

April 24, 1996

For: The Commissioners
 From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
 Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING APRIL 19, 1996

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*No input this week

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending April 19, 1996

Public Meeting on Revisions to the NRC Examination Standards

Staff from the Operator Licensing Branch (HOLB) conducted a public meeting on April 18, 1996, to discuss proposed revisions to the NRC Examination Standards (NUREG-1021) which will be used to support changes to the NRC's initial operator licensing examination process. The meeting, attended by NEI and other industry representatives, the staff discussed the public comments received by the NRC on the proposed changes, and the NRC's resolutions of these comments. HOLB is seeking to issue the revised Standards upon CRGR and Commission approval sometime in early Summer 1996.

Headquarters Maintenance Rule Training

The Quality Assurance and Maintenance Branch (HQMB) staff provided maintenance rule training to selected headquarters staff. The training sessions are intended for inspectors who will participate on maintenance rule baseline inspection teams. Personnel from HQMB, the Special Inspection Branch (PSIB), Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch (SPSB), and an SPSB contractor attended the training. HQMB will be giving the same training in each of the Regions over the next two months for regional inspectors.

Watts Bar Unit 1 Turbine Trip/Reactor Scram Event

While slowly raising power to 84% on 4/16/96, the turbine governor valves closed. The condenser dump valves and steam generator PORVs opened. The operators tripped the turbine, and the reactor subsequently scrammed as designed. Subsequently, the licensee determined that there had been no demand signal from the electrohydraulic control (EHC) to the governor valves. Thus the problem appeared to have originated downstream of the EHC.

Generally the plant and operators performed well, however, a number of additional problems occurred following the scram including the failure of a level control valve from the A motor driven AFW pump to transfer to manual, resulting in overfeeding one steam generator; leakage of several gaskets in the BOP; lifting of relief valves on the high pressure heaters; and an oil leak on the B motor driven AFW pump.

The unit is currently in Mode 3. The turbine-driven AFW pump is feeding the SGs. Diagnosis of the problem is continuing.

Merger Proposal From Western Resources For Kansas City Power And Light

On April 14, 1996, Western Resources (WR) offered to merge with Kansas City Power & Light (KCPL). On January 22, 1996, KCPL and Utilicorp announced they planned to merge. KCPL owns 47% of Wolf Creek, and Western Resources, through their ownership of Kansas Gas and Electric and Kansas Electric Power Cooperative owns the other 53% of

Wolf Creek. It appears the KCPL merger will be taken to the KCPL shareholders for resolution. WR claims their offer would, among other things, pay a 17% premium to KCPL stockholders and result in larger rate reductions of customers of both utilities.

Commonwealth Edison Company Management Changes

On April 11, 1996, ComEd announced management and organizational changes in its Nuclear Division. Effective April 15, 1996, Senior Vice President Thomas J. Maiman assumed oversight responsibilities for the Nuclear Division. Senior Vice President Michael J. Wallace took the new position as head of the Nuclear Strategic Services. Both Mr. Maiman and Mr. Wallace report to Mr. James J. O'Connor, CEO for ComEd. Chief Nuclear Operating Officer, Harold (Harry) W. Keiser continues to be responsible for the day-to-day operations at the six ComEd nuclear sites and reports to Mr. Maiman. Other changes of note are that the position of Vice President, BWR Operations was abolished and J. Stephen Perry became the full time Site Vice President for Dresden Station.

Exposure in Excess of Regulatory Limits at Braidwood, Units 1 and 2

On April 11, 1996, a hot particle was discovered on the right hand index finger of a worker at Braidwood. The individual was picking up laundry, trash and was decontaminating a small area in the Unit 2 containment prior to this incident. Unit 2 is currently in a refueling outage. The individual had removed his outer glove to make a phone call from the containment but he was still wearing his white cotton liners. Upon leaving the contaminated area he detected a hot spot on his hand and informed the health physics personnel who removed the particle from his hand.

The licensee's investigation determined that the particle was 10.9 micro-Curies of cobalt-60 and estimated the time of exposure to be 100 minutes. Based on these data the licensee estimated that the individual had received 70.6 rads of exposure to his extremities. This value is above the 50 rem/year shallow dose equivalent (SDE) skin dose limit in 10 CFR Part 20.

