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

SECY-99-285

December 22, 1999

INFORMATION REPORT

For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-99-285 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING
DECEMBER 17, 1999

Contents

Enclosure

- Nuclear Reactor Regulation
- Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
- Nuclear Regulatory Research
- Incident Response Operations
- General Counsel
- Administration
- Chief Information Officer
- Chief Financial Officer
- Human Resources
- Small Business & Civil Rights
- Enforcement
- State Program
- Public Affairs
- International Programs
- Office of the Secretary
- Region I
- Region II
- Region III
- Region IV
- Executive Director for Operations
- Congressional Affairs

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E*
- F*
- G
- H*
- I
- J*
- K*
- L*
- M
- N
- O
- P
- P
- P*
- P
- Q*
- R*

*No input this week.

Debra J Corley for

James L. Blaha
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
D. Lange, OEDO

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 17, 1999

Meeting with NRC and EPRI on Risk-Informed Technology

On December 9, 1999, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) met in Rockville, Maryland, to discuss EPRI's plans for future use of risk-informed technology.

EPRI is estimating that, in the year 2000, approximately twenty risk-informed inservice inspection (RI-ISI) submittals would be sent to the NRC. The staff stated that based on its inquiries in September 1999, it was not expecting such a large number of submittals. EPRI indicated that the large increase in licensee interest is due to the issuance of the staff's safety evaluation on the EPRI RI-ISI topical report in October 1999. The staff indicated that it would be difficult to accommodate this many reviews within one year. The staff requested that EPRI consider bringing such resource intensive reviews to our attention in a more timely way for resource planning.

Technical issues discussed included applying RI-ISI to containment inspections and to piping break exclusion regions.

NRC Bilateral Information Exchange with French Regulators

On December 8th and 9th, members of the Division of Engineering's staff along with participants from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research met with representatives from DSIN, BCCN, and IPSN. These discussions focused on materials engineering issues. The topics covered included: reactor pressure vessel pressure-temperature limit determination and pressurized thermal shock issues; primary piping system degradation due to thermal fatigue mechanisms; thermal aging of cast duplex stainless steels; leak-before-break technology; and baffle former bolt cracking. A great deal of experience exists within both the NRC and DSIN/BCCN/IPSN on these issues and the exchange of information on recent developments in these areas was highly beneficial to both sides.

Millstone Unit 3

On December 10, 1999, the NRC issued the Order approving the merger of New England Electric System and The National Grid Group plc. This merger resulted in an indirect transfer of upstream ownership of New England Power Company (NEP). NEP is a license holder for both Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 3, and Seabrook Station.

Seabrook 1 - Joint Owner License Transfer

On Friday, November 19, 1999, Montaup Electric Company closed on its sale at its 2.9% share of the Seabrook Station to Little Bay Power Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of BayCorp Holdings, Ltd. BayCorp also owns Great Bay Power Corporation, which owns 12.1% of the Seabrook Station.

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE A

This settlement occurred after New England Power, another joint owner of the Seabrook Station, withdrew its intervention petition opposing the license transfer which resulted in terminating the hearing previously granted by the Commission.

Shearon Harris - Status of Hearing Activities on Spent Fuel Pool Expansion Amendment

On December 7 and 8, 1999, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) heard limited appearance statements, in accordance with 10 CFR 2.715(a), related to Carolina Power & Light Company's (CP&L's) request to increase the spent fuel storage capacity at its Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant. Approximately 85 people made statements during the meetings which were held in both Raleigh and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The majority, approximately 65, of those commenting were opposed to CP&L's proposed license amendment.

On December 13, 1999, based on a request by the NRC staff, the ASLB issued an Order revising the due date for the written summaries and the date of the oral arguments. Under the revised schedule the written summaries must be filed by all parties on January 4, and the ASLB will hear oral arguments on January 21, 2000, in the ASLB Hearing Room (TWFN). The staff requested the extension in order to have time to review and evaluate a piping study that the CP&L submitted to the staff on December 8, 1999.

