

February 6, 1998

For: The Commissioners  
 From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
 Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING JANUARY 30, 1998

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James L. Blaha  
 Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending January 30, 1998

**Salem**

Operational Status - Salem Unit 2 is operating at 100% power. The licensee has noted an increasing trend in the seat leakage through the primary safety valves. Because of the leakage, the pressure relief tank (PRT) temperature and pressure needs to be reduced each operating shift. If current trends continue, the licensee believes that leakage into the PRT will reach 1.5 gpm in April or May 1998. Plans are underway for a possible maintenance shutdown to replace the safety valves.

Salem Unit 1 is currently in cold shutdown (Mode 5). The licensee is proceeding on a schedule to enter Mode 4 in early February 1998, with restart

estimated in March 1998. The NRC Readiness Assessment Team Inspection has been set for the weeks of February 9 and 16, 1998.

There are approximately 24 technical and 8 programmatic items that need to be closed before the unit can restart. However, Region I is reviewing the documentation to close those items needed prior to Mode 4 by February 1, 1998.

Salem Assessment Panel - The Salem Assessment Panel (SAP) is scheduled to meet on January 30, 1998, to discuss Unit 1 readiness for Mode 4.

Licensing Actions - On December 12, 1997, the licensee submitted an application for a one-time amendment to allow containment purging during the Unit 1 heatup in Modes 3 and 4. Although most of the insulation was pre-baked, the licensee expects offgassing of the insulation will impede personnel taking dimensional measurements of the new steam generators unless purging occurs. The amendment and supporting safety evaluation are in staff concurrence. There are no other licensing amendments that are needed before the scheduled restart of Unit 1.

### **Quad Cities, Units 1 and 2**

The licensee had concluded that the safe shutdown procedures were not consistent with the plant Safe Shutdown Analysis (SSA) on September 26, 1997, and has subsequently shutdown Units 1 and 2. Their review concluded that this inconsistency adversely affected the ability to achieve safe shutdown conditions in the event of a fire. On January 16, 1998, the staff issued a Confirmatory Action Letter to Quad Cities to confirm the actions ComEd will take to resolve 10 CFR 50, Appendix R safe shutdown issues.

The following actions were being taken by ComEd:

- 1) The SSA will be revised, reviewed, validated, and approved to assure that a fire in any plant area will not prevent the performance of necessary post-fire safe shutdown functions, and that these required functions will remain free of fire damage.
- 2) Safe shutdown procedures will be revised, reviewed, validated, and approved to implement the revised SSA. Operators and other required personnel will be trained in the use of the procedures.
- 3) 10 CFR 50, Appendix R discrepancies that could affect the ability of the plant to be safely shut down in the event of a fire will be identified prior to restarting the Quad Cities Units. In addition, all discrepancies will be resolved to ensure Appendix R compliance. If areas of the plant will not be in compliance with 10 CFR 50, Appendix R, appropriate compensatory measures will be identified and implemented, and a plan and schedule for achieving compliance for each identified discrepancy will be provided to the NRC.
- 4) A project plan and schedule to accomplish items 1) and 3) was submitted to the NRC on January 23, 1998.

Should the revised SSA result in a change to the basis for a previously approved exemption from 10 CFR 50, Appendix R, or create an unreviewed safety question, those issues will be submitted to the staff for review and approval. ComEd will meet with the NRC to discuss resolution of all of the issues prior to restarting the units. An initial meeting has been established for February 6, 1998, to meet with ComEd at Region III to discuss current progress. ComEd projects plant startup mid to late May 1998.

### **WNP-2**

The plant is currently operating at 100% power with no significant LCOs.

At the Hanford Reservation on January 28, at 1521 PST, the Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office declared an "Alert" due to the discovery of a hazardous material in the 300 Area. This location is about 7 miles from the WNP-2 site. An "Alert" is the lowest of three classification levels for emergencies at Hanford.