Region III performed a special inspection of this incident and found that the licensee's calculations were accurate. In addition, the inspection identified that the individual had followed the station procedures regarding the removal of the glove before using the phone in the contaminated areas.

Dresden Unit 2 Restart

Dresden Unit 2 has restarted from its refueling outage. Dresden Unit 2 began the refueling in June 1995. In November 1995 the licensee stopped work on the Unit 2 outage and initiated a refueling outage "replan" effort to improve the planning, allocation and management of resources. On January 22, 1996, work on the Unit 2 refueling outage was resumed.

During the ten-month refueling outage a significant amount of work was accomplished. In addition to the normal refueling outage work scope issues performed, the following safety-related material condition issues were also accomplished:

- Overhaul of LPCI and Core Spray pump motors.
- Overhaul of HPCI main, auxiliary and booster pumps.
- Feedwater system modifications to allow 3-element control.
- Replacement of all scram solenoid pilot valve assemblies.
- Replacement of all reactor water cleanup system piping and heat exchanger.
- Repair of the core shroud.
- Reduction in the number of operator work-around and other control room deficiencies.
- Modification to the structural steel in the LPCI corner rooms.

The unit is currently at 1% power performing startup testing. Inspections planned for restart include observations of control room activities and inspections of accessible areas of the plant as heatup progresses with particular emphasis on equipment and/or items on which work was performed during the outage.

Point Beach, Units 1 and 2 Dry Cask Storage and Steam Generator Replacement

On Tuesday, April 16, 1996, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) ruled on two issues related to Point Beach, Units 1 and 2. The PSCW voted unanimously (3 to 0) to accept the PSCW staff's supplemental environmental impact statement on dry cask storage and additional testimony as satisfying all issues raised in a suit brought by intervenors in state court. In December 1995, the judge had remanded the original decision allowing dry cask storage back to the PSCW.

The second vote was also unanimous, and accepted the Wisconsin Electric Power Company's (the licensee for Point Beach) application to procure and install new steam generators on Unit 2 during the Fall 1996 outage. This vote had been deferred by the PSCW pending analysis of the results of steam generator inspections and repair during the Fall 1995 outage. The steam generators are being fabricated by Westinghouse, and are scheduled to be delivered to the site this summer.

NRC Regulatory Information Conference

The Eighth NRC Regulatory Information Conference was held on April 9-10, 1996, at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. Technical discussions included: Regulatory Trends, Fire Protection Issues, Steam Generator Issues, License Renewal Update, Improved Technical Specifications Conversion, Operational and Regional Issues, Reactor Vessel and Internals Issues, Dry Cask Storage, Integrated Performance Assessment Program, Electronic Information Exchange, PRA Implementation Plan, Operator Licensing Examination Changes, Core Performance and Reactor Fuel Issues, Competition, Utility Restructuring, Merges and NRC Licensing Actions, Shutdown Rule, and Spent Fuel Pool Issues.

Of the 789 registered individuals who attended the conference, 37 percent represented nuclear utilities; 23 percent represented private companies associated with the nuclear power industry, including manufacturers, architect/engineers, vendors, law firms, and consultants; and 23 percent represented other government agencies, national laboratories, foreign organizations, and research organizations. Over 90 percent of the utilities were represented, including 180 representatives from senior management. Representatives from the offices of the Commissioners, the regional offices, the program offices, and industry members made presentations at the conference.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 1996

Meeting Between Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Energy Staff

On April 16, 1996, Division of Waste Management staff met with Department of Energy (DOE **EXIT**) and contractor representatives from the Savannah River Plant (South Carolina) to discuss their plans for high-level waste (HLW) tank cleanup and ultimate closure. The primary issue in this regard is the classification of the residual waste in the tanks that results from efforts to remove the HLW fraction for subsequent vitrification. Residual tank waste that can be classified as "low-level" or "incidental" waste would not be subject to Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing authority. Alternatives for tank cleanup (e.g., water washing, chemical cleaning) and tank closure (e.g., fill with sand or grout) were discussed and DOE requested guidance on appropriate criteria for residual waste classification. In a forthcoming letter, DOE will describe in detail its approach to waste classification for the staff's review. Experience gained and approach used at Savannah River will be applicable to potential similar work at the Hanford vitrification facility.

