

March 14, 1996

For: The Commissioners
 From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
 Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 8, 1996

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C
Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data	D
General Counsel	E*
Administration	F
Information Resources Management	G
Controller	H*
Personnel	I
Small Business & Civil Rights	J*
Enforcement	K
State Programs	L
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N
Congressional Affairs	O
Regional Offices	P
Executive Director for Operations	Q*
Office of the Secretary	R*
*No input this week	

James L. Blaha
 Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact: Jocelyn Mitchell, OEDO
 415-1727

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending March 8, 1996

Steam Generator (SG) Tube Cracking at Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3

At the Steam Generator Workshop in Charlotte, NC, the Oconee SG tube was discussed. During the Oconee Unit 1 refueling outage in 1994, the licensee removed several steam generator tubes for destructive examination as part of an owners group initiative. One of the tubes contained apparent axial freespan cracking as verified by several nondestructive examination techniques. A subsequent destructive examination revealed the flaw mechanism to be axial outside-diameter stress corrosion cracking with significant intergranular attack involvement. The cracking was evident at several locations along a shallow groove in the tube within the ninth through the thirteenth tube spans (boiling region). The origin of the groove is unknown at this time and there is no method to identify the presence of a groove with current inspection methods. Similar indications from other Oconee inspections have appeared as multiple indications over some considerable length (i.e., many inches). Stress corrosion cracking had not been previously reported for any B&W units.

A section of removed tubing containing an axial flaw was burst tested and failed at an internal pressure of 7400 psi. This is less than the tube virgin strength of approximately 10,000 psi, but exceeds structural margins needed to satisfy Regulatory Guide 1.121 criteria. The maximum crack depth was approximately 47-percent through wall. The flaw length was approximately one-half inch in length.

During the 1995 refueling outage for Oconee Unit 1, two apparent circumferential cracks in dented tube support plate intersections were identified during the steam generator inspections. The cracking occurred within dented tubes located on the periphery of the fifteenth tube support plate (TSP). The three outer rows of holes through the fifteenth TSP are drilled rather than the typical trefoil design (broached) used elsewhere in the steam generator. Drilled holes have a greater potential for introducing tube denting than broached TSP holes. Periphery tubes at the fifteenth TSP are more susceptible to cracking due to the higher stresses associated with tube dents at these locations and the elevated temperatures (T_{HOT}) relative to the other TSPs. Restricted access prevented the removal and analysis of either of the two tubes with detected circumferential cracking during the outage. The licensee indicated that all tubes with detected circumferential or axial cracking have been plugged in each of the Oconee units.

A 100-percent tube inspection with a bobbin coil probe was performed during the most recent steam generator tube inspections at Oconee Units 1 and 3 in 1995. The licensee estimates that approximately 44 tubes in Unit 1 and 22 tubes in Unit 3 were plugged due to axial cracking. The licensee has also concluded that nine tubes were plugged for axial cracking during the most recent Unit 2 steam generator inspection in 1994. A 100-percent tube inspection is planned for Oconee Unit 2 when it shuts down at the end of March 1996. Additional tube pulls are planned for the Unit 2 outage.

AP600

On February 29, 1996, staff from DSSA and RES met with representatives of the Department of Energy (DOE)

EXIT), University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB), and Westinghouse to discuss the Risk Oriented Accident Analysis Methodology (ROAAM) and its use for resolution of severe accident issues. The thrust of the meeting was on a Westinghouse-proposed approach by which PRA and ROAAM techniques could be used to address the full scope of severe accidents in the AP600 design. The Westinghouse proposal represents a radically different approach for addressing severe accidents relative to traditional Level 2 PRA, and would involve the following major changes to the current approach on AP600: (1) Westinghouse would establish a "mitigation window" in the estimated core damage frequency of 1E-5 to 1E-8 per reactor year for focussing the severe accident assessment effort, (2) all events and phenomena occurring within the mitigation window would be analyzed in detail using ROAAM, with the goal of ensuring that containment failure is "physically unreasonable" for these events, (3) all events and phenomena with frequencies falling below the window would be dropped from detailed treatment in the containment event tree, however, the frequency of these events would be retained and an appropriate source term would be assigned to each event such that the risk associated with all events would be accounted for in the Level 3 PRA, and (4) Westinghouse would still demonstrate that the Commission's safety goals would be met, including goals for conditional containment failure probability and large release frequency. Westinghouse agreed to develop a white paper describing the proposed approach, and to formally submit this proposal for NRC review.