Watts Bar Unit 1

As reported in the electronic newsletter "Nuclear News Flashes" and other media sources, the TVA Board voted on December 8, 1999, to approve an agreement between TVA and DOE to make tritium for DOE. The action basically gives TVA staff the go-ahead to complete a contract with DOE. TVA would produce the tritium at cost at Watts Bar. A TVA spokesman indicated that whether TVA will ever be asked to actually provide these services depends on the outcome of arms control talks and possible Congressional action. TVA staff is presently working on a schedule to submit a license amendment application for the Watts Bar plant about a year from now.

NRC/NEI Public Meetings

On December 21, 1999, the NRC staff will hold a public meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute to discuss the Safeguards Significance Determination Process. The goal for this meeting will be for the staff to consider input from NEI and other stakeholders concerning the SDP and to finalize a draft of that SDP to present to upper management.

On December 22, 1999, the NRC staff will hold a public meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute to present its milestone chart for drafting and finalizing the rule that will replace the current 10 CFR 73.55 and associated power reactor security regulations. The new rule will provide a risk-informed basis for the security requirements and will include new requirements for licensees to conduct drills and exercises to assess the performance of their tactical response strategies.

Reactor Oversight Process Improvements

On December 13, 1999, the Inspection Program Branch (IIPB) staff, assisted by regional inspectors, continued review of the Baseline Inspection procedures and continued to

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE A

incorporate comments received from the regions during the pilot program. This review is scheduled for three weeks (November 15, December 6, and December 13, 1999).

On December 13, 1999, the IIPB staff attended the Region I mid-cycle review meeting for Salem, Hope Creek, and FitzPatrick pilot plants. During these meetings, the NRC staff reviewed the performance indicator data and plant issues matrix and made recommendations for future inspection activities in accordance with the draft Inspection Manual Chapter 0305.

Staff Issues Final Supplement 2 to Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal at Oconee Nuclear Station

On Thursday, December 9, 1999, the staff issued the final NUREG-1437, Supplement 2, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 2 Regarding Oconee Nuclear Station." This supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) includes the staff's analysis that considers and weighs the environmental effects of the proposed action, the environmental impacts of alternatives to the proposed action, and mitigative measures available for reducing or avoiding adverse impacts.

It also includes the staff's recommendation regarding the proposed action: that the Commission determine that the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 are not so great that preserving the option of license renewal for energy planning decision-makers would be unreasonable. The staff's recommendation is based on the analysis and findings in the Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, the environmental report submitted by Duke, consultation with other Federal and State agencies, its own independent review, and its consideration of public comments.

Risk Informed Part 50 Meeting

On December 14, 1999, the staff held a public meeting with NEI to discuss technical issues regarding the categorization and treatment of SSCs under a new risk-informed approach. NEI is developing a guideline that would implement the staff's risk-informed approach and solicit industry pilot plant participation in the RIP-50 effort. NEI indicated that development of their implementing guideline has proven to be technically complex and that a rough draft of the guide may be available in the late January time frame. NEI also intends to send a letter to the Commission which will endorse issuance of the ANPR, but also indicate that pilot plant participation would be delayed until there is a better definition of categorization and treatment requirements under the new approach. A significant point of discussion during the meeting was PRA quality and the need for meeting an ASME/ANS PRA standard for this particular application. There is currently not a PRA standard and there are differences between industry and the staff regarding the ultimate contents of such a PRA standard. Industry believes the staff's proposed Risk Informed Safety Class (RISC) -1, RISC-2, and RISC-3 structure is workable. However, it appears that the industry wants to categorize SSCs by functions (in such a scheme, an SCC could be in more than one box) rather than categorization by SSC. Such an approach would probably require a different structure for 50.69 and Appendix T and appears to be a step closer to option 3 (i.e., SSCs would be removed from scope of all other special treatment regulations and be subject only to 50.69 requirements). The staff agreed to meet with NEI to continue the technical dialogue in mid-January.

