May 23, 1996

For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MAY 17, 1996

*No input this week

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 17, 1996

IGSCC Cracking at Millstone Unit 1

On May 10, 1996, staff from the Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch participated in a meeting at the Region I office to discuss the results of recent inspections performed by the licensee to detect intergranular stress corrosion cracking (IGSCC) in several stainless piping systems at the Millstone Unit 1 facility. The original scope of the inspection, which was performed in accordance with Generic Letter 88-01 included 66 out of a total of 411 welds in the IGSCC program scope. As a result of detecting IGSC cracks, the scope of the inspection was increased to a total of 264 welds. Of these, 35 welds were evaluated as cracked, with eight identified as inoperable (five were found with essentially through-wall axial flaws that leaked during repair activities).

The reason for the sudden increase in IGSC cracks in the piping welds can be attributed to several factors. In 1984, a process known as induction heat stress improvement (IHSI) was applied to the Millstone 1 recirculation piping system to arrest IGSC cracking. The licensee believes that for certain irregular pipe geometries, full compression might not have been achieved, and IHSI might have been less effective in these areas. From 1984 to 1994, 211 cracks and indications were overturned as non-problems or geometric indications, and 16 of these were subsequently identified as cracks.

The licensee had conducted ultrasonic examinations from 1984 to the present. During the current outage, the licensee also conducted the ultrasonic examinations using a new qualified technique that is less sensitive to root geometry, thereby, improving flaw detection and sizing capability.

As a result of the findings, the licensee performed weld overlays on 29 welds, partially replaced the piping in three systems with non-susceptible material, and applied a mechanical stress improvement process to 71 welds. The NRR staff believes the licensee is taking appropriate measures to ensure that IGSC cracking is being conservatively evaluated at Millstone 1. The NRR staff will continue to follow the generic implications of the effectiveness of inspection and IHSI methods in other BWR facilities. A generic letter is in preparation addressing implementation of Section XI, Appendix VIII, "Performance Demonstration for Ultrasonic Examination Systems."

Byron Unit 1 and Braidwood Unit 1: ComEd Meeting on Circumferential Cracks

The staff met with representatives of ComEd on May 14, 1996, to discuss the results of the Byron 1 "lookback" evaluation of the circumferential crack indications. This evaluation was performed for a total of about 2300 steam generator (SG)

tubes found with circumferential indications in either the spring 1996 or the fall 1995 eddy current inspections (ECIs). This evaluation is categorized as "non-blind" in that the eddy current analysts knew that the earlier ECI data which they were reviewing were from SG tubes which were characterized as having no detectable degradation at the time of the inspection but contained flaw indications in either the spring 1996 or the

fall 1995 inspection. A sample of about 300 SG tubes was also reevaluated in a "blind" test.

The intent of this "lookback" program was to establish a basis for determining an appropriate operating interval between ECI outages for both Byron 1 and Braidwood 1 related to circumferential crack indications at the top of the tube sheet in the roll transition zone. From the lookback program, the licensee concluded that the large number (i.e., 3500) of circumferential indications detected in the spring 1996 outage at Byron 1 were a result of an inspection transient.

ComEd submitted, on the docket, the results of its "lookback" program on May 17, 1996, and requested a staff decision no later than May 24, 1996, regarding the latest date acceptable to the staff for the next Braidwood, Unit 1 ECI for circumferential crack indications. In its May 2, 1996 letter, ComEd committed to conduct this inspection no later than mid-July 1996, but will now request a Braidwood, Unit 1 operating interval extending to October 15, 1996, based on the results of its "lookback" program on Byron, Unit 1. The staff can reach a decision on this matter before May 24, 1996.

Lasalle, Units 1 and 2

Manual Scram Due to High Turbine Generator Vibration

LaSalle Unit 1 was paralleled to the grid on May 6, 1996, to complete its seventh refueling outage. This outage had been extended from a planned 70 days to 103 days due to electro-hyralic control calibration problems and a resin intrusion which occurred during initial attempts to restart the unit following the refueling outage. On May 12, 1996, operators manually scrammed the unit due to increasing vibration on a main turbine/generator exciter bearing. Bearing vibration began increasing at 10:00 p.m. CDT on May 11, 1996. Operators made the decision to scram the unit when vibrations reached 9 mils, prior to the automatic turbine trip/reactor scram at 10 mils. After shutdown, vibration increased to a maximum of 12 mils. The licensee has completed repairs to the main turbine exciter and restarted the unit on May 16, 1996, and was synchronized to the grid on May 17, 1996.