GINNA

GINNA Improved Technical Specifications Implemented

The license amendment for the Ginna conversion to the improved standard technical specifications (NUREG-1431) was issued on February 13, 1996. That amendment was the first conversion to include the adoption of Option B in Appendix J, for performance-based leak testing intervals, based on the model TS for Option B which were first adopted in a River Bend amendment in December 1995. The Ginna improved TS became effective on February 24, 1996.

Indian Point 3

Indian Point 3 has returned to nuclear operating pressure/nuclear operating temperature following an extended shutdown. With the exception of a failed regulator in the weld channel pressurization system, the plant is ready for restart.

Plant management will be conducting a self assessment on March 6 and 7, 1996. Following this meeting, the plant is scheduled to commence restart. Criticality is scheduled for March 8, 1996.

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

At a meeting held on February 29, 1996, requesting cask handling for spent fuel dry storage, the staff advised the licensee that their planned move of the transfer cask during power operation represented an unreviewed safety question as defined by 10 CFR 50.59 and that 10 CFR 50.59 mandates that an application for a licensee amendment be filed with the Commission.

GPUN advised the staff that they would consider submitting an amendment for this activity.

Dresden, Units 2 and 3

LPCI Structural Steel Supports

On 03/05/96, Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) met with Region III and NRR to discuss structural steel supports in the LPCI piping and Heat Exchanger corner rooms at Dresden Units 2 and 3. The structural steel in question has calculated loads which exceed the UFSAR design limits.

During the meeting ComEd stated that portions of the structural steel would be modified prior to Unit 2 restarting from its current refueling outage. The licensee indicated that all the structural steel for Unit 2 would be modified and UFSAR margins restored prior to Unit 2 returning from its next refueling outage scheduled for 09/97. However, since the 03/05/96 meeting with NRC, the licensee has chosen to extend the current refueling outage on Dresden Unit 2 and modify the structural steel to restore full design margin to the corner room steel in accordance with the UFSAR. In addition the licensee will perform a 50.59 on the as-left condition of the structural steel following the modifications.

For Dresden Unit 3, which is currently operating at 100 percent power, licensee has performed an operability evaluation in accordance with GL 91-18 and found the existing condition to be acceptable. The licensee has scheduled modification of the structural steel to restore UFSAR margins for the upcoming refueling outage, which is scheduled for 09/96.

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 8, 1996

Licensing Meeting with Cabot Corporation

On February 28, 1996, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Licensing Branch met with members of the Cabot Corporation from the Boyertown, Pennsylvania, site. The renewal of Cabot's Materials License, SMB-920, was discussed, with emphasis on the radiation protection program. A Region I staff member was also present at the meeting since there have been recent enforcement issues related to the licensee's radiation protection program.

International Atomic Energy Agency Steering Committee Meeting

On March 4, 1996, Regulatory and International Safeguards Branch staff attended an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Steering Committee Meeting chaired by Ambassador Nelson Sievering. The agenda included, among other topics, a discussion of potential approaches for the application of IAEA safeguards to certain excess weapons material and U.S. preparations for the IAEA Board of Governors meeting on March 18-21, 1996. Regarding IAEA safeguards on certain weapons materials, the material in question is high enriched uranium in the form of uranium hexafluoride currently undergoing downblending at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. Approximately 13 tons will be downblended over the next several years, and in accordance with President Clinton's pledge, this material is to be made available for IAEA safeguards. On the topic of preparation for the March Board Meeting, the Committee focused on U.S. planned strategy for supporting the provisions of IAEA program 93+2. This program is intended to enhance the IAEA's capability to detect undeclared nuclear activities.