The hazardous material found was a small bottle of picric acid (approximately 3 oz.), found in the crawlspace below a spent fuel pool. The material was found in a powder form which is highly toxic and highly explosive. The material is explosive at temperatures above 300F and from percussion. Located next to the bottle of acid was found a large bottle of unknown liquid. If the picric acid had detonated, a predicted blast radius of 5 feet would have enveloped the bottle of liquid and potentially exacerbated the situation. Although the possibility appeared to be low, DOE did not rule out the potential for loss of integrity of the spent fuel pool liner. This potential consequence drove the declaration of the emergency. DOE representatives indicated that drainage of the pool would lead to a maximum of 100 mrad/hr at the Area boundary. A bomb squad was called in to remove the material.

Based upon the "Alert" declaration at the 300 Area, the DOE's emergency response plan automatically directed the evacuation of the Columbia river. An evacuation was required regardless of the hazard involved. Public and media interest was expected.

The resident inspector followed the event. NRR management and the operations center were informed after the alert was declared.

### **Meeting w/ Florida Power Corporation (FPC) on Offsite Power/ Grid Reliability**

On January 22, 1998, the Electrical Engineering Branch, NRR, Region II and Oak Ridge National Laboratory staff met with Florida Power Corporation (FPC) representatives to discuss offsite power issues at the FPC Energy Control Center in St. Petersburg, FL.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with the licensee existing grid operation and future grid procedure changes anticipated due to the impact of deregulation on the Florida Reliability Coordinating Council (FRCC) operation as well as any future operation under the independent system operator (ISO) concept. The meeting focused on offsite power requirements for the Crystal River Energy Complex, Unit 3. In addition, the attendees discussed how recent electrical power industry changes due to deregulatory forces may change the reliability of the power system grid.

The following points were noted during the subject meeting:

- FRCC has a 3600 MW import capability into the state. The Florida electric utilities pool their operating reserves on a voluntary basis and the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) security coordinator function for FRCC is operated by the Florida Power and Light Company. It appears that in the event of significant loss of import power, Florida electric utilities will control frequency and voltage by separating from the Eastern Interconnection power grid and shedding customer loads in order to compensate for the loss of power.
- FPC utilizes a computer simulator to train their operators to manage their transmission facilities. FPC is involved in the development of the NERC training certification program for transmission system (grid) operators.
- FPC does not expect any significant restructuring changes for state transmission or generating facilities due to deregulation in the immediate future.

### **Management Changes**

On January 26, 1998, PECO Energy Company's board of directors elected James D. von Suskil, of West Chester, Vice President, Limerick Generating Station. He replaces Walter G. MacFarland, who was named Chief Nuclear Officer at Clinton Power Station in Clinton, Illinois, under an agreement with Illinois Power Company to provide management services for the plant.

In 1996, von Suskil, 51, became the maintenance planning manager at Limerick. Von Suskil has been Director of Engineering at Limerick since April 1997. He served 27 years on active duty in the nuclear submarine force before coming to PECO Energy as assistant outage manager at Peach Bottom and Limerick in 1995.

PECO Energy has announced organization changes resulting from its management contract for the Clinton site. George Hunger, Corporate Director of Licensing, will join the PECO Energy management team at Clinton. Garrett Edwards, currently Peach Bottom Plant Manager, will assume Hunger's old position, and will function as Chairman of the Nuclear Review Board. Mark Warner will become the new Plant Manager, moving from his current position as Site Director of Engineering. Gordon Johnson, currently Limerick Maintenance Director, will transfer to the Peach Bottom Site Director of Engineering. These changes will become effective over the next several weeks.

On January 22, 1998, the licensee announced that Mr. W. Scott Oxenford will become the WNP-2 Operations Manager to be effective on March 2. He is replacing Matthew Monopoli who is on an 18 month assignment with INPO. Mr. Oxenford previously held positions of Operations Engineer, Shift Technical Advisor, Operations Unit Coordinator, and Shift Supervisor at PECO Energy. More recently, he held the position of Outage Work Control Supervisor at WNP-2. He has a BS EE and also held an SRO license.

