

September 10, 1997

SECY 97-202

For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of
the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER
5, 1997

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*No input this week.

James L. Blaha
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
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Four-Party Nuclear Regulatory Authorities Meeting on Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems Consensus Report

On September 3 and 4, 1997, representatives from the nuclear power regulatory authorities of Canada (Atomic Energy Control Board), United Kingdom (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate), France (Direction de la Surete des Installations Nucleaires/Institut de Protection et de Surete Nucleaires) and the USNRC met at the NRC Rockville Offices to finalize the consensus report on the elements of a safety case for acceptance of computer-based instrumentation and control (I&C) systems in nuclear power plants. The four-party nuclear regulatory authorities group has been working on this document for over two years, and it represents a consensus of the four parties. The document describes the aspects of digital I&C systems necessary for a regulatory authority to evaluate in order to confirm their safe application. The document is anticipated to be available to the public by the end of 1997.

Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2

Plant Status - On Saturday morning, August 30, 1997, Salem Unit 2 synchronized to the grid at 17% power level. On Saturday evening, after consulting with the Salem Assessment Panel, the Regional Administrator informed the licensee that the NRC found it acceptable for Salem Unit 2 to proceed above 25% power, which was the first hold point. On September 2, 1997, the plant reached 47% power. The license intends to cycle the plant for about nine days to provide some of their licensed operator applicants the opportunity to obtain required control manipulations. The licensee intends to proceed above the next hold point of approximately 50% power by September 14, 1997.

Commonwealth Edison Company

ComEd Announces Senior Management Changes and Restructuring

On September 3, Commonwealth Edison announced senior management changes and a restructuring of the Nuclear Division. The changes in organization structure are the re-establishment of the BWR and PWR vice presidents and the addition of a senior vice president of nuclear operations.

The following senior management changes were announced:

-Harry Keiser, vice president and chief nuclear operating officer, will become a consultant to the Nuclear Division

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- Gene Stanley, site vice president at Braidwood, will be the vice president for PWR operations
- Ed Kraft, site vice president at Quad Cities, will be the vice president for BWR operations
- Mike Wallace, senior vice president for corporate services, will be the Nuclear Division senior vice president
- John Mueller, site vice president at Zion, will be resigning from ComEd
- Jack Brons, nuclear support vice president, will be the acting site vice president at Zion
- Tim Tulon, station manager at Braidwood, will be the site vice president at Braidwood
- Bill Pearce, station manager at Quad Cities, will be the site vice president at Quad Cities.

Commonwealth Edison Ordered a Stop Work on GE Analytical Services

An audit of GE nuclear services division, conducted by ComEd with the assistance of contractors during the week of 08/18/97, raised numerous process and quality control concerns about GE engineering services. The concerns relate to compliance with GE's procedures, documentation of inputs and assumptions, interconnections between calculations, and validation of software. The audit did not identify any significant technical deficiencies that would have eroded margins or raised immediate operability concerns.

ComEd has ordered a stop to all work that has not begun. GE can continue work that is in progress, but must establish compensatory measures, including a management review of the work, to ensure it meets regulations and GE's process requirements. ComEd will perform a more detailed review of work that is in progress, and plans to review all relatively recent calculations of record.

ComEd plans to address the quality of older calculations as it performs design reviews as part of its 4-year design basis improvement program.

GE will present to ComEd its plans to address the concerns.

Fort Calhoun Station

During the week of August 25 - 29, 1997, a special inspection was conducted at Fort Calhoun to determine the circumstances that resulted in the containment spray system being inoperable on August 21, 1997.

While performing a quarterly surveillance test of the safety injection and containment spray pumps and valves the licensee discovered that the control switches for the containment spray

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header isolation valves were in "override" and not in "auto" as required. The mispositioning of these valves made them inoperable and thereby rendered all three containment spray pumps inoperable. This condition had existed for approximately 12.5 hours.

The preliminary inspection findings determined that: (1) test performer failed to follow procedures by placing containment spray valve control switches in override position (TS 5.8.1), (2) all three containment spray pumps rendered inoperable for 12.5 hours (TS 2.4), (3) operators failed to appropriately log that containment spray valves were inoperable, that control switches were in override, and when containment spray pumps were declared inoperable and operable (TS 5.8.1), and (4) operators failed to conduct adequate shift turnover since it was not identified by oncoming shift or briefed by off-going shift that the control switches for both containment spray valves were inoperable.