U.S./EURATOM Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation

Representatives of the Departments of State and Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission participated in a March 5-7, 1996, meeting with the Euratom Safeguards Directorate to further discuss procedures for the implementation of the new U.S./EURATOM Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation. Topics of discussion included the procedures for prior notification of shipments of nuclear material between the parties as well as identification of points of contacts for routine use by the parties. Congressional review of the new Agreement is expected to be completed by the second week of March.

International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards on Geologic Repositories

During the period of February 26-29, 1996, a Regulatory and International Safeguards Branch staff member chaired an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Technical Coordinating Committee meeting directed to providing technical support to the IAEA for the development of safeguards approaches for operating and closed geologic repositories. The focus of this work is the completion of technical studies and reports to be used for an IAEA Advisory Group Meeting on this topic scheduled for November 1997. Representatives from France, Great Britain, Sweden, Canada, Finland, Belgium, and the IAEA participated. Technical support discussed included tasks directed toward identification of diversion and detection possibilities; development of procedures for design information verification, including the use of ground penetrating radar and seismic arrays; exploration of possible through-the-wall multi-element spent fuel cask (MEC) measurements; criteria for safeguards approaches; development and use of radiation fingerprints for MEC's; and the use of seismic arrays for the detection of undeclared tunnelling after a repository is closed.

NRC-DOE Coordination in Regulatory Development Cooperation with Russia's GAN

On March 5, 1996, a member of the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards met with representatives of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Russian regulatory agency GOSATOMNADZOR (GAN) to discuss the coordination of U.S. cooperation in the development of GAN's regulatory program. These discussions occurred during the first meeting of Project 1 (Regulatory Development) under the DOE/GAN program on material protection, control, and accounting cooperation.

During the meeting, DOE and Nuclear Regulatory Commission representatives provided GAN with a brief overview of each agency's regulatory system. The NRC representative also provided a summary of NRC-GAN cooperation (completed and planned) under the Cooperative Threat Reduction and Lisbon Initiative programs. DOE's goal during this meeting was to address areas of regulatory assistance suggested by GAN that complement (and do not duplicate) NRC's work with GAN.

Staff Participates in Meeting with Ohio Agencies and Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation

On March 1, 1996, Division of Waste Management staff met with representatives of Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation (SMC) and Cyprus Foote Mineral Company (CFMC) and staff of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Attorney General, and Environmental Protection Agency to resolve remaining issues relating to a feasibility study (FS) for the remediation of SMC's Cambridge, Ohio, facility. The meeting was convened by OEPA and it was not open to the public. CFMC is the previous owner of this facility. The FS is being developed under the terms of a preliminary consent order between SMC, CFMC, and the State of Ohio because of the presence of hazardous waste at the Cambridge site. Because the FS provides information needed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for an environmental impact statement (EIS), NRC has agreed to participate in the review of the FS. The EIS is being developed by NRC to evaluate decommissioning alternatives for the Cambridge site. The draft EIS is scheduled for publication in July 1996.