License Renewal for Barnwell Low-Level Waste Disposal Facility

On April 10, 1996, Division of Waste Management staff met with a representative from Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc. (CNSI) to discuss the renewal of their special nuclear material (SNM) license for the Barnwell, South Carolina, low-level waste (LLW) disposal facility. Barnwell is one of three operating LLW disposal facilities in the nation and accepts the majority of the country's LLW. CNSI is licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to receive, possess, and dispose of SNM. Disposal of source and byproduct materials is licensed by the State of South Carolina, as an Agreement State.

At the meeting, the licensee submitted copies of the renewal request and requested that NRC combine the license renewal review with the review of an amendment request, which was submitted in October 1995. The 1995 amendment requested updating the license to incorporate changes to the South Carolina license. The renewal application proposes to increase the allowable surface SNM density. To support this proposed change, CNSI submitted a revised criticality safety analysis. The current NRC license expires on December 31, 1996.

Meeting with the Department of Transportation on the International Atomic Energy Agency Transportation Regulations

On April 11, 1996, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with representatives of the Department of Transportation (DOT **EXIT**) and the Department of Energy to discuss modifications to the process that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) uses to adopt new regulations for the transportation of radioactive material. The discussion focused on revising the IAEA regulatory process to require that member state proposals be subjected to a greater level of justification and analysis before being accepted as proposed regulatory changes. The roles of the Transport Safety Standards Advisory Committee and the Advisory Commission on Safety Standards in the IAEA regulatory process were also considered. DOT, as U.S. Competent Authority, plans to submit a proposal to IAEA by August 1996 detailing the U. S. position on modifications to the IAEA regulatory process.

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 1996

Safety Programs Division (SPD)

Reactor Analysis Branch (RAB)

Engineering Evaluation AEOD/E96-02, "Analysis of Allegation Data"

Engineering Evaluation report AEOD/E96-02, "Analysis of Allegation Data," was issued on April 17, 1996. This study analyzed the number of total and harassment and intimidation allegations at nuclear power plant sites and their vendors to identify those organizations that stood out in the period 1990 through 1994. This work was in response to Recommendation II.B-14 of the report, "Reassessment of the NRC's Program for Protecting Allegers against Retaliation," NUREG-1499, which directed that allegation data be monitored to identify those organizations that might justify the NRC questioning the organizations as to the root causes of having a disproportionate number of allegations.

Technical Review Report 96-02, "Target Rock Two-Stage SRV Performance Update"

Technical Review Report 96-02, "Target Rock Two-Stage SRV Performance Update," issued on April 15, 1996, updates the history of the 2-stage Target Rock safety/relief valves (SRVs) failure to open at the expected setpoint and discusses the new problem of pilot disc leakage. The report contains a compilation of the test results for lift setpoint deviations over the years 1987 to 1995.

In 1982, a problem with the 2-stage valves became apparent: failure to open at the expected setpoint. The cause was identified as one or both of two situations: (1) binding in the labyrinth seal area caused by tolerance buildup during manufacturing, or (2) disc-to-seat bonding caused by oxides of the disc and seat material forming a continuous film and inhibiting disc movement.

The Owners' Group subsequently submitted two solutions which were to be pursued simultaneously. The preferred solution was the use of platinum in the form of a trace element in the alloy of the disc material to cause radiolytic oxygen and hydrogen in the valve to recombine, reducing oxygen available to cause corrosion. The alternate solution proposed was the "Pressure Switch/Transmitter for Two-Stage Target Rock Safety/Relief Valve," NEDC-32121P.

Another problem with the SRVs has been recently identified, pilot disc leakage which could lead to a stuck open SRV as occurred in the September 11, 1995, event at Limerick Unit 1. A review of the generic implications of significant leakage of Target Rock 2-stage SRVs (particularly pilot valve leakage) is being conducted by the NRC. The staff plans to coordinate its review efforts with the Owners Group.

