

February 14, 1996

SECY 96-037

For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 9, 1996

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*No input this week.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 1996

Wolf Creek

On January 30, 1996, Wolf Creek was manually tripped from 80% power due to low level in the circulating and service water pump forebays due to icing conditions in the intake structure. During the event, 5 control rods failed to fully insert immediately on the trip. During subsequent control rod testing performed on February 2 and 3, 1996, at cold plant conditions, 8 rods failed to fully insert. With the exception of one rod during cold testing, the rods stopped in the lower position of the core, from roughly 11 inches withdrawn to 4 inches withdrawn. The single rod stopped at roughly 60 inches withdrawn.

In response to the control rod failures, NRR, with assistance from RES, will review the actions taken by the licensee to determine the root cause(s) of the failures and review the corrective actions taken to prevent recurrence. NRR plans to review and comment on the licensee's inspection and testing plans/procedures pertaining to the control rods and fuel, and observe fuel movement and testing activities at the site.

Perry Nuclear Power Plant Unit 1

Loss of Startup Transformer

On February 5, 1996, the deluge system actuated for the Perry Unit 1 startup transformer, which was supplying power to the shutdown reactor plant. While preparing for manual transfer of power to the Unit 2 startup transformer, a fireball erupted from the Unit 1 transformer which caused automatic transfer of the power. No personnel were injured and no problems occurred from the transfer. Division 2 and 3 emergency diesel generators (EDGs) were available; however, no start signals were generated because the automatic transfer operated correctly. The division 1 EDG was unavailable.

One of the oil-filled bushings of the Unit 1 transformer is damaged and is thought to be the origin of the fireball. It is also thought that the deluge system initiated spuriously and the water and freezing temperatures combined to cause the bushing/transformer failure. However, investigation is still continuing. A second path for offsite power to be supplied to the site is being established by backfeeding through the main generator circuit to an auxiliary transformer, although this is not required by technical specifications. Region 3 and NRR are following the licensee's actions.

Watts Bar Unit 1

On February 6, 1996, the Chairman authorized the Director of NRR to issue the full-power operating license for Watts Bar Unit 1. On February 7, 1996, the Director of NRR issued the full-power license. TVA expects that the power ascension phase of the test program will take approximately 120 days, leading to commercial operation in June 1996.

Motor-Operated Valve Users Group Meeting of Nuclear Power Plant Licensees

On January 31 and February 1, 1996, the Motor-Operated Valve Users Group (MUG) of nuclear power plant licensees held its 1996 meeting in Huntsville, AL, to discuss motor-operated valve (MOV) issues. Most nuclear power plant licensees were represented among the approximately 200 participants. NRC staff members from NRR, RES, and each Region participated at the meeting. T. Scarbrough of EMEB/NRR provided an update of the status of (1) Generic Letter (GL) 89-10, "Safety-Related Motor-Operated Valve Testing and Surveillance," (2) GL 95-07, "Pressure Locking and Thermal Binding of Safety-Related Power-Operated Gate Valves," (3) staff review of the topical reports on the Electric Power Research Institute's MOV Performance Prediction Program and the BWR Owners Group's methodology for ranking MOVs based on probabilistic safety assessment, (4) the proposed generic letter on periodic verification of MOV design-basis capability, (5) staff review of the nonmandatory ASME Code Case OMN-1, "Alternative Rules for Preservice and Inservice Testing of Certain Electric Motor Operated Valve Assemblies in LWR Power Plants," which allows replacement of frequent stroke-time testing with a combination of exercising and diagnostic testing on a less frequent basis, and (6) industry response to recent MOV problems. E. Kelly of Region I presented a discussion of Region inspections to assess the completion of GL 89-10 programs. G. Weidenhamer of RES presented preliminary information on the NRC test program to evaluate aging effects on MOV thrust requirements. John Watkins of the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (a contractor for DET/RES) presented information on the scope and status of NRC/RES sponsored research activities in the areas of pressure locking, thermal binding, and aging effects on MOV performance. Industry representatives discussed a wide variety of MOV topics including Limitorque actuator performance, reduction of load sensitive behavior through use of different stem grease, results of Commonwealth Edison pressure locking testing, and new MOV diagnostic equipment. The next MUG meeting is scheduled for early 1997 in Atlanta.