Public Meeting on Atlas Reclamation

On February 29, 1996, staff from the Division of Waste Management, Uranium Recovery Branch (URB) and their contractor Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) held a public meeting in Moab, Utah, to discuss the Atlas Minerals proposal to reclaim 10 million tons of uranium mill tailings at the Atlas Moab, Utah, site. The meeting was attended by approximately 220 citizens from Moab and surrounding communities, as well as representatives from Senators Hatch and Bennett's staffs, from Representative Ortin's staff, and from the State of Utah. At the meeting, the URB staff gave two presentations covering an overview of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulatory process, and development of the Draft Technical Evaluation Report (DTER). The ORNL staff made a presentation on the process for preparing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Following these presentations, the URB staff solicited comments on these documents, the majority of which fell into five areas: (1) the use of Roundtop Mountain as a source of rip rap for erosion protection; (2) the need for additional information in the DEIS to support the conclusions; (3) disagreement with the cost estimates provided for on-site reclamation and relocation of the tailings; (4) the need to more extensively address groundwater; and (5) the need to better address transportation risk from hauling rock to the Moab site. The URB and ORNL staffs believe that these comments can be addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Several citizens noted that because of delays in mailing the documents from the Government Printing Office, they had not received their copies of the DTER and DEIS until a few days before the meeting. These citizens requested that the staff extend the comment period anywhere from 30 to 120 days to allow additional time to review the documents and that a second public meeting be held. The staff noted that at least a 30-day extension in the comment period would appear reasonable, and it would take under consideration the need for additional time. The staff also indicated it would consider the need for a second public meeting.

Staff Meeting with Western Nuclear, Inc. Regarding Radiological Verification Program for the Split Rock, Wyoming, Site

On February 29, 1996, staff from the Division of Waste Management, Uranium Recovery Branch met with representatives of Western Nuclear, Inc. (WNI). WNI presented its proposed cleanup and radiological verification programs for all areas of windblown tailings at the Split Rock, Wyoming, site. The proposed program modifies the 1988 survey measurement techniques, and expands the cleanup program to address additional radionuclides of interest. The licensee's presentation was given in support of its request for amendment of License Condition 33 of Source Material License SUA-56. This amendment would authorize implementation of this revised program for cleanup and verification of contaminated soils at this site.

Staff Participates in Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards Mixed Waste Subcommittee Meeting

On March 5, 1996, Division of Waste Management staff participated in a meeting of the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards Mixed Waste Subcommittee at the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Headquarters in Washington, DC. The Mixed Waste Subcommittee was formed in late 1995 to focus on the resolution of specific issues affecting the management of mixed radioactive and hazardous waste at facilities used by, or subject to regulatory oversight of, subcommittee member agencies. Currently, the subcommittee includes representatives from the Nuclear

Regulatory Commission, DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Defense. During this meeting the subcommittee discussed ongoing mixed waste projects in each agency, reviewed and finalized a draft subcommittee charge/mission statement, established the framework for conducting the subcommittee's meetings and the review of issues raised by the member agencies, and agreed to review a draft DOE report on radiation control criteria for slightly radioactive hazardous waste. The next subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 1996.

Federal Register Notice on the Availability of Draft Guidance on the Use of Expert Elicitation in the High-Level Waste (HLW) Program

On February 28, 1996, the availability of draft guidance entitled "Branch Technical Position on the Use of Expert Elicitation in the High-Level Waste Program" was noticed in the Federal Register, seeking public comment. In this draft document, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has set forth: (1) general guidelines on those circumstances that may warrant the use of a formal process for obtaining the judgments of more than one expert (i.e., expert elicitation); and (2) acceptable procedures for conducting expert elicitation when formally elicited judgments are used to support a demonstration of compliance with NRC's geologic disposal regulations (currently set forth in [10 CFR Part 60](#)).

This Branch Technical Position (BTP) providing the draft guidance was developed only for application to the HLW program, as part of the staff's Iterative Performance Assessment efforts. However, in developing the draft BTP, the Division of Waste Management staff has drawn from previous experience of other NRC program offices in the use of expert elicitation. The staff has also coordinated this effort with the Office of the General Counsel. The public comment period will expire May 14, 1996.

Staff Observation of Audit of Sandia Quality Assurance Audit

Division of Waste Management (DWM) staff observed a performance-based quality assurance (QA) audit of the Department of Energy, Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Management and Operating Contractor (M&O) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and in Las Vegas, Nevada, on February 26-March 1, 1996. Department of Energy contractors performed the audit. The purpose of the audit was to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the QA program requirements for the work being performed at Sandia Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, under the direction of the M&O; and work being performed at the M&O offices in Las Vegas, Nevada. The representative from the State of Nevada also participated as an observer on this audit.