Incident Response Division (IRD)

Emergency Response Branch (ERB)

Participation in Emergency Response Exercises

On April 9, 1996 members of the Emergency Response Branch coordinated and participated in a full-scale emergency preparedness exercise with the Duane Arnold Energy Center near Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Region III base and site teams, the State of Iowa and the Counties of Linn, Benton, and Buchanan in Iowa also participated. Federal liaison and support in the NRC Operations Center were provided by representatives from DOE, EPA [EXIT], HHS/FDA [EXIT], NOAA [EXIT], and FEMA [EXIT]. Exercise observers in the Operation Center included representatives from DOE, FEMA and the State of Louisiana.

On April 17, 1996, members of the Emergency Response Branch participated on the site team with Region IV Staff in support of the River Bend Exercise in St. Francisville, LA. ERB also provided limited support and a control cell from Headquarters. This site participated with the State of Louisiana, licensee and five parishes in the FEMA and NRC evaluated exercises.

Preliminary Notifications

- a. PNO-I-96-023, Pharmalogic, DOSE RATES IN EXCESS OF REGULATORY LIMITS ON A PACKAGE
- a. PNO-II-96-026, Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., NFS AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM EXIT
- b. PNO-II-96-027, Florida Power Corporation (Crystal River 3), CONTRACTOR HURT
- c. PNO-II-96-028, Florida Power & Light Co. (Turkey Point 3 4), NON-EXPLOSIVE TRAINING DEVICE DISCOVERED
- d. PNO-II-96-029, Tennessee Valley Authority (Watts Bar 1), EXTENDED SHUTDOWN TO INVESTIGATE TURBINE TRIP - REACTOR TRIP
- e. PNO-IV-96-019, Arkansas Agreement State, RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL ON BOX CAR
- f. PNO-IV-96-020, Arizona Public Service Co. (Palo Verde 1), PLANT SHUTDOWN IN EXCESS OF THREE DAYS

ENCLOSURE F

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 1996

Procurement Reform

Timothy F. Hagan, Deputy Director, Division of Contracts (DC) has been designated to serve as Advocate for Procurement Reform (APR) within DC. A special e-mail address has been established to facilitate direct communication. Agency employees wishing to express concerns regarding the progress of specific procurements or who wish to suggest ideas or innovations which might help to improve the efficiency of the procurement process, should send their ideas or concerns by e-mail to the APR.

Sharlene McCubbin, Contract Specialist, and Source Evaluation Panel Members, Jean Trefethen (AEOD) and Glenn Rolph (NOAA), have completed the NRC's first competitive acquisition using commercial buying techniques permitted by the new Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act. This technique allows agencies to use streamlined procedures for acquisition of items that are readily available in the commercial marketplace. In addition to this streamlining, a wide range of other procurement innovations were applied, including use of oral presentations, to assure an efficient contracting process. Use of these innovations resulted in an award in less than four months on a procurement which historically required an average of eight months.

The Division of Contracts recently integrated its contract tracking system and Procurement Reinvention Laboratory data system to provide a more efficient management tool for monitoring agency progress in applying innovations on individual procurement actions. This new system will also be used by DC to provide feedback to NRC offices on the effectiveness of each innovation in achieving desired procurement efficiencies.

Contract Award

A cost-reimbursement contract was awarded to Pennsylvania State University on a sole-source basis for performance of work entitled, "RELAP/CONTAIN Linkage for ALWR Analysis." The objective of the effort is to link the RELAP code to the CONTAIN code to facilitate the audit analysis of selected AP600 and SBWR transients by the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. The contract, effective April 17, 1996, was awarded for \$45,595 with a period of performance of 14 months.

Security Support

Friday, April 19, 1996, marked the anniversary of the 1995 bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, and the 1993 incident at the Branch Davidian Compound in Waco, Texas. Due to the significance of this date and the possibility of demonstrations at Federal facilities, employees (both at Headquarters and in the Regions) were asked to be alert to activities in and around NRC buildings. Security guards were positioned to increase their presence around the exterior of the White Flint Complex. Additional requirements were also placed on members of the public who visit the open areas of NRC buildings, and the Division of Security activated additional access control measures. These were all precautionary measures, no specific information existed indicating that any NRC facility would be targeted for demonstrations.