Issuance of Safety Evaluation on Topical Report for Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Motor-Operated Valve Performance Prediction Program

In response to motor-operated valve (MOV) problems in the 1980s, the NRC staff issued Generic Letter (GL) 89-10, "Safety-Related Motor-Operated Valve Testing and Surveillance," requesting that licensees verify the capability of their safety-related MOVs through flow testing where practicable. In implementing MOV programs in response to GL 89-10, the industry recognized that many MOVs could not practicably be tested under design-basis conditions. As a result, EPRI initiated a program to develop a methodology to be used in demonstrating the design-basis capability of MOVs when valve-specific design-basis test data are not available. Based on their detailed analyses and numerous valve tests, EPRI developed a computer-based model to predict the thrust/torque required to operate gate, globe and butterfly valves over a wide range of differential pressure, temperature, and flow conditions. In November 1994, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) submitted EPRI Topical Report TR-103237, "EPRI MOV Performance Prediction Program," for NRC staff review. NRR and RES staff together with technical assistance from the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory evaluated the massive EPRI program through review of over 25 supporting reports and associated test data, many interactions including public meetings with EPRI and industry representatives, and operation of the

computer models. On February 5, 1996, the NRC staff issued a Safety Evaluation (SE) documenting the staff's review of the topical report. With the conditions and limitations described in the SE, the staff considers the EPRI program to provide an acceptable methodology to predict the thrust or torque required to operate gate, globe, and butterfly valves within the scope of the EPRI program, and to bound the effects of load sensitive behavior on motor-actuator thrust output. The staff plans to prepare an SE supplement to discuss two specific gate valve designs that EPRI addresses independently from other gate valves.

Meeting with Industry Representatives on Dynamic Safety Systems Generic Instrumentation and Control System Upgrade

On February 6, 1996, members of the Instrumentation and Controls Branch met with representatives from EPRI, Duke Power and other nuclear power plant licensees at the Oconee plant site to discuss the dynamic safety systems (DSSs) generic instrumentation and control (I&C) system upgrade program. This is one of three generic efforts -- the other two being application specific integrated circuits (ASICs) and programmable logic controllers (PLCs) -- EPRI and DOE are pursuing with the industry as means for replacing aging and obsolete existing analog I&C systems. Duke Power has worked with AEA Technologies to develop and test a prototype DSS reactor protection channel at Oconee which is serving as a model for future applications of this technology. DSSs are software-based digital I&C systems which are considered to be "inherently" safe. They incorporate a continuous test feature which compares a test signal to a predetermined pattern and causes the system to automatically assume a known safe state if the pattern is not verified (e.g., on detection of a system failure or an actual trip actuation). The staff was briefed on the status of the industry DSS program and the intent of the industry to eventually submit a topical report on the DSS for staff review and approval.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 1996

Inspection at Ranor, Inc.

Between January 29 and February 2, 1996, inspections of Vectra Technology, Inc., and Ranor, Inc., were performed at Ranor's facility in Westminister, Massachusetts. Vectra is the holder of the Certificate of Compliance for the NUHOMS Dry Spent Fuel Storage System. Ranor is a contractor to Vectra and is currently fabricating four dry spent fuel storage canisters that will be used at Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant. Four canisters fabricated by Hyundai in Korea have been shipped to Ranor for final acceptance checks, and these were also inspected by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The inspection team found everything to be satisfactory. There were no findings regarding fabrication, only a few minor administrative findings. The NRC team performed wall thickness measurements on welds on two of the units made by Ranor and on two made by Hyundai (70% of the thickness measurements made by Ranor and Hyundai were sampled). All readings were well above the minimum specified. The minimum NRC measurement was 0.608 inch as compared to the minimum specified thickness of 0.563 inch. Radiographs of all the circumferential and longitudinal welds for the same four canisters were reviewed by NRC and there were no findings. All other fabrication records and hold points inspected were found to be satisfactory.

Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute Regarding Certification of Transportation Packages

On February 1, 1996, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office met with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and fuel cycle licensees to discuss certification of transportation packages and related subjects. Discussion topics included: development of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission standard review plan for transportation packages, modifications to package designs performed under licensee quality assurance programs, consideration of cost and benefit in the regulations for transportation packages, and review of foreign-approved packages. NEI agreed to propose specific topics and a format for future discussions.

