

March 5, 1998

SECY 98-041

For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 27,
1998

Contents

Enclosure

| | |
|---|----|
| Nuclear Reactor Regulation | A |
| Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards | B |
| Nuclear Regulatory Research | C* |
| Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data | D |
| General Counsel | E* |
| Administration | F |
| Chief Information Officer | G |
| Chief Financial Officer | H* |
| Human Resources | I |
| Small Business & Civil Rights | J* |
| Enforcement | K* |
| State Programs | L* |
| Public Affairs | M |
| International Programs | N |
| Office of the Secretary | O |
| Region I | P |
| Region II | P |
| Region III | P |
| Region IV | P |
| Executive Director for Operations | Q* |
| Congressional Affairs | R |

*No input this week.

James L. Blaha
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
T. Hiltz, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 1998

Salem, Unit 2

Salem Unit 2 is currently in Mode 5 while completing maintenance and preparations for restart from the forced outage that began on February 11, 1998.

Salem Unit 1 entered Mode 4 on February 18, 1998. The licensee is working on activities to support entering Mode 3 on March 2-4, 1998. There are several hold points during the heatup to establish steam generator chemistry and perform dimensional inspections on the new steam generators. Plant restart is estimated for late March 1998, unless a cooldown is needed for corrective maintenance. The licensee will be securing residual heat removal and aligning the system for emergency core cooling in preparation for increasing reactor coolant system pressure to 1000 psig.

The 2-week NRC Readiness Assessment Team Inspection (RATI) completed their on-site inspection on February 20, 1998. The RATI exit meeting was held on February 27, 1998.

The Salem Assessment Panel will meet on February 27, 1998, to discuss Unit 1 readiness for restart.

Currently, there are no license amendments that are needed before the scheduled restart of Unit 1.

Comanche Peak, Units 1 & 2

While performing a review of surveillance procedures in accordance with NRC Generic Letter 96-01, Texas Utilities Electric (TU Electric) staff determined that the surveillance procedure for Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES) Units 1 and 2, Technical Specification (TS) Surveillance Requirement (SR) 4.8.1.1.2f.4)a) was deficient in that the load shedding of one electrical bus on each unit had not previously been tested. The surveillance requires that upon a loss-of-offsite power, the emergency busses de-energize and load shedding occurs. The current licensee surveillance procedure for the train B diesel generator (DG) does not require confirmation that bus XEB4-3 load sheds for Units 1 and 2, respectively.

By letter dated February 20, 1998, TU Electric requested a notice of enforcement discretion (NOED) for CPSES Units 1 and 2. The licensee confirmed that failure to load shed these busses would not result in the diesel generators being inoperable as both diesels have sufficient reserve capacity to emergency start and perform their safety functions with these busses loaded at time zero in the DG loading sequence.

The NRC staff determined that based on the size of the loads on bus XEB4-3 and the DG capacity a failure to load shed would not significantly impact the starting and loading of the DGs at CPSES Units 1 and 2. The shutdown of both CPSES units to establish the plant conditions to test the load shed of bus XEB4-3 would constitute an unnecessary operational risk and the criteria of NRC Inspection Manual, Part 9900, Section B, Item 1, were met.

On February 20, 1998, at 4:49 pm EST, the NOED was issued. The NOED is to not enforce compliance with TS SR 4.8.1.1.2f.4(a) and 4.8.1.1.2f.6(a). The licensee planned to submit a license amendment to delay the testing of the load shed of MCC XEB4-3 until the next refueling outage or the next outage of sufficient duration.

Palo Verde

On February 25, 1997, the Draft Safety Evaluation Report (DSER) for the Conversion to Improved Standard Technical Specifications for Palo Verde Units 1, 2 and 3 was forwarded to the licensee for review. The DSER is based on the staff's review of Palo Verde's application dated October 4, 1996, and 20 supplements. The licensee was requested to provide comments on the DSER by March 17, 1998, to assist the staff in its efforts to issue the Final Safety Evaluation Report and the Palo Verde Improved Technical Specifications by March 31, 1998.

Management Changes

On February 23, 1998, the DTE Energy board of directors announced the retirement of DTE Energy and Detroit Edison Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer John E. Lobbia, effective August 1, 1998. Detroit Edison is the licensee for the Fermi 2 plant.

Mr. Lobbia will remain a member of both the DTE Energy and Detroit Edison boards of directors. The current DTE Energy President Anthony F. Earley, Jr. was elected to succeed Mr. Lobbia as chairman and chief executive officer of both companies while retaining his position as president.