The inspection concluded that the event highlighted weaknesses in supervisory oversight, questioning attitude, knowledge, communications, procedures, and log keeping.

The licensee's safety evaluation indicated that under actual conditions while assuming appropriate accident scenarios the containment fan coolers would still have been able to maintain containment pressure control. A review of engineering calculations during the inspection determined that the operators would have had time to return the containment spray pumps to operability prior to damaging the pumps and to perform recovery operations delineated in FCS emergency procedures.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
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Meeting with Sierra Nuclear Corporation

On August 28, 1997, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) met with Sierra Nuclear Corporation (SNC), the Certificate of Compliance holder for the Ventilated Storage Cask (VSC-24) system design. This was the exit meeting for a special Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspection of SNC which occurred on July 8-10, 1997. The special inspection investigated the circumstances surrounding undocumented welding performed during the fabrication of VSC-24s used at the Arkansas Nuclear One and Palisades Nuclear Power Plants. At the meeting, SFPO staff also discussed concerns related to overall poor performance in SNC's Quality Assurance (QA) Program. The SFPO staff noted that repeated QA deficiencies and poor QA practices had been identified in NRC inspections dating back to 1992; and while SNC has corrected individual problems, it has failed to improve overall QA Program performance.

Activities at Nuclear Fuel Services, Erwin, Tennessee

On August 26, 1997, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Resident Inspector and NRC licensing staff observed as Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) initiated processing operations to remove highly enriched uranium (HEU) from UF₆ cylinders by washing and solvent extraction.

NFS has also requested NRC review in support of the initiation of upcoming campaigns to: (1) process HEU contained in uranium-aluminum materials before the end of September 1997, and (2) produce low-enriched uranium by downblending HEU before the end of October 1997. On August 26-27, 1997, NRC staff met with NFS to discuss NFS' plans to develop an Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA). NFS also briefed NRC staff on a new naval fuel production process, which is scheduled for implementation in 1999. NFS plans to submit a major license amendment request and supporting ISA results to NRC.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
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Fuel Behavior

In late 1993, a test with a high-burnup fuel rod in a French test reactor (CABRI) failed under conditions far below those used in regulation for reactivity accidents. That test led to Information Notice 94-64 and a hold on approving further burnup extensions in NRC-licensed plants. A concern about that result was that the test was performed with a power pulse that was narrower than expected in a power plant accident. Thus, on July 10 of this year, another test was run with a broader pulse on a similar high-burnup rod, and it did not fail as before. Unfortunately, important oxidation conditions on the two rods were not the same, and it is not possible to tell if the later result was because of the broader pulse or the different oxidation. The NRC has a formal agreement with the Institute for Protection and Nuclear Safety (IPSN) in France and has provided financial support for this now-completed test series. We have learned that a specimen is available that is almost identical to the original specimen and could be tested with a broad pulse in an inexpensive extension of the test series. The NRC staff is considering sending a letter to IPSN recommending this additional test.

Uncertainties in Estimating Radionuclide Transport in Food Chain

Probabilistic risk analyses performed in the United States and abroad historically have not reflected the uncertainties associated with offsite consequence analysis parameters such as meteorological dispersion and health effects of radioactive exposures. RES, in cooperation with the Commission of European Communities (CEC), has been working for the past several years to remedy this situation and recently completed the latest in a series of technical studies on these uncertainties. NUREG/CR-6523, "Probabilistic Accident Consequence Uncertainty Analysis: Food Chain Uncertainty Assessment," developed by the Sandia National Laboratories, describes the results of an assessment by European and U.S. experts of the uncertainties in food-chain-related input parameters for the probabilistic accident consequence codes MACCS (developed for the NRC) and COSYMA (developed for the CEC). These codes estimate the risks presented by nuclear installations based on postulated frequencies and radioactive release magnitudes of potential accidents. An earlier report, NUREG/CR-6244, described uncertainties in meteorological dispersion and deposition parameters. The remaining reports in the series will describe uncertainties in parameters related to deposited material and related doses, early health effects, late health effects, and

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internal dosimetry. These parameter uncertainties are being propagated through MACCS and COSYMA and the uncertainties in the code predictions calculated, providing quantitative measure of the uncertainties in consequence estimates and the principal contributors to these uncertainties.