Significant FOIA Requests Received during the 5-Day Period of April 12-18, 1996:

Request for information regarding Aerospace America's NRC license number STB-821. (L. Nickels; Waste Management Inc.; FOIA-96-163)

Request for a copy of the electronic version of NUREG/CR-6386 related to Comparison of ANSI Standards Cited in NRC's Standard Review Plant. (O. Williams; J/R/A Associates; FOIA-96-164)

Request for information on Interstate Nuclear Services licensed under NRC No. 20-03529-01. (Individual; FOIA-96-165)

Request for OI report on management practices at Millstone nuclear facility. (R. Kerber; Wall Street Journal; FOIA-96-166)

Request for listing of U.S. producers and importers of radioactive isotopes with NRC license. (G. Kornilov; Global Nuclear Services & Supply; FOIA-96-167)

Request for a copy of Exhibits 43(a) & (b) to OMB Circular A-11. (M. Healey; Global Systems & Strategies; FOIA-96-168)

Request for all documents associated with Problem Identification Form (PIF) 95-3088 dated 12/22/95 and related to Quad Cities Nuclear Station. (Individual; FOIA-96-169)

Request for a listing of bidder's and the award for RFP #RS-IRM-96-192 titled: "Archival Record Storage & Related Services." (S. Guidera; First Federal Corp.; FOIA-96-170)

Request for correspondence or records of communications with members of Congress or their staff concerning NRC actions taken against their friends or constituents, or opposing any current or proposed rule or regulation. (E.Koli; NBC News; FOIA 96-171)

Request for records concerning pre-construction site testing for radiation safety at Yucca Mountain nuclear waste storage area. (Individual; FOIA 96-172)

Referral from Department of State of one NRC document responsive to request for records concerning assistance to the former Soviet Union. (V.Krikorian; Armenian Assembly of America; FOIA 96-173)

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Personnel
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 1996

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Reception Attended

On April 18, 1996, Janice Clemens and Henry Rubin attended a Thank You Reception for Federal employees who had coordinated their agency's 1995 CFC efforts. The Honorable Donna E. Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services and the 1995 CFC Chair, was also in attendance. The reception was held at the American Red Cross National Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) Managers Briefed on Continuing Executive Learning Programs

On April 15, 1996, August Spector gave a presentation to executives, managers, and supervisors in NMSS on Executive, Managerial, and Supervisory Learning Programs. The briefing described the variety of formal and informal learning activities which are available to managers in completing their annual 24-hour learning activities on management issues.

Arrivals		
NONE		
Retirements		
SCHNAPPER, Jack	SR. SYSTEMS ANALYST	IRM

ENCLOSURE K

Office of Enforcement
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 1996

Significant Enforcement Actions

A Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of \$50,000 was issued on April 17, 1996, to the Nebraska Public Power District (Cooper). This action was based on a change to the facility, which constituted an unreviewed safety question. Specifically, in 1985, the licensee modified the steam tunnel blowout panels, which operate to relieve pressure in the steam tunnel in the event of a main steam line break, when fiberglass was applied to the panel. This significantly altered the material characteristics of the blowout panels resulting in an unreviewed safety question. The violation is also based on the existence of this condition from 1985 until its discovery in November 1995. In determining the penalty, the licensee was not given credit for identification since the violations were discovered following questions raised by an NRC resident inspector. However, the licensee was given credit for its corrective actions once the problem was raised by the NRC. One other Severity Level III violation was identified. The violation involved a failure to electrically isolate the control circuitry for Diesel Generator 2 from the effects of a fire-induced cable fault created by a postulated fire in the control room. No civil penalty was assessed for this violation based on the fact that the licensee identified it and took appropriate corrective actions. (EN 96-024)

An Order Prohibiting Unescorted Access or Involvement in NRC-Licensed Activities (Effective Immediately) was being issued on April 19, 1996 to Juan Guzman. The action was based on an investigation which concluded that Mr. Guzman violated 10 CFR 50.5(a)(2) by falsifying information about his background to Baltimore Gas & Electric Company. The Order prohibits Mr. Guzman from gaining unescorted access and prohibits him from engaging in NRC-licensed activities, both for a period of 5 years from the date that his unescorted access was terminated by Baltimore Gas &

Electric Company on October 18, 1994. The staff consulted with the Commission on this action in SECY 96-067, and the Commission approved the issuance of the action by SRM dated April 17, 1996. (EN 96-025)

ENCLOSURE M

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 1996

Media Interest

A reporter from the Toledo Blade attended the open enforcement conference held with Detroit Edison Co. Regional PAOs assisted with background information and staff interviews. The conference focused on an ice blockage incident at Fermi 2 which affected a pump associated with the emergency diesel generator.