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ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 30, 1998

### **Meeting with General Electric**

On January 21, 1998, representatives of General Electric (GE) met with Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Division of Waste Management, and Division of Nuclear Material Safety (Region II) to present the licensee's plans for reducing waste volumes and material inventories at GE's nuclear fuel fabrication facility in Wilmington, North Carolina. During GE's Licensee Performance review in October 1997, NRC expressed concerns about accumulation of waste and low-enriched special nuclear material at the Wilmington site. NRC identified the timely disposition of solid waste as a challenge for the facility due, in part, to the limited access to waste disposal sites for licensees in the State of North Carolina. During the meeting, GE representatives emphasized the significant reduction in waste generation rates expected by replacing the ammonium diuranate conversion process with the new dry conversion process (DCP). GE expects to have all of the DCP lines operational by March 1998. GE representatives also outlined plans for reducing existing wastes and nuclear material inventories, including a variety of on-site and off-site treatment and disposal options. GE plans to substantially reduce the inventories of material and waste stored onsite during the next two years. Based on the licensee's presentation, the NRC staff observed that GE is taking responsible action to contain any environmental risks associated with the material while in storage and had a reasonable plan for reducing waste and material inventories.

### **Inspection at Amersham**

Currently staff from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety is leading a special team inspection of the failures occurring with the drive cable on the Amersham 660 radiography camera. As part of this inspection, during January 22-23, 1998, the team along with representatives from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts visited the Amersham production facility in Burlington, Massachusetts. The inspection was a cooperative effort between the NRC and the Commonwealth, with the Massachusetts staff leading this component of the inspection. The inspection followed an agreed upon plan and focused upon Amersham's ongoing analyses of the failures as well as a review of pertinent records, production processes and discussions with Amersham engineers and management. The report of this inspection will be a component of the comprehensive report to be prepared by the inspection team. The special inspection will also involve close interaction with radiological safety personnel from the states of Louisiana and Texas as the full scope of the issue is investigated.

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Meeting to Discuss Groundwater Corrective Action Program at Church Rock Site**

On January 22, 1998, staff from the Uranium Recovery Branch met with personnel from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the New Mexico Environment Department, and the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to review and discuss the EPA's draft Five-Year Review Report evaluating the results of United Nuclear Corporation's (UNC's) groundwater corrective action program (CAP) at its Church Rock, New Mexico, uranium mill tailings site. The Church Rock site, which is licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, is also a "Superfund" site subject to regulation by the EPA. Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NRC and the EPA, the NRC is the lead Federal Agency for licensing within the site boundaries, including remedial actions affecting groundwater. The MOU requires the NRC to seek agreement with the EPA prior to any license amendments which affect groundwater.

The conclusions of the EPA's draft report were agreed upon by the participants at the meeting. These were (1) that the present CAP has not resulted in a substantial trend toward meeting the cleanup levels in the license for most constituents; and (2) that revisions to the CAP, revisions to background concentrations specified in the license, and establishment of alternate concentration limits for certain constituents would be appropriate. The EPA will proceed to issue the Five-Year Review for public comment, and make revisions to its Record of Decision (ROD) for Church Rock. The NRC will then be able to process some of UNC's pending amendment requests to modify the CAP. The present EPA schedule is to complete revisions to the ROD by September 30, 1998.

#### **Visit to FlawTech in Harrisburg, North Carolina**

On January 22, 1998, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) visited FlawTech in Harrisburg, North Carolina, to become more familiar with the methods for inserting flaws into metallic component specimens. FlawTech is currently under contract to Consumers Energy to implant flaws into the Palisades VSC-24 dry fuel storage mock-up. Once the flaws are implanted, the mock-up will be shipped to Arkansas Nuclear One, where it will be used to evaluate the feasibility of performing ultrasonic examinations (UT) on the structural lid closure weld. Representatives of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Non-Destructive Examination (NDE) Center were present at the request of the VSC-24 Owner's Group utilities (Consumers Energy, Entergy, and Wisconsin Electric) to monitor the flaw insertion process. The EPRI NDE Center will also be used to aid procedure development for proposed VSC-24 UT examinations.

#### **TN-68 Spent Fuel Dry Storage Cask Application**

On January 23, 1998, Transnuclear, Inc. (TN) submitted an application, in accordance with 10 CFR Part 72, requesting a Certificate of Compliance (COC) for the TN-68 cask. The TN-68, a new cask, is similar to the TN-32 cask, except that it is designed to store up to 68 BWR spent fuel assemblies. TN is under contract to PECO Energy Company to supply TN-68 casks for the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station which has a projected date of July 2000 for loss of full core discharge capability. The TN-68 cask procurement/fabrication process may take almost two years. Therefore, TN also submitted an exemption request to start fabrication before a COC is issued so that TN-68 casks will be available for use at Peach Bottom by July 2000.