Quad Cities, Units 1 and 2

Quad Cities ALERT

An Alert was declared for Quad Cities, Units 1 and 2 on Friday, May 10, 1996, at 2:20 a.m. CDT due to high winds (possibly a tornado). Unit 1 was completing a refueling outage and Unit 2 was operating at 100% power. About 25% of the outer layer of sheet metal was blown from the east side of the reactor building. The sheet metal ruptured an N_2 line that feeds nitrogen from the tank farm to the containment for the containment purge and damaged cabling from the Station Blackout diesels. Other storm-related problems included the loss of power to 27 area sirens, interruption of data from the meteorology tower, destruction of the oil storage building and a spillage of about 15 gallons of uncontaminated oil, and roof damage to the mixed waste building. There were no injuries and no radioactive release. The licensee expects to complete planned maintenance items on Unit 2 and will focus on bringing it back on line before restarting Unit 1 from the refueling outage. As of Monday, May 13, 1996, it has been reported that all sirens are now operable.

NRC Senior Management Site Visit

Mr. Milhoan and Mr. Russell visited the Dresden and Quad Cities sites on May 14-15, 1996, for site tours and performed interviews with ComEd personnel in preparation for the Senior Management Meeting.

Browns Ferry

Browns Ferry Unit 2 scrammed on low reactor vessel water level at 10:25 CDT on May 10, 1996, following a loss of feedwater. The loss of feedwater was caused by reinitialization of the digital feedwater control system after an engineer completed updating control parameters. Following the reactor scram, the RCIC turbine tripped on high exhaust pressure. Preliminary investigation indicates that a recently-installed turbine exhaust discharge check valve may have yielded a higher initial pressure peak than the previous design, exceeding the high exhaust pressure setpoint. TVA determined that the exhaust pressure setpoint was too close to the peak pressure during the startup transient, and has revised the setpoints. NRC inspectors are reviewing why this problem was not identified during post-modification testing, and procedural controls for changes to feedwater control system parameters.

Unit 2 was restarted at 03:30 CDT on May 14, 1996. RCIC will be tested at full rated pressure prior to resuming power operations.

TVA has announced that effective May 13, 1996, Jim Maddox will assume the duties of Watts Bar Engineering and Materials Manager. Mr. Maddox had been Browns Ferry Maintenance and Modifications Manager. Chris Crane, Browns Ferry Assistant Plant Manager, will act in this position pending appointment of a permanent replacement.

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 17, 1996

U.S./International Atomic Energy Agency Policy Coordination Meeting

On May 9-10, 1996, staff from the Regulatory and International Safeguards Branch participated in a U.S. Government interagency policy coordination meeting with management of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA EXIT) at the Department of State. Topics of discussion included the status of the implementation of Program 93 +2 (safeguards enhancement program for detection of undeclared nuclear facilities); implementation of IAEA safeguards in the U.S.; potential verification techniques for excess weapons materials; and IAEA safeguards in the Republics of the former Soviet Union.

International Atomic Energy Agency Symposium on Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Reactor Strategy

On May 3, 1996, Regulatory and International Safeguards Branch staff attended an interagency meeting to discuss the International Atomic Energy Agency Symposium on Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Reactor Strategy: Adjusting to New Realities, scheduled for June 2-6, 1997. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the U.S. role and participation in the symposium, which will address the consequences of the unexpected slow growth of nuclear power generation, the escalation of back-end costs of nuclear fuel cycle, the delay of the commercialization of fast reactors, and the end of the cold war.

Performance Assessment Meeting With State of Nebraska

On May 9, 1996, staff from the Division of Waste Management, Offices of Nuclear Regulatory Research, State Programs, and Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste met with representatives from the State of Nebraska to discuss performance assessment for the proposed Boyd County low-level waste disposal facility. The consultants to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality provided a presentation of the site characterization and facility design, and discussed the applicant's and the consultants' independent performance assessments. NRC staff provided input into the various aspects of the performance assessment methodologies. Specific discussions focused on determination of source term, infiltration rate, and effective hydraulic conductivity of a degraded cap and concrete. No follow-up actions resulted from the meeting and no further meetings are planned.