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 17, 1999

Fourth Public Meeting on Control of Solid Materials

On December 7-8, 1999, the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety held the fourth of four facilitated public meetings to discuss issues and alternatives related to control of solid materials at licensed facilities in Chicago, Illinois. Attendance at the meeting included representatives from citizens groups, licensees and licensee organizations, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy (DOE), state agencies, scrap and recycling companies, steel manufacturers, and concrete companies. The meeting agenda was arranged somewhat differently from the earlier meetings to better focus the discussions, although the basic information covered was essentially the same.

Several attendees noted that: (1) a national standard that is technically defensible and can be readily implemented would be useful to provide consistency in the licensing approach; (2) there is a need to consider DOE materials; and (3) there is also a need to consider the variety of materials that move in and out of facilities every day. The workshop specifically discussed aluminum, copper, concrete, soil, trash, lead, nickel, reusable items, and steel.

One concern expressed was that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) contractor on technical basis development, Science Applications International Corporation, should not work on further reports because of conflict of interest problems arising from their work with British Nuclear Fuels, Limited.

Some considerations regarding potential alternatives expressed by attendees included: (1) steel manufacturers indicated that no radioactive steel should be released into recycle because of concerns over potential economic disruption if their consumers do not want their products (it was noted that detection systems at steel facilities have the capability to detect levels near potential NRC standards and the participants would likely reject material released under an NRC rule); (2) NRC should consider adopting ANSI standard N13.12 which contains criteria for clearance of material; and (3) some attendees opposed any further release of material into unrestricted use. With regard to possibly using restricted use, it was noted that because of concerns over whether institutional controls could be depended upon to ensure the restrictions remain in place, it might be appropriate to limit such an option to restricting further use of materials to the nuclear industry.

The discussions provided useful information as part of decision-making. The staff will use information from the meetings, as well as other input received in public comments, to develop a paper for the Commission in March 2000. An Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) meeting was held on December 16, 1999, to discuss ACNW comments on the Issues Paper.

Meetings on Transportation Package Safety

On December 8-9, 1999, the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) hosted three public meetings on spent nuclear fuel transportation package safety in Nevada. On December 8, 1999, SFPO hosted an all-day public roundtable discussion and an evening public meeting in Henderson,

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE B

Nevada. On December 9, 1999, an additional public meeting was conducted in Pahrump, Nevada. The purpose of the meetings was to invite public comments and involvement on a pending Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) study of spent nuclear fuel cask performance during transportation accidents. Roundtable participants included representatives from Nevada state and county governments, both the transportation and nuclear industries, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Energy, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The meetings were well attended, and the roundtable participants and the members of the public provided many comments with views for NRC to consider in planning the transportation package safety study. Additional meetings are planned for next year.

Meeting with General Electric Regarding New Transport Container for Uranium Oxides

On December 14, 1999, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office met with General Electric Company (GE) regarding the design of a new transport package for low-enriched uranium oxide powder and pellets. The package is being designed to optimize the shipment of bulk uranium oxides in sea-land containers. The meeting was held to discuss the physical testing that will be performed on the package to demonstrate that it meets the performance standards in 10 CFR Part 71. GE expects to submit an application for package review to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in March 2000.

Public Meeting with Envirocare of Utah, Inc.

On December 10, 1999, Division of Waste Management and Region IV staff met with representatives of Envirocare of Utah, Inc. This public meeting was held at the Tooele, Utah, County Court House. The purpose of the meeting was to provide Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) management with an opportunity to review the licensee's overall performance from January 1998 through December 1999. Envirocare was made aware of NRC management's concerns regarding a number of program areas and, in addition to other commitments, agreed to expedite the resolution of two long-standing technical issues (groundwater monitoring/exceedances and leaking railcars) and to conduct its operations in a more effective manner. Several members of the public observed the meeting.