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ENCLOSURE C

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 30, 1998

#### **Hurricane Storm Surge Flood Levels**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) calculations of hurricane storm surge flood levels along the coast of the southeastern United States, conducted for the Federal Emergency Management Administration, raised concerns that the design basis flood levels assumed for the design of nuclear power plants might not be conservative. For example, using the NOAA results from their 1992 calculations, the storm surge flood level in the vicinity of the Brunswick nuclear power plant would be estimated to reach 28.4 feet, 6.4 feet above the plant's design basis flood level; thus, safety-related equipment could be challenged. Because of the potential generic implication of the NOAA estimates on operating coastal plant sites, RES initiated a project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory (C&HL) to independently evaluate the NOAA model. C&HL developed a model subsequent to the development of the NOAA model. The NOAA model is two-dimensional and used generic site parameters while the C&HL model is three-dimensional, used site-specific data, and had a more precise bathymetry (measurement of depth of water); the C&HL model is therefore more precise. In the initial phase of this RES-sponsored review, C&HL used their model to evaluate the potential hurricane storm surge flood levels at the Brunswick nuclear power plant site. The results showed that the NOAA flood level calculations were overly conservative and that the design basis flood level at the Brunswick site is adequate. The C&HL is now working on evaluations of flood levels in the vicinity of the Turkey Point and Crystal River nuclear power plant sites. Based on the results of the first site evaluated, this research has the potential to provide the technical bases for continued acceptance of the current licensing position for evaluating hurricane storm surge flood levels at coastal nuclear power plant sites and for acceptance of the C&HL as an alternative methodology.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 30, 1998

#### **CAMEO Presentation**

AEOD and NMSS staff sponsored a two-day training session on CAMEO for NRC responders to chemical emergencies at NRC licensed sites. The training was presented by Mark Miller from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) HAZMAT located in Seattle, Washington. The CAMEO system includes ALOHA (a chemical dispersion code), a chemical data base, MARPLOT (a geographical model), and a map display application. The training included a 4-hour executive overview, and a day and a half of hands-on training. The participants' response was very positive. This training will assist NMSS and AEOD to decide the level of usefulness of these tools in the NRC's Operations Center.

#### **PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATIONS**

1. PNO-II-98-003, Florida Power Corporation (Crystal River 3), CRYSTAL RIVER 3 BEGINS PLANT HEATUP
2. PNO-III-98-009, Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. (Perry 1), LIQUID REFRIGERANT SPILL IN OFF-GAS BUILDING
3. PNO-III-98-10, Miami Valley Hospital, RECEIPT OF PACKAGE WITH RADIATION LEVEL EXCEEDING DOT LIMIT
4. PNO-III-98-011, Northern States Power Co. (Prairie Island 2), UNIT 2 SHUTDOWN TO REPAIR PRIMARY SYSTEM LEAK
5. PNO-III-98-012, Allied-Signal, Inc., AIT TO REVIEW SMALL URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE RELEASE WITH MINOR INJURIES TO THREE WORKERS
6. PNO-IV-98-003, Memorial Medical Center, HIGH DOSE RATE BRACHYTHERAPY MISADMINISTRATION
7. PNO-IV-98-004, Terracon Consultants, THEFT OF PORTABLE MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE
8. PNO-IV-98-005, Aar Testing Labs, THEFT OF PORTABLE MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE
9. PNO-IV-98-006, Arizona Public Service Co. (Palo Verde 2), SPILL OF SULFURIC ACID IN THE OUTSIDE THE UNIT 2 TURBINE BUILDING
10. PNO-IV-98-007, N D C Systems, Inc., AMERICIUM-241 CONTAMINATION EVENT

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ENCLOSURE F

Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 30, 1998

#### **U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC)**

DFS staff met with NMSS, DOE, and others at DOE Germantown on January 28, 1998, to discuss the schedule for USEC's Privatization and the process by which Foreign Ownership, Control or Influence determinations will be made on prospective bidders of USEC.

