecisional enforcement conferences for Mallinckrodt Medical, Inc. and the U.S. Army, Rock Island, II at the Region III office on August 7 and 8, 1997.

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Region II
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Florida Power and Light Company - Turkey Point

On July 30, 1997, Unit 3 at Turkey Point tripped from 100 percent power when a main steam isolation valve closed inadvertently. Shortly after the trip, the "A" auxiliary feedwater (AFW) pump tripped on overspeed. The cause of the overspeed trip was unknown and the licensee entered a 30-day LCO for the inoperable "A" AFW pump.

The licensee determined the cause of the overspeed trip to be a spurious electrical overspeed trip signal within the tachometer control module. The licensee replaced the module, tested the "A" AFW pump and exited the 30-LCO on August 9, 1997.

Another station, the Vogtle nuclear plant, experienced a problem with the same type tachometer module in 1993 and made a 10 CFR Part 21 notification report. Region II and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation are reviewing the case and plan to issue an Information Notice to licensees.

Region III
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Commissioner Diaz Visits Dresden Nuclear Power Station

On August 12, 1997, Commissioner Nil J. Diaz visited the Dresden Nuclear Power Station. During his visit to the station, he met with the resident inspectors and toured the facility. He also met with Commonwealth Edison management. NRC Regional Administrator A. Bill Beach accompanied the Commissioner on his visit to the station.

Big Rock Point Nuclear Power Plant - Decommissioning Status Meeting

On August 13, 1997, a management meeting was conducted in the Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between management representatives from Consumers Power Company and members of the NRC staff to discuss the decommissioning of the Big Rock Nuclear Power Plant. The plant will permanently cease operations on August 29, 1997.

At the meeting, the utility discussed its plans to immediately dismantle the plant. By the year 2002, the utility plans to release the site for unrestricted use.

Region IV
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Pre-Decisional Enforcement Conference with Union Electric Company
on August 15, 1997

On August 15, 1997, a pre-decisional enforcement conference was conducted in the Region IV offices with representatives of Union Electric Company, the licensee for the Callaway Plant. NRC representatives included management and staff from Region IV, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Office of Enforcement, and the Office of the Executive Director for Operations. This conference was held to discuss the apparent failure to perform safety evaluations in accordance with 10 CFR 50.59 requirements. The apparent failure was identified during an NRC inspection conducted earlier this year.

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Mattingly Testing
Services, Inc.

On August 13, 1997, Region IV conducted a telephonic predecisional enforcement conference with Mattingly Testing Services, Inc., a radiography licensee. The conference was conducted to discuss an apparent violation of NRC requirements prohibiting discrimination against employees who engage in protected activities, 10 CFR 30.7. The identification of the apparent violation was based on a review of a Department of Labor (DOL) Administrative Law Judge's (ALJ) recommended decision, which found that discrimination occurred in 1995. However, shortly after issuance of the recommended decision and prior to DOL's review of the ALJ's recommended decision, the company and the complainant settled. Without a final DOL decision, the NRC staff must make an independent determination of whether a violation occurred. The enforcement conference was held in order to aid the staff in making that determination.