Workshop on Fuel Cycle Inspection Program Revisions

On December 15, 1999, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) hosted a third public workshop at NRC Headquarters. Representatives of the public, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), fuel cycle licensees, the Department of Energy, and NRC (managers and staff from Headquarters and the regions) attended the transcribed workshop. The NEI presented and explained their views regarding NRC plans for revising the fuel cycle facility baseline safety inspection program. Overall, there is strong stakeholder support for revising the fuel cycle facility inspection program, although stakeholders recognize the current program is working effectively. Also, stakeholders emphasized the need to expand the current effort to include the entire fuel cycle facility oversight program, e.g., inspection, performance assessment, and enforcement. Stakeholders observed that their ability to participate in the workshop process is limited by resource constraints and competing NRC projects, such as the revisions to 10 CFR Part 70 and the associated Standard Review Plan. NEI places a higher priority on the Part 70 revisions than revisions to the oversight program. Stakeholders proposed that the public workshops take place monthly beginning in January 2000. At the end of the workshop, the staff

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE B

committed to work up a draft schedule for proposed interactions on this program over the next year, and to provide the draft schedule to NEI.

Meeting with Future Applicant for Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility

On December 10, 1999, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff met with representatives from Duke Cogema Stone & Webster (DCS) to discuss technical topics associated with the mixed oxide (MOX) fuel fabrication facility. DCS intends to apply to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for authorization to construct and operate a MOX fuel fabrication facility. Topics discussed included material control and accounting, International Atomic Energy Agency requirements, classification of information, and physical security. For each of the technical areas, the applicant described its proposed approach, followed by a discussion with NRC staff. In the areas of physical security and classification of information, DCS must meet Department of Energy (DOE) requirements in accordance with its contract with DOE. During the meeting, differences were apparent between DOE and NRC requirements which must be resolved to ensure that NRC requirements can be met in licensing the MOX facility. Future discussions are planned to resolve these issues.

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 17, 1999

Workshop on Low Dose Radiation Research Program

RES staff recently participated in a workshop on Low Dose Radiation Research, which was sponsored by the DOE's Office of Science and Office of Biological and Environmental Research. The goal of the Low Dose Radiation Research Program is to support research that will help determine health risks from exposures to low levels of radiation. The current research program comprises 44 research projects that are funded at approximately \$19M per year. Seven areas of research are response to radiation damage, DNA damage and repair, radiation vs endogenous repair, tool development, genetic susceptibility, risk modeling, and risk communication.

The purpose of the workshop was to identify ways DOE can achieve its goal of supporting high quality, publicly acceptable research that underpins future policies to protect members of the public from adverse health risks from radiation exposure. Over 100 individuals participated in the workshop, attending a series of presentations, poster sessions, and breakout discussions. Scientific abstracts can be viewed on the program website at <http://www.lowdose.org>. Discussion topics at the workshop included what are the advantages and disadvantages of funding only research that directly supports the development of radiation risk policy; what information does the public, scientists, and policymakers want to know and need to know; what is needed to ensure that the DOE research program supports science that is believed and understood by members of the public; and what additional research topics and tools should be funded.

The workshop participants indicated that (1) DOE should fund the best scientific proposals submitted and not focus on applied science, (2) DOE should ensure a commitment to long-term project funding and endeavor to fund young investigators, and (3) the solicitation, review, and selection of research grants should include wider public participation to improve public awareness and confidence in this DOE program. Dr. David Thomassen, DOE, indicated that additional workshops will be convened every twelve to eighteen months to facilitate the sharing of research results, promote scientific collaboration, and facilitate communications between the scientific investigators, members of the public, and government representatives.

Meeting on MOV Research

RES recently met with NRR and INEEL to review motor-operated valve (MOV) test results from the RES research program on the effects of aging and emerging issues on MOV performance. This program has recently been focused on the behavior of valve stem and stem nut lubricants and how the stem nut coefficient of friction might change as the MOV ages. Changes in the stem nut friction will affect the output of a motor-actuator and may reduce the margin for ensuring operability of an MOV. This research was redirected because of the unexpected behavior of these lubricants at elevated temperature.