A public TV station and a radio station interviewed Hub Miller at the Prairie Island SALP meeting.

The Chattanooga Times is doing a feature story on Russian and Ukrainian visitors to the Technical Training Center.

School Volunteers Program

Syed Ali, NRR, and Sudhamay Basu, RES, helped to judge a Science Fair at Bannockburn E.S. Mitzi Young, OGC, spoke at King M.S.

Press Releases

Headquarters:	
96-58	NRC's Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet May 15-16
96-59	NRC Staff Approves Decommissioning Plan for Trojan Nuclear Power Plant
96-60	NRC Releases Alcoa Site in Ohio for Unrestricted Use Following Cleanup of Radioactive Contamination
Regions:	
II-96-41	NRC Licensing Board Sets Prehearing Conference on Georgia Tech Research Reactor
IV-96-27	NRC Proposes to Fine Cooper \$50,000

ENCLOSURE N

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 1996

Foreign Visitors

On April 15 and 16, Andre-Claude Lacoste, Director of the French Directorate for the Safety of Nuclear Installations, led a delegation that held meetings with the Commissioners and staff. Discussions with Commissioners Rogers and Dicus involved waste management issues primarily, including a status report on the site selection of two HLW laboratories in France. The delegation met with William Russell and NRR for discussions on reactor safety issues and toured the Operations Center.

U.S.-EURATOM Agreement for Cooperation

The new U.S.-EURATOM Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy came into effect on April 12 with an exchange of formal notes between the United States Government and the European Atomic Energy Community. NRC export licensing activities suspended on December 31, 1995 due to the expiration of the previous agreement are now able to be resumed.

ENCLOSURE P

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 1996

Indian Point 3 Restart

The New York Power Authority completed the restart of Indian Point 3 following a six month maintenance outage which began in mid-September 1995. During this outage, repairs were performed on a wide range of equipment as well as improvements to operating procedures and practices in response to plant events in late 1995. The reactor was taken critical on the morning of April 5th, began power operations on April 6th, and ultimately reached 100% power on April 12th. The NRC observed operations both in the control room and in the plant. Observed activities were conducted in a safe and controlled manner. Around-the-clock inspection coverage of the startup and power ascension activities began on March 26 and continued until April 7, 1996, and extended coverage (i.e. 16 hours/day) through April 12, 1996. NRC support for this protracted inspection coverage was provided by the resident office staffs at Indian Point 2 and 3 and FitzPatrick, by regional office inspectors and by representatives of the NRR Division of Reactor Controls and Human Factors and the NRR Division of Reactor Projects.

Support to Region II IMPEP

The Region I State Agreements Officer participated with representatives from NMSS, OSP, and the State of

Georgia Radioactive Materials Program during the week of April 15 in the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) of the Region II materials, fuel cycle, and decommissioning programs. The IMPEP provides a uniform process for evaluating the adequacy of nuclear material licensing and inspection programs conducted by the NRC and the Agreements States, and includes evaluation of fuel cycle, decommissioning, and other non-common, NMSS-supported programs in the NRC regional offices.

Massachusetts Formally Requests Agreement

In a March 28, 1996, letter to Chairman Jackson, Governor Weld of Massachusetts formally requested an NRC Agreement to assume regulatory authority for the licensing and inspection of byproduct materials, source materials, small quantities of special nuclear material, and low-level radioactive waste facilities.

Laboratory Transition Activities

On April 10 and 11, 1996, the Laboratory Specialist from the Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch, DNMS, along with NMSS and Region III personnel, met with individuals from the Department of Energy's Radiological and Environmental Sciences Laboratory (RESL), Idaho Falls, ID, to discuss the establishment of an interlaboratory cross-check program for the NRC Regional Laboratories and the ORISE laboratory. This meeting was a follow-up action initiated as a result of a recommendation made by the Laboratory Transition Team. The discussion centered on the number and types of samples to include in the interlaboratory cross-check program, the criteria for comparing results, and the need for periodic, independent audits of the Regional Laboratories and the ORISE laboratory. Other items, such as RESL/NIST traceability and contractual relationships, also were discussed.