DFS staff is currently coordinating with NMSS on a Commission paper that will inform the Commission of USEC's schedule for privatization and the related actions and responsibilities of the NRC staff and the Commission.

#### **Transfer of Rulemaking Function**

DAS staff met with NMSS staff who will be responsible for a significant number of rulemakings as a result of the transfer of the rulemaking function to the program offices. The discussion concerned the development of a uniform process for managing NMSS rulemaking activities and coordinating ADM's role in the process to the best advantage for both offices.

#### **Industry Codes and Standards; Amended Requirements, Extension of Comment Period (Part 50)**

A document that extends the comment period for a proposed rule that would amend the regulations to incorporate by reference later editions and addenda of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code was published in the Federal Register on January 26, 1998 (63 FR 3673). The proposed rule would revise the requirements applicable to construction, in service inspection, and in service testing of nuclear power plant components. The comment period for the proposed rule now closes April 3, 1998.

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ENCLOSURE G

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 30, 1998

#### **Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests Received during the 5-Day Period of January 23, 1998 - January 29, 1998:**

Medical adverse reactions to drug Isovue.	(FOIA/PA-98-030)
Florida Power & Light Company plants, licenses and amendments for St. Lucie and Turkey Point.	(FOIA/PA-98-031)
Millstone plant, 1992 through 1996 records produced by named law firms and NRC related documents.	(FOIA/PA-98-032)
Stepan Chemical Co., License # STC-1333, located in New Jersey.	(FOIA/PA-98-033)
Privacy Request, access to EEO records.	(FOIA/PA-98-034)
Performance appraisal, NRC statistics for 1991 through 1997.	(FOIA/PA-98-035)
Novacore Chemicals, Inc., OI report 1-96-030.	(FOIA/PA-98-036)
NUDOCS, contract NRC-33-93-201.	(FOIA/PA-98-037)
Privacy Request, access to personnel records.	(FOIA/PA-98-038)
Limited liability filings.	(FOIA/PA-98-039)
Licensed reactor operator listing by site on disk.	(FOIA/PA-98-040)
MLTS database on disk.	(FOIA/PA-98-041)
B&W Apollo site, enriched uranium, non-public documents.	(FOIA/PA-98-042)
BRK Electronics, Aurora, IL license.	(FOIA/PA-98-043)
OIG file re 1986 alleged harassment involving requestor.	(FOIA/PA-98-044)
Steam generator tube integrity, 9/19/97 letter regarding DPO to ACRS.	(FOIA/PA-98-045)
Circumferential crack leakage memo, technical branch to ACRS.	(FOIA/PA-98-046)

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Human Resources  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending January 30, 1998

**Arrivals**

WHITE, Darrell	Investigator	OI/RII
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**Retirements**

ARON, Joan	Emergency Response Coordinator	AEOD
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**Departures**

None

ENCLOSURE M

Office of Public Affairs  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending January 30, 1998

**Media Interest**

There was considerable press interest in the Notice of Violation for Three Mile Island.

The Providence Journal is publishing a background story on Millstone

**School Volunteers Program**

Rockview E.S. hosted a career day, and Charlotte Abrams and Michael Adjodha, NMSS, and Sandy Vora, OGC, participated. Jesse Arildsen and David Desaulnier, NRR, and Charlotte Abrams judged a science fair at Rockwell E.S.

**Press Releases**

**Headquarters:**

98-15	NRC Staff Schedules Two-Day Conference to Discuss Regulatory Issues With Nuclear Industry
98-16	NRC Seeks Information on 'Year 2000' Readiness of Nuclear Power Plant Computer Systems; Asks Public Comment on Proposed Letter to Licensees

98-17	NRC Schedules Fourth Workshop on Demonstrating Compliance With Cleanup Criteria
98-18	Note to Editors: FY 1999 Budget Briefing February 2
98-19	Note to Editors: ACRS meeting February 18
98-20	Note to Editors: ACRS meeting February 19-20
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-98-9	NRC Staff Rates Seabrook "Good" in Operations, Maintenance and Engineering and "Superior" in Plant Support
I-98-10	NRC Chairman to Tour Millstone Units on February 2; Will Hold Press Conference, Public Meeting
I-98-11	NRC Issues Notice of Violation But No Civil Penalty to TMI
II-98-5	NRC Regional Administrator Authorizes Restart of Crystal River Nuclear Power Plant
III-98-10	NRC Staff Dispatches Augmented Inspection Team to Review Small Uranium Hexafluoride Release at Metropolis Plant