Yucca Mountain Tectonic Models

On May 7-8, 1996, Department of Energy (DOE EXIT) and NRC staff and contractors met at the Southwest Research Institute's facility in Texas to exchange information on various conceptual tectonic models applicable to Yucca Mountain. Representatives from the State of Nevada, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, and the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste also participated in this meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to review the range of models proposed in the literature and discuss the relevance of these models to Yucca Mountain based on existing data. Thirteen conceptual tectonic models were reviewed and discussed. Based on these discussions, there was general agreement that six of these models could be eliminated. As a result, this meeting was beneficial to NRC, DOE, and others in achieving a focus on the pertinent tectonic models to pursue.

Elevated Levels of Chlorine-36 Detected In The Exploratory Studies Facility

As a follow-up to a previous Item of Interest (See Items of Interest for week ending 5/3/96), on May 1, 1996, DOE formally notified the NRC staff of a reportable geologic condition at Yucca Mountain. Researchers from Los Alamos National Laboratory have detected bomb-pulse chlorine-36 (^{36}Cl) in a few distinct fractured and/or faulted zones in the Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF), indicating that there are some fast pathways by which water has flowed from the surface to the repository horizon in less than 50 years. This information is contained in a "Preliminary Draft Report." To date, systematic sampling every 200 meters and sampling of tectonic features such as faults, and non-tectonic features such as cooling joints were conducted from ESF Stations 2 through 36. Of the 11 systematic samples collected and analyzed, none exhibited bomb-pulse ^{36}Cl, whereas 16 of the 41 feature-based samples showed bomb-pulse ^{36}Cl. While some of these 16 samples were clearly associated with known faults, others were associated with non-tectonic features significantly removed from faulted structures. As a consequence, these data have precipitated a rethinking of current conceptual models and adjustments to the existing testing program by the DOE. As the Tunnel Boring Machine advances, more sampling is planned and additional analysis of ^{36}Cl and other isotopes (for corroboration) will be performed. The staff is closely following and evaluating the significance of this work, and will continue to do so until the work has been completed.

Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors Annual Meeting

On May 5-8, 1996, the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) held their annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Staff from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety made presentations on the performance of the Integrated Material Performance Evaluation Program; the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking on 10 CFR Part 33 (Broad Scope Licensing), including lessons learned from the National Institutes of Health and Massachusetts Institute of Technology investigations; the National Academy of Sciences report on the nuclear medicine regulations; and the topic of business process reengineering. In addition, the co-chairs of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission-Agreement State Working Group (WG) met to evaluate the regulation of devices.

On May 9-10, 1996, following the CRCPD meeting, the WG held its fifth public meeting. Approximately 20 persons, including users, vendors, and trade associations were present. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the issues and concerns addressed by the WG and to finalize the WG's recommendations. The meeting also allowed for input by stakeholders.

ENCLOSURE C

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 17, 1996

Issuance of Reg. Guide 1.82, Rev. 2 "Water Sources for Loss-of-Coolant Accident"

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research has issued revision 2 of Regulatory Guide 1.82, "Water Sources for Loss-of-Coolant Accident." The guide is the companion document to the recently issued NRC Bulletin 96-03, "Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling Water Reactors." Revision 2 to Regulatory Guide 1.82 provides enhanced evaluation guidance for debris blockage in boiling water reactors (BWRs) in light of the significant new information available on operational events, analyses, and research results. The guide provides acceptable procedures for meeting the requirements in the Bulletin, and together, the two documents provide NRC's resolution of the BWR strainer debris blockage issue.