Workshop on Human Performance and Safe Plant Operations

The Commission, ACRS, and senior NRC managers have voiced concerns over the influence of management and organizational factors, safety culture, and downsizing and deregulation on human performance and safe plant operations. In response to these concerns, RES held a workshop, August 17-22, 1997, to address these issues. World leaders in management and safety issues, such as Dr. James Reason and Dr. Erik Hollnagle, presented papers and results of current research. Other national and international participants included experts from academia, utilities, national laboratories, consulting companies, DOE, NASA, and NRC. The products of this workshop will be used to (1) modify PRA/HRA models, as appropriate, to incorporate the influences of management and organizational factors; (2) develop tools to assess safety culture in nuclear power plants; and (3) inform the Commission of those safety-related issues most susceptible to downsizing and deregulation.

Coordination Meeting to Initiate USGS/NRC Memorandum of Understanding

On August 27, 1997, RES hosted a coordination meeting with the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) to initiate the implementation of the recently renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU facilitates cooperation and coordination on technical issues facing the NRC related to the behavior of radionuclides in the environment--in particular, issues related to site remediation, site decommissioning, uranium in situ mining, and uranium mill tailings. The meeting focused on how the USGS field and laboratory studies will contribute to the RES program on radionuclide transport in the many different hydrologic and geologic environments typical of licensee sites. Of particular interest are the USGS field and laboratory studies of water and radionuclide transport at arid sites and field testing of surface complexation models of radionuclide sorption. The continued interactions between RES and USGS and their cooperative research efforts will benefit the research programs of both agencies in the areas of geochemistry and hydrogeology.

Steam Generator Cooperative Research

The RES efforts to evaluate steam generator tube integrity and to expand cooperative research efforts with the industry came together during a public meeting held at the Nuclear Energy

Institute (NEI) offices on August 28 and 29. The result of the meeting was agreement in principle on an initial cooperative program addressing the development of realistic sample sets for nondestructive examination (NDE) research and for inspection qualification and cooperation in developing a library of tubes pulled from steam generators.

The meeting was attended by 24 people representing the NRC, NEI, EPRI, DOE, the three PWR vendors and their Owners' groups, five utilities, and ASME. Presentations on the ongoing research programs from each of the major organizations were followed by discussion of areas of mutual interest and potential mechanisms for cooperation. A protocol was agreed upon for conducting cooperative research on developing NDE sample sets and on gathering pulled tubes. This protocol is consistent with the draft umbrella Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between RES and EPRI addressing cooperative research. An interim technical coordination group was formed to develop the details and preliminary work scope for these two areas. In parallel, the staff will work with EPRI to develop language for a program-specific MOU to implement the cooperative program.

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Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data
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Nuclear Emergency Planning Course at Harvard

During the week of August 18-22, an IRD staff member participated as a speaker in the Harvard School of Public Health course entitled "Nuclear Emergency Planning." He was joined by a staff member for Region II for a presentation and discussion of emergency preparedness in severe weather. He also presented a paper on emergency response and the public entitled "How the NRC Interfaces with the Media During Emergencies." Commissioner Dicus was a guest lecturer on emergency planning issues as well, and her remarks were greatly appreciated by all in attendance. The courses were attended by licensees and State and international visitors. The sessions were very well received and there were lively discussions by presenters and students.

Visit to Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant

The Director, IRD, and an IRD staff member visited the Paducah gaseous diffusion plant on August 28-29 to familiarize themselves on the plant layout and key emergency response features in preparation for the Portsmouth exercise on September 12.

Federal Agency Meeting

IRD staff coordinated a senior management meeting on August 27 with EPA, DOE, and NMSS to discuss EPA's role in a major emergency at an NRC-licensed facility which involves chemical as well as radioactive material. The meeting was informative and will lay the groundwork for further discussions of Federal agency roles.