ENCLOSURE N

Office of International Programs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 30, 1998

**Visit of Dr. Jean-Francois Lacronique, Chairman of the French Office for Protection Against Ionizing Radiation (OPRI)**

Dr. Jean-Francois Lacronique, Chairman of the French Office for Protection Against Ionizing Radiation (OPRI), met with Commissioners Dicus and McGaffigan, and C. Paperiello and D. Cool, NMSS, on January 29. Dr. Lacronique was only recently appointed to his position and wished to introduce himself and his organization to NRC. Discussions covered health effects of low level radiation, radiation limits for decommissioning and emergency response .

**Visit of Mr. Gerald E. Clark, Secretary-General, Uranium Institute**

Gerald E. Clark, Secretary-General, Uranium Institute, met with Chairman Jackson on January 26, 1998. The purpose of his visit was to discuss the role of nuclear power in a sustainable economy, nuclear energy and global warming, and INRA activities in the international fuel cycle.

**OECD/International Energy Agency (IEA)**

A seven-member team from the OECD/International Energy Agency (IEA) met with NRC senior staff on January 28, 1998. The purpose of their visit is to gather information for the IEA review country report on U.S. Energy Policies and Programs. Among the issues discussed were treatment of nuclear stranded costs in restructured power markets, impacts of restructuring on nuclear plant safety, and certification of advanced nuclear power plants with enhanced safety features. NRC staff briefed the IEA team on design certification, NRC concerns with utility deregulation, and license renewal procedures. The group is reviewing U.S. energy policies and programs and will be visiting Federal and State Government agencies concerned with electric power generation, as well as utilities and consumer organizations. The IEA review takes place every four years and culminates in a published report.

ENCLOSURE O

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 30, 1998

	Document	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents Released to the Public</b>			
1.	SECY-97-275	11/28/97	Guidelines for Providing Assistance to Agreement States and Alternatives for Training
	SRM on 97-275	1/16/98	(same)
	Commission Voting Record on 97-275	1/16/98	(same)
2.	SECY-97-260	11/4/97	Resolution of Public Comments in Response to Request for Public Comments in the Federal Register Notice, "Safety Conscious Work Environment"

	SRM on 97-260	1/22/98	(same)
	Commission Voting Record on 97-260	1/22/98	(same)
3.	COMSECY-97-033	12/1/97	Draft Press Release and Federal Register Notice to Solicit Qualified Candidates for the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
	SRM on 97-033	1/22/98	(same)
	Chrm. Jackson vote on 97-033	12/18/97	(same)
	Comm. Dicus vote on 97-033	12/16/97	(same)
	Comm. Diaz vote on 97-033	12/11/97	(same)
	Comm. McGaffigan vote on 97-033	12/11/97	(same)
4.	SECY-97-244	10/21/97	Waste Classification of the Trojan Reactor Vessel
	SRM on 97-244	1/22/98	(same)
	Comm. Voting Record on 97-244	1/22/98	(same)

#### Negative Consent Documents Released to the Public

1.	SECY-97-293	12/18/97	Walnut Creek Field Office (WCFO) Closure Plan
	SRM on 97-293	1/27/98	(same)
	Comm. Voting Record on 97-293	1/27/98	(same)
2.	Chrm.. Jackson comments on SECY-97-168	10/27/97	Issuance for Public Comment of Proposed Rulemaking Package for Shutdown and Fuel Storage Pool Operation
	Chrm.. Jackson comments on 97-168	10/10/97	(same)
	Chrm.. Jackson comments on 97-168	8/8/97	(same)
	Comm. Dicus comments on 97-168	10/31/97	(same)
	Comm. Dicus comments on 97-168	10/14/97	(same)
	Comm. Dicus comments on 97-168	8/13/97	(same)
	Comm. Diaz comments on 97-168	10/2/97	(same)
	Comm. McGaffigan comments on 97-168	10/7/97	(same)

#### Information Papers Released to the Public

1.	SECY-98-008	1/15/98	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 9, 1998
2.	SECY-98-009	1/22/98	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending January 16, 1998
3.	SECY-98-012	1/23/98	Quarterly Status Report on the Probabilistic Risk Assessment Implementation Plan

#### Commission Correspondence Released to the Public

1. Letter to Mr. Huang Qitao, Chinese National Nuclear Safety Administration, dtd 1/22/98, concerns the NRC-NNSA Protocol on Cooperation on Nuclear Safety Matters.