To date, INEEL has performed a series of tests on two stem/stem nut combinations using four typical lubricants. The tests were specifically designed to evaluate the effect that increasing the

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE C

temperature from ambient (70°F) to design basis (250°F) conditions would have on friction between the valve stem and the stem nut. The results indicate that the stem nut friction increases on the order of 20 to 40 percent at the elevated temperature. This increase in friction directly translates to a 20 to 40 percent reduction in the thrust capability of an MOV at elevated temperature. These results are preliminary and additional testing is planned in order to fully understand the effect of elevated temperature on stem nut friction and MOV performance.

Two Draft Regulatory Guides Issued

Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1082, "Assessing and Managing Risk Before Maintenance Activities at Nuclear Power Plants," proposes to endorse the final draft of Section 11, "Assessment of Risk Resulting from Performance of Maintenance Activities," of NUMARC 93-01, "Industry Guideline for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants" (May 1993). This guide is being developed to provide guidance on implementing the provisions of a recent revision to the Maintenance Rule, 10 CFR 50.65(a)(4) by endorsing the revised Section 11.

Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1086, "Criterion for Triggering a Review Under 10 CFR 50.80 for Non-Owner Operator Service Companies," is being developed to enable a common understanding among the nuclear industry and the NRC staff on when the use of a non-owner operating service company would require NRC review and approval.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 17, 1999

Meeting at Seabrook

An IRO Staff member attended a post-plume exercise planning meeting at the Seabrook station in Portsmouth NH on December 15, 1999. The meeting was attended by representatives from the states of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. FEMA Region I and NRC Region I were also in attendance along with the utility. The discussion centered around the level of Federal participation in the upcoming evaluated post-plume phase exercise, currently scheduled for June 7-8, 2000. This will be a six-year cycle, FEMA evaluated exercise for the State of New Hampshire. The meeting involved an explanation by IRO about the Federal play to be expected in the exercise. Other issues involved State and FEMA agreement on an extent of play for the evaluation. A follow up meeting will be conducted in mid-January.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATIONS:

1. PNO-99-054, Allegheny Wireline Services, Inc., ABANDONMENT OF IRRETRIEVABLE WELL LOGGING SOURCE
2. PNO-99-055, Sovereign Consulting, Inc., BROKEN SELF-LUMINOUS EXIT SIGN IN ROBBINSVILLE, NEW JERSEY
3. PNO-III-052, Classification Meriter Hospital, MISADMINISTRATION
4. PNO-III-99-053, H. S. Nutting Company, STOLEN PORTABLE MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE D

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 17, 1999

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of
December 10, 1999 through December 16, 1999:

Self, OIG report. (FOIA/PA 2000-0076)

Oyster Creek, OI report 1-98-039. (FOIA/PA 2000-0077)

Licensed reactor operators listing sorted by facility, on disk. (FOIA/PA 2000-0078)

Veteran Administrative Medical Center, Memphis, TN, inspection and enforcement conference results, 1985 through 1999. (FOIA/PA 2000-0079)

Aguire Engineers, Inc., license #27-29119091, docket #030-34654, 2/1/98 application, 3/31/98 and 4/7/98 licensee letters. (FOIA/PA 2000-0080)

Sunshine Act, new definition of "meeting" and records re discussions between two or more NRC Commissioners (scheduled or unscheduled) since 7/22/99. (FOIA/PA 2000-0081)

Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp., Aliquippa, PA, re special nuclear materials licenses, 1940 through 1983. (FOIA/PA 2000-0082)

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE G

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 17, 1999

Arrivals		
DEAN, Bernette	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NRR
FRANKLIN, Dwana	OFFICE ASSISTANT	RIII
HAWKINS, Gwendolyn	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
LAHAIE, Brian	MANAGEMENT INTERN	OCIO
ROBERTS, Cynthia	CLERK	NRR
SAENGRAYIB, Charles	OFFICE ASSISTANT	RIII
SCOTT, William	REACTOR INSPECTOR	RIII
SPICER, Susan	ATTORNEY	OCAA
STRZELEC, Amanda	TECHNICAL INTERN	RI

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 17, 1999

Media Interest

Five reporters attended Chairman Meserve's press conference at D.C. Cook. Some questions focused on the shipment of plutonium from Los Alamos to the Chalk River facility in Canada.