Witness of BWROG Debris Transport Test

Staff members from RES and NRR traveled to Princeton, N.J., on May 9, 1996, to observe "scaled" tests simulating aspects of debris transport in a BWR drywell. The tests were conducted by Continuous Dynamic, Inc. (CDI) under sponsorship of the Boiling Water Reactor Owners' Group (BWROG). The debris transport area being investigated by the BWROG is one of the least understood and least investigated aspects of the BWR strainer blockage issue. RES also has a significant effort now getting underway to improve our understanding of the transport of debris from containment into the drywell and eventually into the sump area. Insights gained during the BWROG test program will be useful contributions to the overall body of knowledge being developed on debris transport. It is very likely that the BWROG will incorporate the results and insights gained during the test program into the utility resolution guidance concerning strainer blockage, so

early knowledge of the work is of interest to NRC. CDI is also performing other tests for the BWROG's use in developing the utility guidance, including debris-induced suction pump head loss tests and long-term head loss tests.

ENCLOSURE D

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 17, 1996

Incident Response Division (IRD)

Emergency Response Branch (ERB)

An ERB staff member attended an Interagency Advisory Group (IAG) meeting of the Continuity of Government (COG)/Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) on May 15 to discuss FEMA's preparations for the Olympics, the COG annex to the Federal Response Plan, an update of COOP standards, and the forthcoming meeting of the National Emergency Management Team.

Safety Programs Division (SPD)

Reactor Analysis Branch (RAB)

NUREG/CR-6365, "Steam Generator Tube Failures"

NUREG/CR-6365, "Steam Generator Tube Failures," was issued May 15, 1996. The study provides a comprehensive overview of the issue of pressurized-water reactor (PWR) steam generator tube failures and the impact of these failures on plant safety. The scope of the report includes steam generator design; steam generator degradation mechanisms; steam generator tube rupture (SGTR) events; the thermal-hydraulic response of a typical PWR plant with a defective steam generator tube; the risk significance of SGTR accidents; regulatory practices and fitness-for-service guidelines in various countries; and steam generator tube defect detection reliability and sizing accuracy.

This study, with its international scope, should make it a useful reference for persons interested in any aspect of the technical issue of steam generator tube degradation and failure.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-96-031, Berkshire Medical Center, THERAPEUTIC MISADMINISTRATION INVOLVING A COBALT-60 TELETHERAPY UNIT.
2. PNO-I-96-032, Med Col of Pa & Hahnemann University Center City Campus, MISSING IODINE-125 SOURCE.
3. PNO-I-96-033, Nuclear Metals, Inc., Concord, Ma, RUPTURED WASTEWATER PIPE.
4. PNO-II-96-037, Tennessee Valley Authority, BROWNS FERRY UNIT 2 AUTOMATIC REACTOR SCRAM.
5. PNO-II-96-038, Souther Earth Sciences, Inc. (An Agreement State Licensee), STOLEN MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE.
6. PNO-III-96-029, Commonwealth Edison Co., (Quad Cities 1 2), DAMAGE FROM HIGH WINDS AND POSSIBLE TORNADO.
7. PNO-IV-96-023, Raytheon Engrs./Constructors, Inc., MISSING 250 MICROCURIE AM-241 FOIL SOURCE.

ENCLOSURE F

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 17, 1996

Foreign Ownership, Control or Influence (FOCI)

On May 15, 1996, staff from the Division of Security met with representatives from OGC and NMSS to discuss FOCI. Pertinent document references included the U.S. Enrichment Corporation Privatization Act (PA) and the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (NISPOM). The NISPOM, in addressing FOCI criteria as it relates to contractors/industrial firms involved in classified work and requiring a facility clearance, has a lower threshold than the PA for identifying potential FOCI concerns. Meeting participants agreed that when classified information is involved, that the more rigorous test will be the NISPOM criteria. These criteria are being incorporated into NRC's 10 CFR Part 95 used to grant facility security approvals. The proposed rule will be published for comment soon.

Contract Awards

Contract No. NRC-33-96-192 was awarded to Data Base Company, Inc., on May 13, 1996, for "Archival Record Storage and Related Services." The period of performance is one year with four one-year option periods. The firm fixed-price for the one-year base period is $155,729. Should all four option periods be exercised, the total amount of this contract will be $1,056,636. The Division of Contracts and IRM applied a variety of streamlining measures, including simplified evaluation criteria/past performance, which resulted in lead time savings of 38 days on this procurement.

Property Management

The Office of Administration has finalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NRC and the National Institutes of Health. Under this MOU, NRC will participate in a government cooperative arrangement for centralized property disposal that will significantly streamline the agency's process for excessing unneeded equipment. During the last two weeks of April, 961 pieces of equipment were excessed under this agreement.