NIH Enforcement Conference

In a letter dated April 16, 1996, the General Counsel, Department of Health and Human Services, (HHS **EXIT**) informed the NRC that the National Institutes of Health (NIH **EXIT**) would forgo attendance at the open Enforcement Conference (EC) scheduled to be held April 19, 1996. The EC had been scheduled to provide NIH the opportunity to discuss apparent violations identified during an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) inspection and a Special Inspection (SI). As the basis for not attending the conference, the HHS General Counsel cited unresolved questions concerning how the open EC would accommodate her concerns related to the Privacy Act, open criminal investigation, and litigation resulting from the phosphorus-32 internal contamination of a female researcher at NIH on June 29, 1995. The licensee committed to provide to NRC a written response to the AIT and SI reports by May 24, 1996.

ENCLOSURE P

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 1996

Differing Professional View

The Deputy Regional Administrator received comments relating to the inspection/investigation process at Crystal River which were treated as a Differing Professional View (DPV). In response to the DPV and the DPV Review Panel, Region II will implement changes to the Enforcement Panel documentation and review the interface with other NRC offices.

U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, Savannah, Georgia

On April 16, 1996, the USCG Marine Safety Office (MSO) at the Port of Savannah, reported that a number of shipping containers containing yellowcake (uranium concentrate) exhibited structural damage. The shipping containers had originated at three facilities in the former Soviet Union. Representatives from the State of Georgia responded to the site and observed the preparation for and opening of the containers. The most badly damaged seventeen of forty six boxes were opened to determine the integrity of the internal contents (35-36 drums). Only one box, which is similar to a sea-land container, exhibited any contamination. Even so, that contamination was slightly above Department of Transportation external limits and was contained internal to the box. The boxes are being readied for shipment to Allied Signal Corp. in Metropolis Illinois.

Region II has been following the event and has coordinated with the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards as well the Office of General Counsel.

U.S. General Accounting Office

On April 17, 1996, Mr. L. Horinko and Mr. R. Sampson of the Health, Education, and Human Services Division, USGAO visited the Region II Office to interview NRC managers in order to prepare for an upcoming audit on the NRC's program for handling allegations. They plan on visiting the Watts Bar facility on April 29, 1996.

Tennessee Valley Authority - Watts Bar

On April 16, 1996 Watts Bar experienced a manual turbine trip followed by an automatic reactor trip from 84% power. The initiating event was an unexpected closure of the main turbine governor valves. There was a feedwater isolation as expected and a successful start of auxiliary feedwater. All plant equipment performed adequately and the plant was quickly stabilized. This event was similar to one that occurred on March 18, 1996. TVA spent several days trouble shooting, and concluded that the governor valve closure was caused by electrical interference from a self test feature of the Anticipated Transient Without Scram (ATWS) Mitigation System Actuation Circuitry (AMSAC) equipment. The plant was restarted on April 21, 1996 and plans to gradually increase power to 90% this week, to resume testing.

ENCLOSURE P

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 1996

Point Beach Nuclear Power Station

On April 16, 1996, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) approved Wisconsin Electric's request to replace the steam generators in Unit 2 at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant. The steam generators will be replaced during the fall 1996 refueling outage, scheduled to begin in October.

The PSCW 1995 Order which allowed Point Beach to construct a facility for 12 dry storage casks was also re-established. The PSCW said the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) does address the remand issues of a Wisconsin Dane County Circuit judge which had ruled in December of 1995 the EIS did not go far enough in analyzing the long-term effects of storing spent fuel in a temporary facility.

Upon receipt of the written PSCW approval--normally 30 days--the licensee will load additional casks; one is currently loaded and on the storage pad.

Byron Nuclear Power Station

On April 17, 1996, ComEd reported that eddy current inspections of the hot leg top of tube sheet (roll transition area) of the Unit 1 steam generator tubes have found indications of circumferential or axial cracking. ComEd estimates over 3000 tubes will require sleeving or plugging. This will extend Unit 1's outage for at least an additional 20 days for the sleeving or plugging of the tubes. ComEd intends to replace the Unit 1 steam generators in 1999.