There has been press interest in the Vieques firing range and the Navy's license with NRC for use of depleted uranium.

There was media interest in the demonstration at Millstone at which protestors opposed the addition of spent fuel storage space.

Regional and headquarters public affairs officers received calls on the announcement regarding NRC policy on release of plant outage and restart schedules.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
99-262	NRC Clarifies Treatment of Information on Nuclear Power Plant Outages and Restart Schedules
99-263	NRC Certifies Westinghouse Electric Company's AP600 Reactor Design
Regions:	
I-99-103	NRC Issues Order to Pennsylvania Man for Possessing Nuclear Gauges Without an NRC License
I-99-104	NRC Sends Inspector to New Jersey in Response to Broken Exit Sign
IV-99-42	NRC Appoints Vincent Gaddy Senior Resident Inspector at Callaway

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE M

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 17, 1999

Interagency Meeting on the U.S. Automated Export System (AES)

On December 14, R. Hauber attended an interagency meeting at the U.S. Customs Service. Customs and Census officials provided a briefing on the status of the AES which enables and in some cases requires shippers to make electronic submissions of data to satisfy outbound reporting requirements. The system is intended to lessen the reporting burden while increasing the accessibility and value of the data within the government. Approximately 10% of export shipments are currently reported in the AES, the percentage will increase significantly over the coming months. AES is an available option for NRC-licensed exporters.

Visit of Japan Chubu Electric Company

On December 16, Mr. Ichiro Ihara, Assistant Manager, Nuclear Power Operations Department, Chubu Headquarters, and Mr. Kenji Toyozumi, Chubu's Washington Representative, met with Gary Holahan, NRR, for an overview briefing on how NRR is implementing its plan for Risk Informed Regulations. Mr. Ihara provided a briefing on Chubu's nuclear plant operations and construction of a 1,380MWe ABWR scheduled for commissioning in 2005.

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 17, 1999

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-99-268	12/15/99	Final Rule - AP600 Design Certification
Voting Record on 99-268	12/15/99	(same)
SRM on 99-268	12/15/99	(same)
2. SRM on SECY-99-038	4/21/99	Staff Efforts to Address Orphan
3. SECY-98-010	1/20/98	Petition for Envirocare of Utah to Possess Special Nuclear Material in Excess of Current Regulatory Limits
SRM on 98-010	4/29/99	(same)
4. Comm. Dicus' comments on COMSECY-99-024	7/23/99	Draft Reactor Safety Chapter of the Strategic Plan
5. Comm. Merrifield's comments on 99-024	7/15/99	(same)
6. Comm. McGaffigan's comments on 99-024	7/27/99	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-99-275	11/24/99	Annual Update and Analysis of Demographics Data on Resident Inspectors
2. SECY-99-280	12/9/99	SECY-99-280 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending December 3, 1999
3. SECY-99-283	12/16/99	SECY-99-283 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending December 10, 1999
Memoranda		
1. M991109A	12/13/99	Staff Requirements - Meeting on NRC Interactions with Stakeholders on Nuclear Materials and Waste Activities, Tuesday, November 9, 1999
2. M991104	12/17/99	Staff Requirements - Meeting with Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Thursday, November 4, 1999

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE O

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Mr. Jose Luis Delgado Guardado, Director General, Secretaria de Energia, Comision Nacional de Seguridad Nuclear y Salvaguardias, dated 12/10/99, responds to invitation to visit Mexico City and the Laguna Verde site near Veracruz.
2. Letter to the Honorable Christopher J. Dodd, Vice Chairman, Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem, dated 12/6/99, concerns Y2K readiness at the Millstone Nuclear Power Station.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. 10 CFR Parts 71 and 73; Advance Notification to Native American Tribes of Transportation of Certain Types of Nuclear Waste.
2. General Electric Company; Docket No. 70-754-MLA; Designation of Presiding Officer (Alan S. Rosenthal).
3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Joint Subcommittee Meeting; Notice of Meeting on January 13-14, 2000.
4. 10 CFR Part 52; AP600 Design Certification; Final Rule.