Approval of the Yankee Reactor Vessel Transport Package

On February 8, 1996, the Spent Fuel Project Office issued Certificate of Compliance No. 9262, for transport of the Yankee Nuclear Power Station reactor pressure vessel as low specific activity radioactive material. Yankee Atomic Electric Company requested approval for the one-time transport of the decommissioned reactor vessel from the site at Rowe, Massachusetts, to a disposal facility. The transport package consists of the irradiated reactor pressure vessel within an outer steel packaging. The void regions within the package are filled with solidified concrete. The package is approximately 13 feet in diameter, 28 feet long, and weighs 364 tons. It will be transported primarily by rail. However, Yankee is under NRC order not to undertake major decommissioning activities (such as the shipment of its vessel) until its Decommissioning Plan is reapproved.

Training Presented in Region I

On February 5, 1996, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office presented an all-day training session for 26 Region I staff members on the design bases and Nuclear Regulatory Commission technical staff reviews associated with dry cask storage systems for spent fuel. The training session included a brief summary of pertinent legislation, NRC inspection and review guidance, and industry experience during the fabrication and pre-operational testing of dry cask storage systems.

Dry Cask Storage System Inspection Procedures Completed

On January 29, 1996, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office completed five inspection procedures for oversight of Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) activities. These procedures, covering design control, component fabrication, on-site construction, pre-operational testing, and ISFSI operations, are scheduled for inclusion in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Inspection Manual during the week of February 12, 1996.

Course on New Transportation Regulations

On February 6, 1996, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office attended a one-day course which explained new Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations affecting the transportation of radioactive materials. This course was presented at NRC Headquarters by the Technical Training Division. Both NRC and DOT published final rules on September 28, 1995, to achieve compatibility with international transportation regulations. These rules will become effective on April 1, 1996. The training is designed to familiarize NRC and Agreement State inspectors with these changes prior to April 1. Five additional one-day courses are scheduled at the Regional Offices and at the Walnut Creek Field Office over the next two weeks.

Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) Transparency Meeting

On January 30-31, 1996, representatives of General Electric, Westinghouse, Siemens, and Combustion Engineering met with Department of Energy (DOE) negotiators to voice their concerns over Russian proposals for monitoring U.S. commercial fabricators under the HEU Transparency Protocol. DOE and the fuel fabricators agreed to re-write the Annex to the Transparency Protocol to reflect the fuel fabricators' input on how to effectively conduct monitoring activities at fabricators' sites. The next series of negotiations between the U.S. and the Russian Federation will be held in April 1996.

Ukrainian Material Control and Accounting Specialist Attends Course

Igor Sakunov, of the Ukraine Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety (MEPNS), is attending a course on sampling and measurement of nuclear materials at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters this week. His visit is sponsored by the Cooperative Threat Reduction program. NRC is training MEPNS safeguards specialists under this program.

Nevada Legislature's Committee on High-Level Nuclear Waste

On January 31, 1996, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's On-Site Representatives (ORs) gave a presentation to the Nevada Legislature's Committee on High-Level Nuclear Waste (NLC) in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Department of Energy (DOE) and the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects also gave presentations. The meeting was also attended by various interested members of the public and representatives from the press.

The NLC consists of three Nevada State Senators, four Assemblymen, a Chairman, and a Vice Chairman, all appointed by the Nevada State Legislature. The NLC Charter is to study and evaluate the information and policies regarding the location, construction, and operation of a facility for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste in the State of Nevada. The Committee is required to report its findings to the Nevada State Legislature.

DOE provided an update on the scientific work in progress at Yucca Mountain, and the effects of the recent Congressional budgetary constraints. The next presentation was by the Executive Director of the Nevada Nuclear Waste Projects Office. The NLC asked a significant number of questions regarding the Project Office's use of contractors for the Yucca Mountain oversight function and whether the funding was being appropriately spent. The last presentation to the NLC was by the NRC ORs who provided: 1) an overview of the OR responsibilities; 2) an update of NRC activities focusing on ten key technical issues; and 3) the regulatory requirements in effect for the interim storage of spent nuclear fuel. After a lengthy question-and-answer session, the NLC indicated they were pleased with the NRC presentation, and expressed satisfaction that the NRC is focusing its efforts on technical and scientific data.