2. Letter to Dr. Graham Wallis, dtd 1/20/98, offers an appointment to a term on the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards.
3. Letter to Senator Harry Reid, dtd 1/16/98, concerns the proposed remediation of residual uranium tailings produced by Atlas Minerals.
4. Letter to Dr. John Kitzhaber, Governor of Oregon, dtd 1/15/98, concerns a request to relinquish Oregon's authority to evaluate and approve sealed source and device applications.
5. Letter to Congress, dtd 1/15/98, provides the report on the administration of the Freedom of Information Act for the first three quarters of calendar year 1997.
6. Letter to Mr. Robert Quillin, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Organization of Agreement States, dtd 1/12/98, concerns issues and problems before the Agreement States.

#### **Federal Register Notices Issued**

1. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes; Subcommittee Meeting Notice for February 12 and 13, 1998.
2. 10 CFR Part 2; Procedures Applicable to Proceedings for the Issuance of Licenses for the Receipt of High-Level Radioactive Waste at a Geologic Repository; Extension of Comment Period to March 30, 1998.
3. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting on February 24-26, 1998.
4. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic and Severe-Accident Phenomena; Notice of Meeting on February 18, 1998.
5. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment; Notice of Meeting on February 19 and 20, 1998.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 30, 1998

#### **Maine Yankee Management Meeting**

Region I management and staff met with representatives from Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company in the Region I office on January 28, 1998. The purpose of the meeting, also attended by representatives from NRR, was to discuss the licensee's approach to the upcoming decontamination of the reactor system, the design for the spent fuel island concept and the use of 10 CFR 50.59 for system safety re-classification at Maine Yankee. The meeting, which was open to the public, provided useful dialog to enable the staff to better understand licensee planned actions and their basis for the Maine Yankee plant.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 30, 1998

#### **Commissioner Dicus Visits Florida Plants**

On January 27 and 28, 1998, Commissioner Dicus accompanied by the Regional Administrator, visited the Crystal River and St. Lucie facilities. The visits included tours of the facilities and discussions with senior plant management on issues related to performance and NRC regulation.

#### **Operator Licensing and Human Performance Workshop**

On January 27-29, 1998, Region II held a workshop with licensee operator examiners to provide licensees with a better understanding of what the NRC expects for examinations prepared by Utilities under the pilot program. The workshop also served to provide NRC with feedback on problems licensees are having with NRC's approach to the operator licensing examination process.

#### **Tennessee Valley Authority - Watts Bar**

On January 29, 1998, the Regional Administrator presented results of the Watts Bar facility Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP). The performance in Maintenance, Engineering and Plant Support was at a Category 1. Operations was a Category 2. Following the SALP presentation, a meeting was held with State and Local officials to discuss activities at the Watts Bar facility.

### **Duke Energy Corporation, Oconee Unit 1**

On January 27, 1998, during preparations for plant startup, the licensee identified a 2 gallons per minute leak from a weld on a Unit 1 pressurizer surge line drain line. The licensee cooled down the plant and cut out a portion of the drain line. A licensee investigation team has been established and includes analyzing the cause of the weld break.

### **General Electric Nuclear Energy**

On January 28, 1998, a small fire occurred in the Fuel Components Operation (FCO) building at the licensee's facility. The FCO does not contain NRC licensed materials and is physically separated by approximately 200 yards from the Fuel Manufacturing Operations (FMO) building. The fire occurred in a small container of zirconium chips and was immediately extinguished. There was no equipment damaged or personnel injuries.