The audit team focused on the implementation of the QA program requirements associated with the generation of the "Three-Dimensional Rock Characteristics Models." Three minor deficiencies regarding documentation clarification were reported by the audit team, in addition to seven recommendations. The DWM observers determined that this audit was effective and that the M&O QA program for the Three-Dimensional Modeling effort was effective.

Resolution of Extreme Erosion Issue

On February 29, 1996, the Division of Waste Management transmitted to the Department of Energy its Issue Resolution Status Report (IRSR) on the potentially adverse condition (PAC) - Evidence of Extreme Erosion During the Quaternary Period at Yucca Mountain. The IRSR documents the staff's technical basis for its finding that sufficient information exists to demonstrate that the PAC is absent at Yucca Mountain. It is the first example of the staff's resolution of one of the potentially adverse conditions cited in [10 CFR Part 60.122\(c\)](#) of the rule governing the disposal of high-level radioactive wastes in a geologic repository. Issue resolution means that available information appears to be sufficient for inclusion in a license application and, consistent with the definition of issue resolution, the staff has no further questions at this time on this topic.

ENCLOSURE C

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 8, 1996

NRC Rulemakings are now on the INTERNET

Proposed rulemakings and petitions for rulemakings have been available during their open comment periods on the NRC's electronic rulemaking bulletin board at FedWorld for slightly over a year. On Tuesday, March 5, NRC's rulemakings went "on-line" on the INTERNET. The external NRC Web site now includes a "RULEMAKING" button, behind which is information on the rulemaking process, instructions as to how to access to the rulemaking bulletin board at FedWorld, and direct links to rulemaking documents. Until now there has been no indication of or direct access to those documents via the net. With this new feature, visitors to NRC's "Home Page" need only to click on "RULEMAKING" to learn about the rulemaking process, the petitioning process, the Regulatory Agenda, the Rulemaking Bulletin Board, and link directly to proposed rules and related rulemaking documents open for comment.

The next step is to make access via the net fully interactive, providing members of the public and Agreement States the ability to upload their comments as files over the net. At present, comments can be sent over the net as e-mail only. Comment letters are still accepted as files on the rulemaking bulletin board at FedWorld, and NRC will continue to notice and request comment on proposed rules through publication in the Federal Register.

Recently Issued Publication

Regulatory Guide 1.162, "Format and Content of Report for Thermal Annealing of Reactor Pressure Vessels," February 1996. (Draft was issued as DG-1027).

Contact: A. Taboada, RES (301-415-6014)

ENCLOSURE D

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 8, 1996

Incident Response Division (IRD)

Emergency Response Branch (ERB)

An AEOD staff member provided training to representatives from several States on "Radiological Accident Assessment -- post-plume-phase." This training was conducted at the FEMA Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland, on Monday, March 4, 1996. The participants were particularly interested in the role of the Lead Federal Agency, in this phase, in directing the response to support State needs. Also of interest was the complexity of mobilizing Federal resources and directing environmental monitoring activities in coordination with the State. The participants emphasized the importance of NRC exercises with States for this phase of an accident.