Mr. Earley has 13 years of utility senior management experience, a legal background specializing in energy, the environment, nuclear safety and licensing issues and nuclear naval experience.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 1998

Meeting of the Non-Destructive Testing Management Association

On February 17, 1998, a management representative from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety participated in the annual meeting of the Non-Destructive Testing Management Association in Los Vegas, Nevada. The presentation focused on current ongoing issues associated with the implementation of the new 10 CFR Part 34 for industrial radiography. The presentation addressed: (1) locations where radiography may be conducted; (2) status report on the American Society for Non-Destructive Testing (ASNT) application for Independent Certifying Entity status; (3) changes for job performance inspections; and (4) necessity for radiography licensees to review and modify operating procedures. The presentation also addressed the ongoing Special Team Inspection of radiography drive cable failures. This presentation provided an opportunity to inform the industry of preliminary findings and to solicit their input as to the extent and nature of such failures. The industry participants provided substantial feedback in this regard which will be considered by the team conducting the inspection.

During this meeting, our management representative also met with representatives of the ASNT to discuss the status of the ongoing review of the ASNT application to become an Independent Certifying Entity as specified by 10 CFR Part 34, Appendix A. The ASNT is nearing completion of its next submittal in response to a recent deficiency letter from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission dealing with psychometric validity issues for the ASNT radiographer certification examination. In addition, the team consisting of NRC and Agreement representatives is currently reviewing the ASNT submission in response to other issues associated with their application.

Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute on Integrated Safety Analyses for Fuel Fabrication Facilities

On February 20, 1998, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards met with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and fuel fabrication industry representatives to discuss current issues associated with the development of integrated safety analyses (ISA). The meeting was a useful exchange. Issues discussed included the following: (1) whether, and how, the ISA will be incorporated into the license; (2) should the traditional reliance on double contingency protection in nuclear criticality be reduced if the ISA indicates that such protection is not necessary; (3) how will the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's revised requirements for fuel fabrication facilities in 10 CFR Part 70 recognize ISAs developed prior to completion of the rulemaking; and (4) how will ISAs be incorporated into the inspection process.

Meeting with Nuclear Fuel Services on Licensing Actions

On February 24, 1998, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards met with representatives of Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) to discuss the status and technical issues associated with several licensing actions that are currently being reviewed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. NFS presented a summary of its accident analysis for a new proposed high-enriched uranium downblending and conversion process. NFS and NRC discussed

additional information needs and alternative approaches for reviewing NFS's request for license renewal. NFS is planning to startup its downblending operation in March 1998.

Annual Interagency Committee on Dam Safety Technical Seminar

On February 18-19, 1998, a staff member from the Division of Waste Management attended the annual Interagency Committee on Dam Safety Technical Seminar. The seminar was hosted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This year's topic was *Application of Mitigation Strategies for Dam Safety*, and participants included Dr. Alfred J. Hendron, Jr., John Lowe, III, and Thomas M. Leps. Representatives from Federal agencies and states with dam safety responsibilities attended the seminar, and several case histories of mitigation strategies were presented. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which has inspection responsibilities for 19 dams, attended the seminar as part of its ongoing initiative in dam safety training, as mandated by the *Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety*.

International Erosion Control Association Sponsored Meeting

During the week of February 16, 1998, staff from the Division of Waste Management (DWM) attended a conference sponsored by the International Erosion Control Association (IECA). A paper, co-authored by DWM staff, was presented regarding the effects of a recent prairie fire on the vegetated erosion protection cover at a uranium mill tailings site. A significant portion of the IECA conference was devoted to the use of riparian species, such as willows, to control erosion of channel banks along rivers. This information may be useful in staff evaluations of river erosion and migration.

Public Meeting on In Situ Leach Facility Standard Review Plan

On February 23, 1998, staff from the Division of Waste Management and Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses held a public meeting to discuss comments received on NUREG-1569, "Draft Standard Review Plan for In Situ Leach Uranium Extraction License Applications." The NUREG had been previously issued for public comments, and 210 comments were received from various organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to: (1) discuss staff responses to the comments; (2) provide further clarification on how the NUREG was developed; and (3) answer questions that the industry had on particular aspects of the staff positions taken in the NUREG. Attendees at the meeting included representatives of the National Mining Association, the Nuclear Energy Institute, and the licensed community. Overall, the meeting was successful in helping industry understand what the staff had done in preparing the draft document, and providing additional insight into the specific criteria contained in the NUREG. The staff plans to issue the final NUREG in late Spring/early Summer, and will begin using it in the review of applications for new licenses, renewals, and amendments.

10 CFR Part 71 Quality Assurance Program Implementation Inspections

During the week of February 23-27, 1998, the Spent Fuel Project Office was conducting routine 10 CFR Part 71 Quality Assurance Program Implementation inspections at both the Industrial Nuclear Company in San Leandro, California, and at Siemens Power Corporation in Richland, Washington.

A third routine Quality Assurance Program Implementation inspection will be conducted at General Electric Company, Vallecitos Nuclear Center in California during the week of March 2-5, 1998.