Fawn Shillinglaw; Filing of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-72-3)

A notice of receipt of a petition for rulemaking submitted by Fawn Shilinglaw was published in the Federal Register on

May 14, 1996 (61 FR 24249). The petitioner requests that the Commission amend its regulations governing independent storage of spent fuel in dry storage casks to require that the safety analysis report for a cask design fully conforms with the associated NRC safety evaluation report and certificate of compliance, before NRC certification of the cask design. The comment period for this action closes July 29, 1996.

Freedom of Employees in the Nuclear Industry to Raise Safety Concerns Within Fear of Retaliation; Policy Statement

A policy statement presenting the NRC's expectation that licensees and employees subject to NRC authority will establish and maintain a safety-conscious work environment on which employees feel free to raise concerns both to their own management and the NRC without fear of retaliation, was published in the Federal Register on May 14, 1996 (61 FR 24336). The policy statement became effective May 14, 1996.

Significant FOIA Requests Received during the 5-Day Period of May 10 - May 16, 1996:

Request for a copy of all requests for information related to Senator Robert Dole, and or his staff, since July 1, 1994. (Josh Gerstein; ABC, Inc.; FOIA-96-198)

Request for records related to a 1968 decision by General Public Utilities to relocate the planned Oyster Creek Unit 2 reactor from New Jersey to Pennsylvania where it became know as TMI2. (Individual; FOIA-96-199)

Request for copies of OIG's report of investigation relating to two incidents of suspected wrongdoing at Region I. (Individual; FOIA-96-200)

Request for copies of documents relating to discovery and clean up of radioactive wastes from a McDonnel Aircraft facility in St. Louis, MO during the 1960's-1970's time-frame. (Mary Floyd; Holme Roberts & Owen; FOIA-96-201)

Request for IG records related to investigation of the full core offload of fuel at Millstone Unit 1. (Individual; FOIA-96-202)

Request for listing of NMSS licensees in the states of Utah and Idaho. (Jerry Crawford; Sitex Environmental, Inc.; FOIA-96-203)

Request for a copy of an IG report dealing with NRC turning names of NU and Ex-NU employees over to Northeast Utilities. (Individual; FOIA-96-204)

Request for copies of NRC licenses held by Litton Industries. (Mike Grabko; Communications & Power Industries; FOIA-96-205)

Request for records related to radioactivity measurements in the primary loop steam at Indian Point 3. (Individual; FOIA-96-206)

Request for records related to TMI-1 during the period 1966-March 27, 1979. (Individual; FOIA-96-207)

ENCLOSURE H

Office of the Controller
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 17, 1996

Financial Management Training in Region II

At Region II's invitation, a staff member from the Funds Control Branch taught a two hour session on the Federal and NRC Budget Process. The office director, all branch chiefs, division directors, and deputies attended. The course covered all phases of the budget process including strategic planning, budget formulation, budget execution, and review and audit. The course stressed the importance of good financial management and how it applies to everyone in the agency. A staff member from Region II followed FCB's presentation with a description of the budget process in their region.

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Personnel
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 17, 1996

Annual NRC Awards Ceremony Held

On May 16, 1996, NRC's Nineteenth Annual Awards Ceremony was held in the TWFN Auditorium. A reception for all employees and guests was held in the Exhibit Center and TWFN cafeteria. Recognized at the ceremony were fourteen employees who received Presidential Executive Rank Awards, one employee who received the NRC Distinguished Service Award, and thirty-six employees who received NRC Meritorious Service Awards.

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Meeting Attended

On May 17, 1996, Henry Rubin attended a meeting of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee for the 1996 CFC at the Office of Personnel Management. At the meeting, the acceptance of local voluntary agency applications for participation in the 1996 Campaign was discussed. The new director of the CFC, Norman O. Taylor, was also in attendance at the meeting.

Arrivals

None

Departures

None

ENCLOSURE M

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 17, 1996

Media Interest

The Region III PAOs fielded media calls from UPI, AP, City News Bureau, Chicago Sun Times, WBBM Radio, WGN radio, Des Moines Register, and trade press on the Quad Cities Alert declaration due to a tornado.