Preliminary Notifications

- a. PNO-I-96-011A, Nuclear Metals, Inc., UPDATE TO PN196-11 VENT FIRE AT NUCLEAR METALS, INC.
- b. PNO-I-96-013, Cramer & Lindell Engineers, Inc., (Millstone Nuclear Power Station) RADIOGRAPHY INCIDENT AT MILLSTONE NUCLEAR POWER STATION
- c. PNO-I-96-014, Maine Yankee Atomic Power Co. (Maine Yankee 1), POTENTIAL MEDIA INTEREST - RADIOACTIVE GASEOUS RELEASE
- d. PNO-I-96-015, Syncor International, DELIBERATE CONTAMINATION EVENT
- e. PNO-II-96-013, Georgia Institute of Technology, SPENT FUEL SHIPMENT FROM GEORGIA TECH
- f. PNO-IV-96-012, Agreement State Licensee (Larpen of Texas), FAILURE TO LOCATE RADIOGRAPHY CAMERAS CONTAINING CO-60
- g. PNO-IV-96-012A, Agreement State Licensee (Larpen of Texas), FAILURE TO LOCATE RADIOGRAPHY CAMERAS CONTAINING CO-60
- h. PNO-IV-96-012B, Agreement State Licensee (Larpen of Texas), RADIOGRAPHY SOURCE FOUND OUTSIDE OF EXPOSURE DEVICE
- i. PNO-IV-96-013, Agreement State Licensee (X-Ray Inspection, Inc.) RADIOGRAPHY EXPOSURE DEVICE LOST IN GULF OF MEXICO

ENCLOSURE F

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 8, 1996

Connector "LINK" Project

Construction will begin the week of March 11 for a connector "LINK" to be built between OWFN and TWFN along the area now occupied by the exterior (eastern) plaza level walkway. The connector will be a one level enclosed walkway, environmentally conditioned. The roof of the structure will be similar to that on the existing gazebo. The construction schedule is 160 calendar days.

The general contractor is Heffner & Weber, of Baltimore, MD. The architects for the project are Weihe Ltd. Partnership, of Washington, D.C. Architectural presentation drawings of the "LINK" will be displayed in the TWFN exhibit area.

U.S. Security Policy Forum

Raymond Brady, Director of Security, attended a Security Policy Forum meeting on March 1, 1996. The Forum, which is comprised of approximately thirty senior government and industry security personnel, met primarily to discuss proposed financial disclosure and authorization release forms. These forms would be completed by government and industry personnel who have access to particularly sensitive classified information. Since the use of these forms has impacts that need further consideration and evaluation, they were referred to the Security Policy Board. The bases for these forms are Public Law 103-359, Title VIII. "Counterintelligence and Security Enhancements Act of 1994" and Executive Order 12968, "Access to Classified Information."

Visitor Information Profile (VIP) System

The Division of Security, with the support of the Office of Information Resources Management, will soon initiate testing of the Visitor Information Profile (VIP) system. VIP is an automated application developed to pre-record information about visitors and to categorize visitor registrations, and will replace the NRC Form 205, "Visitor Register." The system will be tested for 30 days and pre-recording will be limited to NRC employees in the TWFN building. An announcement memorandum and network bulletin will be issued.

Significant FOIA Requests Received During Period of March 1 - 8, 1996:

Request for a copy of NRC contract NRC-19-84-141, amendments and any quality evaluations made by NRC. (Richard Noakes; Alltech, Inc.; FOIA-96-099)

Request for a copy of the Babcock and Wilcox Advanced Technology Manual, No. R-506P, Volumes 1 and 2. (L. S. Berman of Levin, Fishbein, Sedran & Berman; FOIA-96-100)

Request for records related to irradiated gemstones; specific types of environmental contamination by research reactors. (P. Blockey-O'Brien; FOIA-96-101)

Request for communications between the National Labor Relations Board and the Office of Senator Tom Harkin. (Cinnamon St. John; The Strategy Group; FOIA-96-102)

Request for copies of licenses in the Willoughby-Eastlake service area in the 44094 and 44095 zip codes. (R. J. Perez; City

The licensee responded to the Notice in two letters both dated November 15, 1995. After careful consideration of the licensee's response, the staff has concluded that: (1) the violations did occur as set forth in the Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty, and (2) the licensee provided an adequate basis for partial mitigation of the proposed civil penalty. Specifically, the licensee took additional corrective actions to conduct 40 hours of refresher training for all radiography personnel. Such corrective actions went beyond what most small radiography licensees commit to and were somewhat beyond the NRC expectations, given the circumstances of this case. An Order Imposing Civil Monetary Penalty in the amount of \$5,000 was issued March 5, 1996. (EN 95-063A)

A Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of \$100,000 was issued on March 7, 1996, to Arizona Public Service Company. The action was based on a Severity Level III violation involving discrimination against a contract instrumentation and control technician. It should be noted that the supervisor responsible for the discrimination is also being issued a Severity Level III Notice of Violation.