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 17, 1999

Millstone Assessment Panel Activities

On December 15, Jim Linville, Director, Millstone Inspection Directorate, Region I, and Jim Clifford, Chief, Project Directorate I-2, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, along with members of their staffs, toured Millstone. Later that day, the Millstone Assessment Panel met with the licensee to discuss Northeast Nuclear Energy Company's assessment of current performance at the facility.

Three Mile Island - Unit 1

On December 7, 1999, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities approved the sale of Three Mile Island - Unit 1 to AmerGen. This was the last remaining regulatory approval needed for the license transfer. The sale closing is scheduled for December 20, 1999. A closing day recognition event will be held at TMI on December 21.

Whittaker Corporation

A meeting was held between Whittaker Corporation, a site on the NRC's Site Decommissioning Management Plan, and the NRC in the NRC's Rockville, MD office on December 15, 1999. The meeting covered the NRC's review of a risk assessment submitted by Whittaker on five decommissioning alternatives for their Greenville, PA site. The purpose of the meeting was to provide Whittaker with feedback in order to choose a viable decommissioning alternative and prepare an acceptable decommissioning plan. Representatives from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania also attended.

At the close of the meeting, Whittaker representatives agreed to submit their decommissioning plan by the end of calendar year 2000.

Waste Characterization Inspection at Maine Yankee

In response to concerns from the State of South Carolina, Region I staff from the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety performed an onsite inspection at Maine Yankee during the week of December 13, 1999, to assess Maine Yankee's ability to adequately characterize shipments of radioactive waste. The inspection consisted of a review of licensee procedures, a review of shipping papers, interviews and discussions with licensee and contractor staff and management, analysis of isotope ratios in shipments compared to site fuel characteristics, and observation of a shipment leaving the site. Based on this inspection, the staff concluded that Maine Yankee can adequately characterize shipments of radioactive waste from the site.

Y2K Inspections at Maine Yankee and Haddam Neck sites

Recent GAO audits and requests from Congress raised questions about the impact of Y2K issues at decommissioning reactors. Region I inspectors performed onsite inspections in accordance with Temporary Instruction 2561/003 (dated November 30, 1999) during the week

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE P

of December 13, 1999 as part of regularly scheduled inspections at the Maine Yankee and Haddam Neck sites. The inspections focused on the licensees' controls for ensuring that sufficient cooling, shielding and security would be provided for spent fuel presently in wet storage. Preliminary results indicate that there are sufficient contingency plans in place if any Y2K issues arise. The performance of Y2K inspections at these two sites completes the Y2K inspections for Region I reactor decommissioning sites.

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE P

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 17, 1999

Participation in Stakeholders Meeting

On December 16, 1999, the Regional Administrator participated in a "stakeholders meeting" to discuss feedback in three areas: (1) The new reactor oversight process, (2) Risk-Informing 10 CFR Part 50, and (3) The 10 CFR 2.206 petition process. Chairman Merserve chaired the meeting. Attendees included Commissioners Dicus, Diaz, McGaffigan, and Merrifield; representatives from industry; and representatives from certain public interest groups.

Briefing of the Office of the Inspector General (IG)

On December 15, 1999, representatives from Region II and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation briefed the IG on the status of NRC follow up on ice-condenser issues. Briefing topics included inspection at Region II ice-condenser type power reactor plants as a follow up to issues identified from inspections of the D.C. Cook plant in Region III.

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending December 17, 1999

Waterford 3 Operator License Presentation

The Regional Administrator visited the Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3, on December 15 and 16, 1999. He met with the resident staff, toured the facility, and discussed matters of mutual interest with licensee management. He also presented Reactor Operator licenses to a number of licensee employees in a formal presentation ceremony.

December 17, 1999

ENCLOSURE P