Chairman Jackson was interviewed by the Weapons Complex Monitor about DOE oversight issues.

Two television stations, and several radio and newspaper reporters attended Joe Callan's press conference in Richland, WA.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
96-69	Nuclear Regulatory Commission Honors Employees
96-70	NRC Issues Policy Statement on Protection of Employees From Retaliation
96-71	NRC Names Dr. Jeffrey F. Williamson to Advisory Committee on Medical Uses of Isotopes
Regions:	
II-96-46	NRC Staff to Hold Enforcement Conference in Atlanta to Discuss Farley Nuclear Plant Concerns With Southern Nuclear Operating Company
III-96-17	NRC Dispatches Special Inspection Team to Dresden Nuclear Plant to Review Reactor Shutdown on May 15
III-96-18	NRC Staff Proposes $100,000 Fine Against Commonwealth Edison Co. for Violations of NRC Safety Requirements at Braidwood Plant
IV-96-30	NRC Regional Administrator to Hold News Conference in Richland
IV-96-31	South Texas Rated 'Superior' in Two Areas 'Good' in Two in Latest NRC Systematic Assessment Report

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ENCLOSURE P

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 17, 1996

SALP Management Meeting with the New York Power Authority (NYPA)/Briefing of New York State Representative on Indian Point 3 Performance

At 1:30 p.m. on May 15, 1996, Thomas T. Martin, Region I Regional Administrator, and Richard W. Cooper, Director, Division of Reactor Projects, presented the results of the recent Indian Point 3 Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP), issued on April 26, 1996. The meeting with NYPA senior management, was held at the Indian Point Unit 3 Training Center. The meeting also involved a discussion by the licensee regarding the results of their recent full power self-assessment. In addition, a tour of the plant and interviews of various plant managers were conducted on May 16, 1996, by

Mr. Martin and Mr. Zimmerman of NRR.

On May 16, 1996, Curtis Cowgill, Branch Chief for the Division of Reactor Projects Branch 2, briefed Sandra Galef, a member of the New York State Assembly regarding performance at Indian Point 3. Mr. Cowgill has briefed Assemblywoman Galef on Indian Point 3 performance on several previous occasions.

Decommissioning Talk Given to N.E. Chapter-Health Physics Society (NECHPS)

On May 14, 1996, Mark Roberts, CHP, Senior Health Physicist in the Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch, addressed the Annual Meeting of the New England Chapter of the Health Physics Society (NECHPS). Mr. Roberts' topic, "Regulatory Experience in Decommissioning Projects", was one of eight presentations at the all-day meeting that concentrated primarily on the subject of decommissioning. Over 100 health physicists from the New England area attended the meeting held in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Proposed Elimination of New York City Radiation Control Program

Dr. K. Rimawi, Director, Bureau of Environmental Protection, New York State Health Department (NYSDH) reported to the NRC that the mayor's proposal beginning next fiscal year (July 7, 1996) is expected to cut the New York City Health Department budget approximately 29%, including elimination of the City's Bureau of Radiation Control. A budget hearing will be held Friday, May 17, 1996.

Meeting with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on Contaminated Ash at Kiski Valley Sewage Plant

On May 16, 1996 staff of Region I and the Headquarters Division of Waste Management met with representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussion of options for handling sewage sludge ash contaminated with uranium at the Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority plant in Vandergrift, PA.

NMSS Licensing Assistant (LA) Counterpart Meeting

During the week of May 13, 1996, Region I hosted the annual NMSS Licensing Assistant (LA) Counterpart meeting. Those in attendance were: Regions II,

III, IV, IV/WCFO and Headquarters.

ENCLOSURE P

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 17, 1996

Tennessee Valley Authority - Watts Bar

The unit operated without incident during the week of 5/5-11/96 at increasing power levels. The plant reached 100 percent power for the first time on May 9, 1996.

During the weekend of May 11-12, 1996, the 10 percent load swing, the 50 percent rapid load reduction, and the plant trip from 100 percent power were completed. The plant was restarted to 30 percent power, and the shutdown from outside of main control room test was completed on May 14, 1996. These tests were observed by NRC inspectors. If after licensee and NRC review, all test results are evaluated as satisfactory, then Watts Bar will have completed their power ascension program.