The meeting was extremely useful to NRC insofar as NRC learned about EPA's role under the executive order that identifies EPA as an On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) for any hazardous material release not owned by DOE or DOD. (DOE is the OSC for the two gaseous diffusion plant sites when DOE's material is involved.) The participants at the meeting concluded that EPA Region V will be playing the role of OSC for the Portsmouth exercise on September 12 and will also participate in the decision-making process regarding the level of Federal response for the exercise. It was agreed that the OSC and the NRC site team would arrange to meet near the Portsmouth site to exchange information about the nature of the emergency. Following the Portsmouth exercise, these procedures will be finalized and will be the basis for response to any accident involving a chemical release at an NRC-licensed facility.

Federal Response Plan Support Agency Retreat

On August 21 and 22, 1997, an IRD staff member participated in the annual Federal Response Plan (FRP) Support Agency Retreat at which Federal response planning activities for the coming year were outlined. FEMA is planning to publish a revised FRP by December 1997, following approval of all support agencies, including the NRC. Federal planning for response to terrorism is high on the Federal agenda.

FRPCC PAG Meeting

An AEOD staff member participated in the FRPCC's Subcommittee on Ingestion Protective Action Guides (PAGs) held at and chaired by EPA. The Subcommittee reviewed the draft proposed ingestion PAGs developed by the FDA. The proposed approach in determining the level of contamination in food and the associated intervention action is a major improvement over the existing approach developed in the mid 1980s. The Subcommittee made some recommendations to the draft document which FDA will incorporate in the version that will be published for public comment.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATIONS (PNs)

- a. PNO-I-97-054, Koch Engineering Company, Inc., Tru-Tec Division, (Koch Engineering Co.), SEALED SOURCES AT MEMPHIS FEDERAL EXPRESS
- b. PNO-I-97-055, Defense Logistics Agency, SEVEN, 3 CURIE TRITIUM SOURCES APPARENTLY STOLEN
- c. PNO-I-97-056, Royal Green Metal Recyclers, RUPTURED AMERICIUM SOURCE
- d. PNO-II-97-046, University of Puerto Rico, MEDIA INTEREST IN A RADIOACTIVE SPILL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO'S MEDICAL SCIENCES CAMPUS
- e. PNO-III-97-071, Commonwealth Edison Company, MANAGEMENT CHANGES AND REORGANIZATION
- f. PNO-IV-97-047, Syncor International Corp., FUME HOOD FAILURE
- g. PNO-IV-97-048, Rone Engineers Inc. (Troxler Electronic Labs), POSSESSION OF A STOLEN NUCLEAR MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE BY AN UNLICENSED PERSON
- h. PNO-IV-97-049, San Francisco VA Medical Center, IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF VIAL CONTAINING PHOSPHOROUS-32 ISOTOPE

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Office of Administration
Items of Interest
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Statement of Principles and Policy for the Agreement State Program; Policy Statement on Adequacy and Compatibility of Agreement State Programs

The NRC published a document containing two final policy statements in the Federal Register on September 3, 1997 (62 FR 46517). The two final policy statements are entitled "Statement of principles and Policy for the Agreement State Program" and "Policy Statement on Adequacy and Compatibility of Agreement State Programs." The policy statements became effective September 3, 1997.

GSA Meeting

On September 3, 1997, Chief, Facilities Branch, DFS, attended a meeting of the Real Property Executives Interagency Advisory Group which is co-chaired by the General Services Administration (GSA) and consists of major Government agencies who manage and operate Federal buildings. GSA presented the background of their \$680M shortfall in FY 1997 in the Federal Buildings Fund which uses RENT paid by Government agencies to pay for new building construction and repairs to existing Federal buildings. GSA discovered the shortfall in FY 1996 when they realized that they would not recover enough RENT to cover projects that have been approved by Congress and were in the planning stage at GSA. GSA is currently reevaluating their RENT policy, which, they believe is under current market value and is taking steps to reduce their operating expenses. In FY 1998, for example, GSA will have no funds to perform new construction or major building modernization (this was funded at \$118M in FY 1997) and only \$23M to perform minor building renovations, for example, roof repairs (this was funded at \$79M in FY 1997).