Ball Memorial Hospital

On April 19, 1996, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana announced a settlement of potential civil litigation against NRC-licensee Ball Memorial Hospital, Muncie, Indiana, and federal criminal charges against two former hospital employees. The civil settlement has resulted in the payment of \$300,000 by the hospital to the U. S. government. The U.S. Attorney has filed charges against two former employees with violating various provisions of the Atomic Energy Act; these two individuals can face a term of imprisonment of up to 2 years and a fine of up to \$250,000.

In 1993, the NRC began an investigation of the hospital because of alleged violations of NRC regulations. NRC's investigation revealed that nuclear medicine technologists at the hospital failed to obtain approval from authorized physicians prior to increasing radiopharmaceutical dosages of certain patients. The investigation also found that dosages exceeded the allowed ranges in Ball Memorial's NRC license, and that the technologists falsified recorded dosage levels. A separate investigation by the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services found that the hospital submitted claims to a Medicare intermediary for tests of certain patients who received allegedly higher dosages.

Ball Memorial has taken corrective action requested by NRC. The increased level of dosages did not cause any health injuries to the patients.

Prairie Island Nuclear Station

The SALP 12 public meeting between NRC and the licensee was held onsite on April 17, 1996. The NRC was represented by the Region III Regional Administrator, Deputy Director of Reactor Projects and Deputy Director of Reactor Safety. Representatives from the utility included the Chairman of the Board/CEO, President of NSP Generation and Vice President of Nuclear Generation. The St. Paul, MN, public television station and one Red Wing, MN, radio station attended the meeting and interviewed the Region III Regional Administrator.

Commonwealth Edison Management Meetings

On April 15, 1996, the Regional Administrator, Deputy Regional Administrator, and Director of Reactor Safety, met in the Region III Office with ComED Vice President of Engineering John Hosmer to discuss engineering issues and FSAR evaluations.

On April 16, 1996, the Regional Administrator and Deputy Regional Administrator met in the Region III Office with ComEd Senior Nuclear Vice President Thomas Maiman and Chief Nuclear Operating Officer Harold Keiser on ComEd's new nuclear management organization.

Fermi Nuclear Power Station

On April 15, 1996, an open predecisional enforcement conference was held in the Region III Office between members of the NRC staff and Detroit Edison Company to discuss a February 5th incident in which a diesel generator service water pump became blocked by ice. The conference was conducted to discuss the apparent lack of recognition by operators and management at Fermi of the possibility of a potential common mode failure in the diesel generator cooling water system. A reporter from the Toledo Blade newspaper attended the conference and interviewed various representatives of NRC and utility staff.

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 19, 1996

Significant Region IV Activities

On April 16, 1996, the Regional Administrator and other members of the Region IV staff toured Waterford Steam Electric Station and met with members of the licensee staff. On April 17, they participated as NRC Site Team members during the River Bend Station emergency exercise. On April 18, the Regional Administrator and the Director, Division of Reactor Projects (DRP), Region IV; the Director, DRP, Region II; the Deputy Director, DRP III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation; and the Region IV EDO Coordinator attended the SALP presentation public meeting at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station.

ENCLOSURE R

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending April 19, 1996

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, No. 60

OCA ASSIGNMENT	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Madden	04/23/96 311 CHOB	9:30	TBA	Federal Budget & Financial Mgmt Changes	Reps. Horn/Maloney Govt Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform & Oversight
Keeling	04/23/96 2154 RHOB	10:00	Belarus, Ukraine Ambassadors Murray Feshbach	10th Anniversary of Chernobyl	Helsinki Commission
Gerke	04/24/96 2253 RHOB	8:30	TBA	Federal Building Security	Reps. Gilchrist/Traficant Public Bldgs & Econ Development Transp. and Infrastructure
Gerke	04/24/96 2141 RHOB	9:30	Markup	H.R. 1802, Federal Administrative Law Judiciary	Reps. Hyde/Conyers Judiciary
Madden	04/25/96 311 CHOB	9:30	TBA	Financial Mgmt & Accounting Changes	Reps. Horn/Maloney Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform & Oversight
Gerke	04/30/96 2261 RHOB	9:00	TBA	Veterans' Preference	Reps. Mica/Moran Civil Service Government Reform & Oversight
Madden	TBA	TBA	Commission	NRC Oversight	Senators Faircloth/Graham Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works