National Conference of State Legislatures

On May 17, 1996, the Regional State Liaison Officer was in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, speaking to the National Conference of State Legislatures' High-Level Radioactive Waste Interim Storage and Transportation Working Group on the topic of spent fuel shipments.

ENCLOSURE P

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 17, 1996

AIT Dispatched to Dresden Unit 3

On May 16, 1996, a six-person Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) was dispatched to Dresden Unit 3 to evaluate the circumstances surrounding the feedwater valve failure and the reactor shutdown that occurred the previous day.

The Dresden Unit 3 reactor scrammed as a result of the loss of water flow into the reactor from the normal feedwater system. The licensee declared an Unusual Event at 11:37 a.m. on May 15, 1996, and terminated the declaration at 11:08 p.m. the same day.

Dresden and Quad Cities Nuclear Power Stations

On May 14 and 15, 1996, the Deputy Executive Director of Operations James Milhoan; the Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and members of his staff, and the Region III Deputy Regional Administrator visited the Dresden and Quad Cities Nuclear Power Stations. The Director of Nuclear Materials Safety, also participated in the Dresden site visit. They toured the plants and met with utility management and NRC Region III site focus group members (including the resident inspectors).

Zion and LaSalle Nuclear Power Stations

On May 13 and 14, 1996, Nuclear Reactor Regulation Director of Inspection and Support Programs Frank Gillespie visited Zion and LaSalle Nuclear Power Stations with Region III senior staff. The Region III Director of Reactor Safety accompanied Mr. Gillespie to the Zion plant on May 13th. On May 14th, Region III Deputy Director of Reactor Safety accompanied Mr. Gillespie to the LaSalle plant. At both sites, tours were conducted and meetings with utility management and NRC Region III site focus group members (including the resident inspectors) were held.

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant

A management meeting was held onsite at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion plant on May 16, 1996, between members of the NRC staff and U.S. Enrichment Corporation to discuss NRC inspection activities and NRC/USEC interface issues in preparation for NRC's certification of the Portsmouth and Paducah plants. A site tour was also conducted. NRC was represented by the Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards Chief of the Enrichment Branch and the Region III Director of Nuclear Materials Safety.

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 17, 1996

Grand Gulf Manager visit to Region IV office

On May 17, 1996, Mr. Joseph Hagen, General Manager, Plant Operations, at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, met with the Regional Administrator; Deputy Regional Administrator; Director, Division of Reactor Projects; and Director, Division of Reactor Safety in the Region IV office. The meeting included discussions of topics of mutual interest related to Mr. Hagan recently assuming the position of a general Manager at Grand Gulf

STP Public SALP Meeting

On May 16, 1996, the Region IV Deputy Regional Administrator and other members of the NRC staff attended a public meeting to discuss the results of the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) for the South

Texas Project Electric Generating Station. The SALP covered the period of September 25, 1994, though March 23, 1996. The maintenance and plant support functional areas were rated as Category 1, The operations and engineering ares were rated as Category 2.

NRC WNP-2 Oversight Panel Meeting

On Wednesday, May 15, 1996, the Regional Administrator attended a Public Meeting of the NRC WNP-2 Oversight Panel with the licensee at the WNP-2 facility. The WNP-2 Oversight Panel is comprised of Region IV and NRR managers to review the licensee's implementation of their Performance Enhancement Strategy. Improvements were noted by both the licensee and NRC with licensee performance in all SALP functional areas. The licensee also discussed the current refueling outage and provided tours of the facility for members of the Panel. Following the meeting, the Regional Administrator, Region IV, held a press conference with members of the local news media.

ENCLOSURE R

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 17, 1996

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, No. 64

OCA ASSIGNMENT	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	05/22/96 342 DSOB	9:30	TBA	Computer Security	Senators Roth/Nunn Investigations Governmental Affairs
Gerke	05/22/96 2154 RHOB	1:30	TBA	Electronic Reporting and Streamlining Act	Reps. Horn/Maloney Govt Mgmnt, Info & Technology Government Reform & Oversight
Gerke	05/23/96 311 CHOB	9:00	TBA	Government Downsizing	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

Note: Congress currently plans to recess for Memorial Day from at least Friday, May 24 until Wednesday, May 29.