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (GDP) Security Inspection

DFS will complete its first major security inspection for the protection of classified matter at the Portsmouth GDP on September 5, 1997. Three DFS staff members and one from IRM inspected the GDP to assure compliance with NRC security regulations in 10 CFR Part 95 and with the commitments in Portsmouth's approved "Security Plan for the Protection of Classified Matter." An exit briefing is scheduled for September 9, 1997.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
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Notice Signed by CIO

On September 3, 1997, the Chief Information Officer (CIO) approved a notice that proposes to revise Privacy Act System of Records NRC-21, "Payroll Accounting Records--NRC." The revisions will enable NRC to comply with certain provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) which require all Federal agencies to begin transmitting "new hire" and "quarterly wage" information to the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) on October 1, 1997, and January 31, 1998, respectively. The Office of Child Support Enforcement, Department of Health and Human Services is providing technical assistance to all agencies in meeting the NDNH requirements. The proposed revisions to NRC-21 will add three new routine uses permitting NRC to make the disclosures required by the PRWORA, add one new routine use enabling NRC to make disclosures to the National Archives and Records Administration and the General Services Administration for required records management inspections, and update other sections of NRC's Payroll Accounting Privacy Act system of records.

This notice informs the Commission that, in accordance with the authority delegated to the CIO, the CIO has signed this notice and has forwarded it to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Significant FOIA/PA Requests Received during the 5-Day Period of August 29 - September 4, 1997:

Relap Modeling contract, RS-RES-97-046, awarded to Purdue Research Foundation. (FOIA/PA-97-331)

Accountability Report, Fiscal Year 1996. (FOIA/PA-97-332)

LLRW Policy Act and Solid Waste Disposal Act. (FOIA/PA-97-333)

USS Ticonderoga 12/5/65 incident involving a B43 nuclear weapon. (FOIA/PA-97-334)

Walnut Creek Field Office, from 1/1/97 through 9/2/97. (FOIA/PA-97-335)

Vacancy Announcement 9758005, rating and selection process method records. (FOIA/PA-97-336)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
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Review of Region IV's Office of Workers Compensation Program Conducted

On September 3, 1997, Henry Rubin traveled to Arlington, Texas, to conduct a review of Region IV's Office of Workers Compensation Program (OWCP). He met with the Regional Personnel Officer, Karen League, and the Personnel Assistant, Connie Lane, to discuss their current OWCP cases. Mr. Rubin also reviewed their active files to assure the accuracy and validity of the OWCP claims.

Arrivals

ROHRER, Shannon	GRADUATE FELLOW	RII
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Retirements

POTAPOVS, Uldis	SR REACTOR ENGINEER	NRR
SHEEHAN, Margaret	TECHNICAL PUB SPEC	IRM

Departures

LEW, Patricia	GENERAL ENGINEER	RES	
KELLER, Lee	SR RESIDENT INSPECTOR		RIV
RADCLIFFE, William	RADIATION SPEC	RIV	
VANDEBURGH, Chris	ENGINEERING BRANCH CHIEF	RIV	

Office of Enforcement
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Safety-Conscious Work Environment

On September 3, 1997, members of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) met with the Director, Office of Enforcement and NRC staff to discuss the Safety-Conscious Work Environment "Request for public comment," published in the Federal Register on February 26, 1997. The list of attendees is attached. Everyone agreed that safety culture was very important in maintaining safety at Nuclear Power Plants. NEI discussed steps that NEI and INPO were taking to address safety culture issues. NEI uses the term "safety culture," which includes the NRC staff's term "Safety-Conscious Work Environment."

The NEI members stated that the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of nuclear utilities believe that the Commission has more than adequate authority to enforce the Commission's regulations to ensure that the expectations in the 1996 Policy Statement, "Freedom of Employees in the Nuclear Industry to Raise Safety Concerns Without Fear of Retaliation," are met. The CEOs also have a lack of confidence that the safety culture can be measured objectively. In addition, NEI and the staff discussed the dual track nature of discrimination complaints raised to both the Department of Labor and to the NRC. NEI requested further discussion on this dual track issue.