By EN 95-056 dated September 18, 1995, the Commission was notified that an Order Prohibiting Involvement in NRC-Licensed Activities (Effective Immediately) was being issued to Hung Yu, Ph.D. This action was based on an ongoing NRC inspection and investigation which concluded that Dr. Yu had engaged in deliberate misconduct by: (1) knowingly providing to Madigan Army Medical Center (MAMC), an NRC licensee, inaccurate information relating to a matter material to the NRC, specifically the cause of the error that resulted in a misadministration, in violation of 10 CFR 30.10(a)(2); and (2) deliberately failing to conduct surveys of packages containing brachytherapy sources and deliberately making entries to MAMC records to show that he had conducted such surveys, in violation of 10 CFR 30.10(a)(1). The order prohibited Dr. Yu from participating in NRC-licensed activities, pending further investigation and order by the NRC. The NRC conducted a predecisional enforcement conference with the Dr. Yu on January 17, 1996. Based on information learned during the conference, the NRC issued to Dr. Yu on February 22, 1996, a letter stating that the NRC would relax the September 18, 1995 order provided that Dr. Yu certifies to the Commission that he will become knowledgeable of and comply with all NRC requirements, should he engage in NRC-licensed activities in the future. The NRC received Dr. Yu's certification and finds that good cause is demonstrated to relax the Order. Accordingly, the staff relaxed the order on March 7, 1996, to allow Dr. Yu to engage in NRC-licensed activities. (EN 95-056A)

ENCLOSURE L

Office of State Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 8, 1996

Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference

During February 22-24, 1996, Ms. Cardelia H. Maupin, Sr. Project Manager, Office of State Programs, participated in the 10th annual "Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference" in Baltimore, Maryland. While at the conference, Ms. Maupin assisted the NRC in its recruiting efforts to attract high-quality applicants who could assist in carrying out the Commission's efforts. Ms. Maupin provided basic background information on the agency; informed potential applicants of the vacancies the agency was seeking to fill; and encouraged college students in the engineering field to work diligently in their academic studies so that they could be considered for potential NRC employment in the future.

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Winter Meetings

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) held its Winter Meetings on February 25-29, 1996 in Washington, DC. In conjunction with the Winter Meetings, the NARUC Nuclear Waste Project Office sponsored a Dinner and Workshop on February 24 to discuss the status of the Department of Energy high-level radioactive waste program, nuclear waste legislation being considered in Congress and State Commissions' efforts to protect ratepayers interests with regard to payments into the Nuclear Waste Fund. At the NARUC Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues/Waste Disposal on February 25, Commissioner Kenneth Rogers and Myron Karman, legal assistant, provided the Subcommittee with a status report of NRC activities. On February 28, 1996, a delegation from NARUC, led by NARUC President Cheryl Parrino, Chairman of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, met with the Commission to discuss issues associated with utility industry restructuring and deregulation.

ENCLOSURE M

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 8, 1996

Media Interest

Chairman Jackson was interviewed by the Radioactive Exchange newsletter.

Chairman Jackson held her first annual news conference at Headquarters. At the end, Bill Russell answered several reporters' questions at the Chairman's request. Nine news organizations were represented including the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Associated Press, Inside N.R.C., and Energy Daily. A videotape of the news conference is available from OPA at headquarters and in the regions

School Volunteers Program

Harold Lefevre and Robert Johnson, NMSS, discussed geology at Goshen E.S. and Louis Numkin, IRM, discussed computer spreadsheets and databases at Gaithersburg H.S. Judging a science fair at Watkins Mill H.S. were: Frank Akstulewicz, Phil McKee, NRR; Ann Ramey-Smith, RES; and Pam Kruzic, IRM.