### **Florida Power Corporation - Crystal River 3**

On January 30, 1998, after consultation with NRR and the EDO, the Regional Administrator closed the Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) for Crystal River 3. This action was based on actions by the licensee to address the issues raised in the CAL and upon NRC independent verification of these actions. The plant was in hot standby at that time and subsequently achieved criticality around midnight February 1 and proceeded to Mode 1 a few hours later. An NRC Operational Safety Team Inspection will be on site February 3 to monitor the licensee's power ascension for the reactor. The licensee has committed to consult with the staff before leaving the 50 percent and 90 percent power level plateaus.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region III  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 30, 1998

### **Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Shelwell Services, Inc.**

On January 28, 1998, a telephone Predecisional Enforcement Conference was conducted between management representatives of Shelwell Services, Inc., Hebron, Ohio, and members of the NRC staff. The conference was conducted to discuss the apparent failure by the company to maintain security for a nuclear well logging device while it was stored. Other apparent violations discussed included the Shelwell Radiation Safety Officer's failure to wear a radiation monitoring device while working with nuclear material; the failure to have radiation survey instruments properly calibrated; and the failure to adequately measure radiation doses in unrestricted areas.

### **Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Mallinckrodt Veterinary, Inc.**

On January 27, 1998, a Predecisional Enforcement Conference was conducted between management representatives of Mallinckrodt Veterinary, Inc., Terre Haute, Indiana, and members of the NRC staff. The conference was conducted to discuss the apparent failure by the company to inform the NRC of its decommissioning activities and change of ownership.

### **Point Beach Nuclear Power Station SALP Public Meeting**

On January 28, 1998, the NRC Region III Regional Administrator A. Bill Beach and other members of NRC staff met in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, with representatives of Wisconsin Electric Power Company to review the recently issued Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) for the Point Beach Nuclear Power Station. The Point Beach facility received ratings of "good" in plant operations, maintenance, and plant support and an "acceptable" rating in engineering.

### **Management Meeting with Commonwealth Edison Company - LaSalle Station**

On January 26, 1998, a meeting was conducted in the Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between management representatives from Commonwealth Edison Company and members of the NRC staff. The meeting discussion focused on the status and of the LaSalle Nuclear Power Station's restart plan and the plant performance improvement actions. NRC Regional Administrator A. Bill Beach participated in the meeting.

### **Minnesota Enabling Legislation on Agreement State Status**

On January 29, 1998, NRC Region III staff were informed that the State of Minnesota's Governor Carlson has sent an enabling bill to the legislature regarding Minnesota's intent to be an Agreement State. The bill has a termination date of August 2, 2002.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region IV  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending January 30, 1998

### **Management Meeting - Cooper Nuclear Station**

A management meeting was conducted on January 30, 1998, with representatives of Nebraska Public Power District from Cooper Nuclear Station in the Region IV office in Arlington, Texas. The NRC Regional Administrator, members of the Region IV staff, and representatives of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation attended the meeting. Lessons learned from the recent Design Basis Inspection and an overview of plans for engineering improvement at Cooper were discussed.

ENCLOSURE R

Office of Congressional Affairs  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending January 30, 1998

**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 3**

OCA CONTACT	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	02/04 2172 RHOB	10:00	State, CIA	U.S. - China Nuclear Cooperation	Reps. Gilman/Hamilton International Relations
Combs	02/04 2123 RHOB	10:30	TBA	Status of Superfund Program	Reps. Oxley/Manton Finance & Hazardous Materials Commerce
Gerke	02/04 311 CHOB	2:00	FAA, DOT, GAO	FAA Year 2000 Computer Problems	Reps. Horn/Maloney Govt Mgmt, Info & Technology Gov't Reform & Oversight Reps. Morella/Gordon Technology Science
Madden	02/05 2322 RHOB	10:30	DOE	FY99 DOE Budget	Reps. Schaefer/Hall Energy and Power Commerce
Madden	03/11 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY99 Budget for Office of Nuclear Energy	Reps. McDade/Fazio Energy & Water Appropriations Appropriations
Combs	03/12 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE - OCRWM	FY99 Appropriations for Nuclear Water Management	Reps. McDade/Fazio Energy & Water Appropriations Appropriations
Gerke	04/28 SR-253	9:30	TBA	Year 2000 Computer Problem	Sen. McCain/Hollings Commerce, Science & Transp