Office of Public Affairs
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Media Interest

There was press interest in the Commission's decision to remand one issue involving Louisiana Energy Services' proposed enrichment facility back to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

Press Releases

Headquarters:

97-127 NRC to Close California Field Office in 1998

Regions:

I-97-114 NRC Accepting Comment on Haddam Neck Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report

I-97-115 NRC Staff, Consolidated Edison Company of New York to Discuss Apparent Violations at Indian Point 2 Plant

II-97-63 NRC Staff Proposes \$55,000 Fine Against Surry Nuclear Power Plant

III-97-79 NRC Staff Proposes \$330,000 Fine Against Commonwealth Edison for Violations of NRC Requirements at Zion Nuclear Station

III-97-80 NRC Staff Proposes \$2,500 Fine Against H. H. Holmes Testing Laboratories, Inc. for a Radiation Safety Violation

III-97-81 NRC Names New Resident Inspectors at Dresden Nuclear Power Plant

III-97-82 NRC to Hold Predecisional Enforcement Conference With Commonwealth Edison on Apparent Violations at Byron and Braidwood Stations

Office of International Programs
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South Africa

During the period August 28 - September 3, 1997, Dr. Gordon Sibiyi, Deputy Director for Energy, Ministry of Minerals and Energy of South Africa, held discussions with the Commissioners and senior staff on a wide range of nuclear safety governance topics. South Africa is in the process of revising its Atomic Energy Act, Nuclear Safety Act, and developing a new Waste Management Act, and Dr. Sibiyi sought information on the U.S. approach to these subjects. His interest included NRC authorities and responsibilities and the associated legal mandates.

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Office of the Secretary
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Decision Documents Released to the Public

<u>Document</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
<u>COMSECY</u>		
COMSAJ- 97- 008	July 9, 1997	Discussion on Safety and Compliance
- SRM on COMSAJ- 97- 008	August 25, 1997	(same)
Comr. Discus vote on 97-008	July 25, 1997	(same)
Comr. Diaz memo on 97-008	July 18, 1997	(same)
Comr. McGaffigan memo on 97-008	July 30, 1997	(same)

Commission Correspondence Released to the Public

1. Letter to David W. Joos, Consumer Energy Company, dtd 8/28/97 concerns the August 29, 1997 Big Rock Point shutdown celebration
2. Letter to Randall O. Taylor, Nuclear Information and Records Management Association, Inc., dtd 8/25/97 concerns his interest in the International Nuclear Regulators Association
3. Letter to Joe F. Colvin, NEI, dtd 8/23/97 concerns pilot projects

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes: Meeting Notice for September 25-26, 1997
2. 10 CFR Part 9; Electronic Freedom of Information Act: Implementation; Proposed Rule
3. Applications for Licenses to Import/Export Nuclear Waste
4. 10 CFR Part 50; Financial Assurance Requirements for Decommissioning Nuclear Power Plants; Proposed Rule

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Region I
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Defense Logistics Agency/Defense Distribution Region East

On Thursday, August 28, representatives of the Defense Logistics Agency Defense Distribution Region East (DLA/DDRE), License No. 37-30062-01, reported that seven 3 curie tritium light sources were missing and believed stolen from the Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. The sources were removed from M139 and M139 and M140 gunsight alignment devices by slicing the silicon gaskets which held the sources in the devices. No contamination was identified in the source holders or on the devices. On Wednesday, September 3 during a followup inspection at Letterkenny Army Depot, an individual admitted taking the sources for use as supplemental outdoor lighting at the individual's home. The individual stated that one source was broken and had been disposed of in the normal trash. Survey's at the individual's home indicated a small amount of removable contamination (much less than the NRC's guidelines for release for unrestricted use). Based on this fact and the fact that the source contained gaseous tritium, the disposal to the normal trash did not constitute a significant safety concern. DLA/DDRE personnel retrieved the remaining six sources and are surveying and sampling the individual's home and yard. Region I will continue to review the licensee's ongoing activities related to this event.

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Region II
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Carolina Power and Light Company's Brunswick

Representatives from the Carolina Power and Light Company's Brunswick Plant were in Region II for a management meeting on September 4, 1997. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the following issues: Status of the Brunswick Environmental Qualification Program Reconstitution Effort, Brunswick Control Building Ventilation System Upgrade, Brunswick Unit 2 Outage Progress, Brunswick Generic Letter 96-01 Review Status, and Recent Management Changes at Brunswick.

Marshall, Miller & Associates Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL)

The Region issued a Confirmatory Action Letter on September 5, 1997, documenting the licensee's commitments to limit licensed activities to two loggers until other loggers were requalified and the requalification is reviewed with the NRC. The CAL was issued as a result of inspection findings that certain staff were not adequately qualified. The inspection reviewed the circumstances surrounding an event in which a 125 millicurie cesium-137 source became dislodged from its holder and was placed, unshielded in a tool box, where it remained for several days.