Press Releases

Headquarters:	
96-48	NRC Staff Proposes \$50,000 Fine Against Duke Power Company for Alleged Violation of Requirements at Oconee Nuclear Plant
96-49	Note to Editors on Two Letters Issued by NRR to Northeast Utilities on Millstone

96-50	\$100,000 Fine Proposed for Palo Verde Whistleblower Case
Regions:	
I-96-19	NRC Staff Investigating Maine Yankee Worker Contamination
I-96-20	NRC Staff to Hold Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Northeast Utilities
II-96-32	NRC Staff Proposes \$50,000 Fine Against Duke Power Company for Alleged Violation of Requirements at Oconee Nuclear Plant
IV-96-14	NRC Proposes \$2,500 Civil Penalty for Monsanto
IV-96-15	NRC Reduces Civil Penalty for Diamond H Testing

ENCLOSURE N

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 8, 1996

Foreign Visitors

On Wednesday, Dr. Y.Y. Hsu, Chairman of the Taiwan Atomic Energy Council, accompanied by Mr. Syh-Tsong Chiou, Director of the RadWaste Administration, and Dr. Frank Fu, Science Officer, Taipei Economic Cultural Representative Office in Washington, visited Commissioner Dicus. The purpose of the meeting was for Dr. Hsu to introduce himself to the Commissioner and brief her on Taiwan's nuclear power program and regulatory regime. There was also a discussion of dose limits and the international efforts underway to review the old standards.

On March 7, Mr. Yves Cousin, Executive Vice President for Engineering and Construction, Electricite de France, met with the Chairman and Commissioners Rogers and Dicus separately to discuss the partnership effort of Edf with Russia, the nuclear situation in China and the status of Chooz B startup and the EPR design. Commissioner Rogers answered questions on the electrical industry restructuring in the U.S.

ENCLOSURE O

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 8, 1996

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, No. 54

OCA ASSIGNMENT	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	03/12/96 342 DSOB	9:00	Advisory Com on Human Radiation Experiments, GAO, DOE	Human Radiation Experiments	Senators Stevens/Glenn Governmental Affairs
Gerke	03/12/96 2141 RHOB	10:00	Markup	H.R. 2977, Alternative Dispute Resolution	Reps. Hyde/Conyers Judiciary
Combs	03/13/96 366 DSOB	9:30	Markup	S. 1271, Nuclear Waste Policy Act Amendments	Senators Murkowski/Johnston Energy & Natural Resources
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.

ENCLOSURE P

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 8, 1996

Materials License Extension Project

Representatives from Region II, NMSS, and a contractor are in Region I during the weeks of March 4 and 11 to review the approximately 2500 materials license files to determine which licenses are eligible to receive the automatic five-year license extension. The extension was authorized by a January 16, 1996, amendment to [10 CFR 30, 40, and 70](#), and applies to certain byproduct, source, and special nuclear material licenses.

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 8, 1996

Houston Lighting and Power Company (South Texas Project)

A predecisional enforcement conference was held with Houston Lighting and Power Company on March 6, 1996, in the Region IV Office. The conference addressed operator action following a Unit 1 reactor trip on December 18, 1995. The conference focused on an apparent violation involving the failure to initiate emergency boration as required by the emergency operating procedures after three control rods each remained six steps withdrawn following the reactor trip. The conference was closed to the public because much of the discussion focused on the specific actions of licensed senior reactor operators who were present at the conference.

Waterford 3 Predecisional Enforcement Conference

On March 5, 1996, a predecisional enforcement conference was conducted with representatives from Entergy Operations, Inc.'s Waterford 3 facility, including the Chief Operating Officer for all of Entergy Operation's sites. The predecisional enforcement conference was conducted to discuss the technical details and planned corrective actions for the apparent inoperability of the auxiliary component cooling water system.