NRC/DOE Management Meeting on High-Level Waste

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission/Department of Energy (NRC/DOE) management meeting was held on January 19, 1996, to discuss the high-level waste (HLW) program. HLW management meetings are currently scheduled to occur on a quarterly basis. The meeting was held via video conference using DOE facilities at the Forestall building in Washington, D.C., and DOE facilities in Las Vegas, Nevada. Also present at the meeting were representatives from Clark and Nye counties in Nevada, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Nevada Northwest Task Force, and the Exchange Monitor.

DOE presented a brief discussion of the status of the programmatic impacts of recent Congressional budget reductions for FY96. DOE then presented a discussion of an approach to repository licensing, followed by a general discussion of NRC's role in DOE's viability assessment. The results of a November 1995 NRC/DOE Technical Exchange on key technical issues related to repository safety were also discussed. A significant portion of the meeting was devoted to an NRC proposal for a prelicensing approach to issue resolution. NRC staff proposed that a taskforce be established to implement the issue resolution procedure. DOE committed to review the proposal and to respond at a later date. DOE indicated that it may initially support a pilot program on the proposed procedure. The meeting ended with a DOE presentation on verification of type of waste/material control and accounting and a general discussion of products to be issued in the next six months.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 1996

Motor-Operated Valve Users Group Meeting

Gerald Weidenhamer from the Electrical, Materials, and Mechanical Engineering Branch, DET, made a presentation to the Motor-Operated Valve Users Group (MUG) describing the results of friction tests on corroded specimens of typical motor-operated valve (MOV) stellite 6 materials. The MUG meeting was held on January 31 and February 1, 1996, in Huntsville, Alabama. Approximately 200 participants, comprised mostly of licensee representatives, attended the meeting. The friction tests, sponsored by DET/RES, were conducted to determine whether the formation of corroded surfaces on internal MOV components can influence the thrusts required to operate MOVs. The results show that the formation of the corrosion film causes an increase in the friction coefficient (up to 30%) for this material. Thicker films, formed over longer periods in reactor plant environments, tend to give lower friction coefficients.

Meeting with Belgian Visitors

A meeting was held between staff of the Division of Engineering Technology, RES, and visitors from SCK/CEN, Mol, Belgium, to exchange information and discuss the possibility of cooperation on research in areas of mutual interest. The topics covered in the meeting included: reactor pressure vessel steel embrittlement and toughness determinations, integrity of LWR internals, and irradiation-assisted stress corrosion cracking. The visitors met with Dr. David L. Morrison, Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, and Commissioner Kenneth C. Rogers.

Briefings on Results of Seabrook and Surry IPEs

On January 18 and 23, 1996, RES/PRAB staff provided briefings at the Region I and Region II Offices on the results of the Seabrook and Surry IPEs, respectively. Regional personnel and resident inspectors were briefed as part of RES's ongoing effort to provide insights on the results of the IPEs. The briefings included insights on the risk and safety important systems, components and human actions. In addition, perspectives were also provided on (1) the reasonableness of the results given the current design and operation, and (2) the potential strengths and weaknesses of the analysis.

Status of Initial Examination of IPE Submittals

On February 7, 1996, the last request for additional information on the IPE submittals was completed by RES/PRAB staff. The IPE review has involved an examination of the IPE submittals to determine if the licensees met the intent of Generic Letter 88-20. This examination involves a review of (1) the IPE submittal information for completeness relative to the items requested by the generic letter and NUREG-1335, and (2) the results, findings and conclusions in the submittal for reasonableness. The preliminary review has involved this examination with the staff identifying requests for additional information (RAI) to the licensees. The RAIs for the St. Lucie IPE and the Ginna IPE were issued completing this initial examination of all the IPE submittals.