General Electric Elevated Stack Sample

On September 5, 1997, the licensee reported an unexpected elevated air sample taken from the stack of the Hydrogen Fluoride Building exhaust stack. This building receives input from the Dry Conversion Facility (DCF); line 1 of the DCF was starting up at the time after a maintenance outage. The offsite dose from the release was approximately 0.05 millirem at the site boundary. The DCF activities were shutdown until the licensee determines root cause and implements corrective actions, including evaluation and addition of nuclear criticality controls.

Region III
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Management Changes At Commonwealth Edison Company

On September 3, 1997, Commonwealth Edison announced a series of management changes and restructuring of its nuclear division organization. The principal changes include: Harry Keiser, vice president and chief nuclear operating officer, has resigned and will become a consultant to the utility; John Mueller, site vice president at Zion, has resigned; and Jack Brons, currently nuclear support vice president, will be the acting site vice president at Zion.

Two group vice presidents were named -- Gene Stanley, currently site vice president at Braidwood, will be the PWR vice president, and Edward Kraft, currently site vice president at Quad Cities will be the BWR vice president.

Michael Wallace, currently senior vice president for corporate services, will become Nuclear Division senior vice president, responsible for engineering, corporate and generation support, security, and change management. Messrs. Stanley, Kraft, and Wallace will report to Robert Manning, executive vice president of generation.

The new site vice presidents at Braidwood and Quad Cities were the former plant managers, Timothy Tulon at Braidwood and William Pearce at Quad Cities.

Management Change At Illinois Power Company

Illinois Power Company announced the following management change involving the Clinton Nuclear Power Station: Mr. D. Thompson, engineering manager at Clinton, has left that position to accept a position as plant manager at two of Illinois Power's fossil fuel electrical generating stations. Mr. L. Wigley, Thompson's assistant, is currently the acting engineering manager pending identification of a permanent replacement.

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with PSI

On September 4, 1997, a Predecisional Enforcement Conference was conducted in the Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between representatives of PSI, Lombard, Illinois, and members of the Region III staff. The conference was held to discuss the findings from a routine safety inspection conducted on July 18 and 19, 1997, at the company's Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania facility and a New Palastine, Ohio, temporary jobsite, and which identified numerous apparent violations. The apparent violations

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that were discussed included the failure of radiographers, on several occasions, to properly supervise radiographic personnel and the failure to issue personnel dosimetry to a radiography trainee who engaged in radiographic operations.

Commonwealth Edison Engineering Management Meeting

On September 5, 1997, a management meeting was conducted in the Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between management representatives from Commonwealth Edison Company and members of the NRC staff to discuss engineering issues. The issues discussed included: the utility's Parts Replacement Program; LaSalle and Zion Nuclear Power Station restart engineering activities; and new utility engineering initiatives for 1998.

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Region IV
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Palo Verde Management Meeting held in Region IV

Palo Verde senior management met with Region IV senior managers and other NRC personnel at the Region IV office in Arlington, Texas on September 2, 1997. The meeting, which was open to the public, was held to discuss self assessments that have been performed by the licensee and other initiatives that have been implemented to improve performance. Specific points of emphasis addressed during the meeting included health physics performance initiatives, the implementation of shift supervisor mini-assessments, the transition to the site crew concept, and the results of the licensee's Plant Assessment Team review.

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 Items of Interest
 Week Ending September 5, 1997

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, <u>No. 30</u>					
OCA CONTACT	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	09/10 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Employment Discrimination in the Federal Workplace	Reps. Mi ca/Cummi ngs Civil Service Government Reform & Oversight
Gerke	09/12 342 DS0B	10:00	TBA	S. 981, Revise Federal Rule-Making Procedures	Sen. Thompson/Glenn Governmental Affairs
Combs	09/18 406 DS0B	TBA	Markup	S. 8, Superfund Reauthorizati on	Sen. Chafee/Baucus Environment & Public Works
Gerke	09/19 342 DS0B	10:00	TBA	S. 981, Revise Federal Rule-Making Procedures	Sen. Thompson/Glenn Governmental Affairs

SEPTEMBER 5, 1997

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