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 1996

Incident Response Division (IRD)

Emergency Response Branch (ERB)

State Outreach Program

Emergency Response Branch members conducted training sessions for the States as part of the AEOD State Outreach Program in Region IV on 1/31-2/1/96. Representatives from each of the Region IV States attended (2 members were funded by State Programs) along with representatives of each licensee and the Federal Regional Offices. The training focused on NRC and Federal incident response and the Response Technical Manual (RTM) overview and lasted for 1 and one half days.

This was the last of the State outreach sessions begun in May of 1995. Between then and now, ERB has conducted similar training in each NRC regional office to all States with a power plant within their boundaries or within the 10 mile EPZ. All licensees and many Regional Federal agencies attended as well. NRC regional staff were invited and attended these sessions when they could. Feedback nationally has been very positive.

AEOD will now review the sessions to determine how well they met the objectives of State Outreach and modify or revise the training, as needed.

Unusual Events at Wolf Creek and Catawba plants

On Tuesday, January 30th, the Agency entered the Monitoring Phase in response to an event at the Wolf Creek generating station. The plant lost one train of essential service water while in hot shutdown due to ice formation on the pump bay trash rack. Earlier in the day, operators manually scrammed the reactor following circulating water pump flow perturbation due to ice formation in the intake structure. Emergency response staff at the Region continuously monitored the event supported by Headquarters until the remaining essential service water train was restored to service on February 1. An Augmented Inspection Team, including a representative from IRD, has been sent to the site by the Regional Office.

On February 6th, the Agency entered the Monitoring Phase in response to an event at Catawba Unit 2. The event involved the loss of offsite power in conjunction with inoperability of one of two emergency diesel generators. The inoperable diesel generator was out of service for maintenance. Personnel in the Region supported by Headquarters continuously monitored the event for 36 hours until offsite power was restored.

Preliminary Notifications

- a. PNO-I-96-005, Maine Yankee Atomic Power Co. (Maine Yankee 1), ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF SECURITY OFFICER SIDEARM
- b. PNO-I-96-006, Miller Engineering and Testing, TROXLER PORTABLE NUCLEAR DENSITY GAUGE STOLEN

- c. PNO-I-96-007, Amersham Corporation, LOST/FOUND RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL PACKAGE
- d. PNO-96-008, William Beaumont Hospital, THERAPEUTIC MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION
- e. PNO-III-96-008, Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. (Perry 1), STARTUP TRANSFORMER EXPLOSION
- f. PNO-IV-96-005C, Wolf Creek Nuclear Oper. Corp. (Wolf Creek 1), COLD WEATHER & CONTROL ROD PROBLEMS AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM)
- g. PNO-IV-96-006, Wolf Creek Nuclear Oper. Corp. (Wolf Creek 1), AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM ARRIVES AT WOLF CREEK GENERATION STATION

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 1996

Contract Awards

Contract NRC-33-96-176 was awarded to King Publishing Group on January 19, 1996, for a subscription to the publication entitled "Energy Daily." The period of performance is February 1, 1996 through January 31, 1998, with a two-year renewable option. The firm fixed price is \$77,840. The following streamlining initiatives were applied: RFP placed limits on the number of pages in the offeror's proposal; proposal preparation time was reduced; and award was made without discussions.

U.S. Security Policy Forum

Raymond J. Brady, Director of Security, attended a meeting of the Forum's Policy Integration Committee (PIC) on January 8, 1996. The Committee focused on approving a plan to draft the Safeguards Directive required by E.O. 12958 which states the U.S. Security Policy Board shall make a recommendation to the President with respect to the issuance of a Presidential directive on safeguarding classified information. The PIC Chairman asked the Department of Justice and the Central Intelligence Agency to lead the effort to formulate the directive. NRC will be among the agencies receiving future drafts of the directive for review and concurrence.

Gaseous Diffusion Classification Guide

On February 8, 1996, the EDO signed the "Joint NRC/DOE Classification Guide for Uranium Isotope Separation by the Gaseous Diffusion Process." This Guide is necessary relative to NRC's pending certification of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC). It will provide guidance to NRC and USEC related personnel on information or material which may be Restricted Data or national security information. The Guide, having been signed and approved by both NRC and DOE will be forwarded for printing and distribution to appropriate personnel.

Portland General Electric Company; Filing of petition for Rulemaking (PRM-72-2)

A notice of receipt of petition for rulemaking submitted by the Portland General Electric Company was published in the Federal Register on February 1, 1996 (61 FR 3619). The petitioner requests that the Commission amend its regulations governing the independent storage of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to specifically include radioactive waste produced from reactor operations pending its transfer to a permanent disposal facility. The comment period on this petition closes April 16, 1996.

Petition for Rulemaking; procedure for Submission (Part 2)

A document withdrawing the proposed rule that would have amended NRC's regulations pertaining to the submittal of petitions for rulemaking was published in the Federal Register on February 6, 1996 (61 FR 4376). The proposed rule was intended to provide petitioners additional incentive to submit sufficient information in petitions to facilitate more expeditious disposition of the petition by the NRC.

Significant FOIA Requests Received during the 5-Day Period of
February 2-8, 1996:

Request for a copy of all files in the directors decision, DD-95-23, dated December 19, 1995. (Individual; FOIA-96-043)

Request for records related to the June 8, 1993 Diagnostic Evaluation Team's assessment of the South Texas Nuclear Project inspection for March 29, 1993 through April 30, 1993. (Geoffrey Gay of Butler, Porter, Gay & Day; FOIA-96-044)

Request for records related to the emergency planning zones for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant as relates to NUREG-0654. (Individual; FOIA-96-045)

Request for a copy of November 28, 1995, correspondence to the NRC concerning Houston Lighting and Power. (Randy Leavitt of Minton, Burton, Foster & Collins; FOIA-96-046)

Request for copies of New York Power Authority report for Indian Point 3 regarding reporting of personnel radiation exposure as required under 10 CFR 20.202(a), 34.33(a), and/or 20.407. (Individual; FOIA-96-048)

Request for records related to a named individual or the Save the Wills Creek Water Resources Committee. (Individual; FOIA-96-049)

Request for records related to OI case number 4-95-005 re allegations of discrimination/retaliation. (Billie Garde; FOIA-96-050)

Request for a copy of an Entergy Operations investigative report concerning an individual's employment termination. (Charles Elkins of the Elkins Law Office; FOIA-96-051)

Request for licenses issued for Ohio zip code 44240 to use, produce, transport, distribute, treat, store, or dispose of radioactive material. (John Bradshaw; Dept. of Public Health, OH; FOIA-96-052)

Request for an electronic version of the data base/listing contained in NUREG/CR-5973 relating to industry consensus codes and standards. (Ophelia Williams; J/R/A Associates; FOIA-96-053)

Request for a copy of a January 17, 1996, correspondence from Temple Univ. to NRC regarding a USNRC notice of violation and proposed imposition of civil penalty regarding DOL case number 91-ERA-25. (Eric Hollreiser; Philadelphia Business Journal; FOIA-96-054)

Office of the Controller
Items of Interest
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The Office of the Controller entered into an interagency Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of the Treasury for the purposes of cross-servicing NRC's delinquent debts. Treasury's Debt Management Services will provide a range of debt collection services including offset of delinquent debts owed to NRC from payments being made to the same debtor from another federal agency and offset through the IRS of delinquent debts owed to NRC from IRS refunds owed to the same taxpayer.

Office of Personnel
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 1996

Arrivals

LANYI, David REACTOR ENGINEER (PFT) RII

Departures

TERRELL, Patrice OFFICE RESIDENT ASSISTANT (OPFT)
RIV

Office of Enforcement
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 1996

Significant Enforcement Actions

A Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of \$100,000 was issued to Pennsylvania Power & Light Company (Susquehanna) on February 9, 1996. The action was based on a Secretary of Labor's Decision and Order of Remand, finding that PP&L discriminated against an employee on its security staff after the employee engaged in protected activities.

(EN 96-005)

A Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of \$2,500 was issued to the Duriron Company, Inc., Dayton, Ohio on February 5, 1996. The action was based on the willful failure to leak test sealed sources at intervals not to exceed six months. (EN 96-004)

Civil Penalties Paid

Baltimore Gas and Electric (Calvert Cliffs) paid the civil penalty in the amount of \$50,000. The action was based on a violation involving the granting of unescorted access to an individual that the licensee believed had provided inaccurate information concerning his criminal history. (EA 95-170)

New York Power Authority (IP-3) paid the civil penalty in the amount of \$50,000. The action was based on the licensee's heatup of the Indian Point 3 facility above the cold shutdown condition (200 F) with the control switches for the recirculation and containment spray pumps in the trip pullout position such that the pumps would not have started automatically as required by the Technical Specifications. The condition was caused by procedure violations and inattention to detail on the part of licensed operators in the control room and lasted for about 4 hours, at which time the switch positions were questioned by a QA auditor. (EA 95-251)

Commonwealth Edison Company (Quad Cities) paid the civil penalty in the amount of \$50,000. The action was based on the licensee's failure to promptly correct the potential for safety-related motor control centers (MCCs) to trip on current overload. The licensee had received prior notice from both internal licensee and NRC sources that the addition of plant loads over time had the potential to impact MCC operability. Nonetheless, one Quad Cities safety-related MCC became deenergized when its supply breaker tripped on overload during normal operation. Additionally, several other MCCs were found to have maximum load currents in excess of their supply breakers low end tolerance.

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 1996

Media Interest

Chairman Jackson was interviewed and photographed by Time magazine for an upcoming article on NRC.

School Volunteers Program

The following NRC staff participated in the Science Fair at Kenmoor E.S: Jim Heck, ADM, Kisha Bush, OC, Sarita Brewer, NRR, Mary Thomas, RES, Vern Hodge, NRR, Ronaldo Jenkins, NRR, John Randall, RES, and Subinoy Mazumdar, NRR.

Press Releases

Headquarters:

- 96-26 NRC Issues Final Report on Improving Its Responsiveness to the Public
- 96-27 Organization of Agreement States Workshop

Regions:

- 96-09 NRC Staff to Hold Predecisional Enforcement Conference to Discuss Apparent Violations at Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station
- 96-07 NRC Augmented Inspection Team Arrives at Wolf Creek
- 96-13 NRC Chairman to Visit Surry Nuclear Power Plant
- 96-14 NRC Chairman to Visit Several Nuclear-Related Facilities in the Lynchburg, Virginia Area
- IV-96-08 NRC Regional Administrator Sets News Conference in Richland
- IV-96-09 NRC Rates San Onofre Nuclear Station 'Superior' and 'Good' in Report

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 1996

Region I DPV

Region I completed its review of a Differing Professional View (DPV) concerning the adequacy of the inspection guidance for radwaste systems inspections to assure the absence of degraded conditions in radwaste systems and facilities. A DPV panel recommended and the Regional Administrator agreed to supplemental guidance that has been issued to Region I resident and specialist inspectors. This guidance is structured to provide increased assurance that adverse conditions will be identified during resident and specialist core inspections. Following identification of adverse conditions, management will determine what specialist inspections are needed. The guidance has been forwarded to NRR for consideration in future changes to the inspection program.

Enforcement Conference with Temple University

A Predecisional Enforcement Conference was held on February 7, 1996 with Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Conference was held to address apparent violations involving the licensee's Quality Management Program that may have contributed to a therapeutic misadministration that was identified by the licensee on September 28, 1995. The misadministration involved treatment of a patient with a Cobalt-60 teletherapy unit, whereby the patient received 2724 centigrays (rads) in 4 days, instead of the intended dose of 2000 centigrays in 5 days. The conference focus was on the licensee's understanding of the circumstances surrounding the misadministration and the implementation of the Quality Management Program.

Babcock & Wilcox Licensing Meeting

On February 7, 1996, Region I staff from the Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch supported NMSS in a meeting with B&W concerning the Parks Township, PA, facility. The meeting concerned the submittal of the Decommissioning Plan for the facility and the plans for the Shallow Land Disposal Area (SLDA) onsite. Licensee representatives explained their proposal for the cap-in-place option for the SLDA. Region I committed to provide inspection coverage, as appropriate, for onsite activities involving the SLDA.

Combustion Engineering Licensing Meeting

On Wednesday, February 7, 1996, Region I staff from the Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch, NMSS staff from the Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch, and representatives from Asea Brown Boveri Inc. (ABB) met at NRC Headquarters to discuss a proposed alternate use for one of the buildings at the Combustion Engineering, Inc. facility in Windsor, Connecticut. ABB has proposed the transfer of Building 17 at the Windsor, CT facility from its NRC license for special nuclear material license to its NRC nuclear materials license. The licensee explained the rationale for the request and the benefits of the license transfer to the overall decommissioning of the Windsor Site. NRC action is pending.

Safety Light Site Characterization Meeting

A meeting was held in Region I on February 2, 1996, to discuss the site characterization report for the Safety Light Corporation (SLC) site at Bloomsburg, PA. The report is being prepared by Monserco, Inc., the contractor for SLC. The onsite characterization effort is complete, and the report is in preparation. The format and contents of the report were discussed. Representatives from SLC and NMSS participated by telephone. Region I expects to receive the report this spring as the basis for a Decommissioning Plan.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 1996

Florida Power and Light Company - St. Lucie

On February 7, an emergency preparedness exercise was conducted at the St. Lucie facility. This FEMA evaluated exercise included partial participation by the State of Florida and full participation by local government agencies. The Regional State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee.

Virginia Electric and Power Company - North Anna

On February 9, the Chairman, accompanied by the Regional Administrator, toured the Virginia Electric and Power Company's North Anna facility and met with VEPCO representatives.

Florida Power and Light Co. - Turkey Point

On January 31, 1996, Turkey Point Unit 3 began a reduction in power to 60 percent due to excessive aquatic grass on intake screens and Component Cooling Water (CCW) strainers. The flow to the CCW Heat Exchangers dropped to approximately 94 percent of required flow for approximately 10 minutes during one strainer cleaning evolution. The plant is currently stable. Corrective actions including an aerial survey are underway to determine the extent of the grass intrusion.

B&W Fuel CNFP

On January 30, a proposed civil penalty of \$12,500 and Notice of Violation (Notice) were issued to the licensee. There were three violations associated with the use of BW-2901 shipping packages which did not conform to drawings specified in the Certificate of Compliance, the possession of radioactive material in the form of uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) in amounts which exceeded license possession limits and the submittal of inaccurate information to the NRC regarding the shipping package and possession limit issues. The licensee has 30 days to respond to the Notice.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 1996

Dow Chemical Company

On February 7, 1996, representatives from Dow Chemical Company and NRC staff from Region III met in the Region III office, Lisle, Illinois, to discuss Dow Chemical Company's plans to remediate the magnesium-thorium slag waste material. The contaminated slag is present at two of Dow's sites in Michigan. Dow Chemical Company anticipates remediation activities to begin in March 1996, with the first rail shipments to Envirocare, Utah, to begin in May.

United States Enrichment Corporation

On February 7, 1996, representatives from the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) and NRC staff from Region III and Headquarters met in the Region III office, Lisle, Illinois, to discuss regulatory issues for the gaseous diffusion plants.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 1996

Ft. Calhoun Drop-In Visit

On February 5, 1996, the Vice President, Nuclear, and the President and CEO, Omaha Public Power District, met with the Regional Administrator, Region IV and staff to discuss recent management and supervisory changes at Fort Calhoun Station. Also included in the discussions was their assessment of the integrated performance assessment process inspection that had been conducted in October and November 1995.

River Bend Predecisional Enforcement Conference

On February 7, 1996, a predecisional enforcement conference was held with representatives of Entergy Operations, Incorporated - River Bend Station, to discuss possible violations of 10 CFR 50.5 and 50.7.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 9, 1996

Historian

Sam Walker, NRC Historian, conducted historical research for the third volume of the NRC History at the University of Washington in Seattle, primarily in the personal papers of Herbert Parker, who had a long career as a health physicist at Hanford and later as a consultant to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), NRC, and other organizations. The papers included a great deal of valuable material that is not available in official records on subjects such as the radiation debate of the 1970s, the Mancuso controversy over occupational radiation hazards at Hanford, and Three Mile Island.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE**No. 50**

OCA ASSIGNMENT	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Madden	03/26/96 2362B RHOB	2:00	DOE	Nuclear Waste Issues	Reps. Myers/Bevill Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Madden	03/27/96 2362B RHOB	2:00	Commission*	FY 97 Appropriations	Reps. Myers/Bevill Energy and Water Development Appropriations

*A letter of invitation has been received for this hearing. Congress has recessed until February 26.