Technical Specifications for the Proposed North Anna Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation

On February 18, 1998, a meeting was held at Virginia Power to review the Technical Specifications (TS) for the proposed North Anna Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). The Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Spent Fuel Project Office, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and Virginia Power staff met to discuss the format and contents of the ISFSI TS. It is proposed to revise the TS so they are consistent with the Improved Standard Technical Specifications being implemented for 10 CFR Part 50 licensees.

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 1998

NRC Meeting with the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations

Staff from the NRC and the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) met to discuss recently issued and forthcoming deterministic and reliability studies, and efforts to develop indicators for performance and financial trending. Also, new approaches for making operating experience information more accessible and useful to end users were reviewed. More extensive use of the Internet by both organizations was discussed.

Foreign Control Blade Experience

Subsequent to receiving information about sticking, swelling and cracking of boiling-water reactor control blades (manufactured by ABB) in several foreign reactors, AEOD initiated a conference call between staff from AEOD, NRR, RES, and ABB. During the conference call, ABB provided information outlining similarities and differences between the U.S. and the foreign control blades.

ABB concluded that although U.S. plants have similar but not identical control blades, the mechanism for swelling and sticking control blades does not exist in the control blades used in U.S. plants.

ABB agreed to provide NRC with additional technical details supporting the conclusions that they conveyed during the conference call.

Preliminary Notifications

1. NO-I-98-005A, Department of Health and Human Services (National Institutes of Health), LOST ONE MILLICURIE P-32 PACKAGE (UPDATE)
2. NO-II-98-008, Healthsouth Doctors Hospital (Agreement State License) RADIATION THERAPY UNDERDOSE MISADMINISTRATION
3. NO-III-98-009, Csra Engineering & Testing (An Agreement State Licensee), STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE
4. NO-III-98-018, Indiana Michigan Electric Co. (Cook 1 2), ICE CONDENSER PROBLEMS EXTEND OUTAGE
5. NO-III-98-019, University Hospitals of Cleveland, BRACHYTHERAPY EVENT AND POSSIBLE MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION
6. NO-III-98-020, Advanced Medical Systems, Inc., BURNED TRUCK FOUND NEAR PARKING LOT

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 1998

Acquisition Training

On February 25, 1998, the Division of Contracts and Property Management conducted its Acquisition for Project Managers module, "Developing the Independent Government Cost Estimate," for 15 project managers. This module focuses on preparing the estimate after considering the requirements of the statement of work, as well as necessary level of effort, technical skills, skills mix and direct and indirect labor rates.

OWFN Restack

The 5th floor of OWFN is being readied for the next phase of Restack which involves moving employees from the 12th floor to the 5th floor. The move is scheduled to begin during the latter part of the week of March 16, 1998.

NRC Employee Suggestions

Two recent employee suggestions have been evaluated and accepted by the Office of Administration. The first one will result in "speed bumps" being placed in the rear drive in the area of the Day Care Center. The second one will result in soap dispensers being installed in the newly renovated kitchen/lounge areas in OWFN.

Criticality Accident Requirements; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule and Revocation of Regulatory Text (Parts 50 and 70)

A document withdrawing a direct final rule published December 3, 1997, and revoking the regulatory text codified by that action was published in the Federal Register on February 25, 1998 (63 FR 9402). The direct final rule would have amended the regulations to provide light-water nuclear power reactor licensees with greater flexibility in meeting the requirement that licensees authorized to possess more than a small amount of special nuclear material maintain a criticality monitoring system in each area where the material is handled, used, or stored. The action is taken because the NRC received significant adverse comments in response to an identical proposed rule which was concurrently published in the Federal Register with the direct final rule on December 3, 1997.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 1998

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests Received during the 5-Day Period of February 20, 1998 - February 26, 1998:

Master Inspection Planning System for power reactors. (FOIA/PA-98-080)

Susquehanna power plant, OI report 1-96-039. (FOIA/PA-98-081)

Whitebook, NRR publication. (FOIA/PA-98-082)

Affirmative Action Program for disabled veterans. (FOIA/PA-98-083)

FOIA requests made by named organizations, 2/97 through 2/98. (FOIA/PA-98-084)

Nuclear warhead detonations at Frenchman's Flat, NV in 1953. (FOIA/PA-98-085)

Requests Completed:

97-473
98-036 (No PDR)
98-049
98-052
98-060 (No PDR)
98-063 (No PDR)
98-070 (No PDR)
98-073 (No PDR)
98-074 (No PDR)
98-077 (No PDR)
98-078 (No PDR)
98-085 (No PDR)
98-004A (No PDR)
98-006 A

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 1998

| Arrivals | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------|
| BRITZ, Wayne | Radiation Specialist | RIV |
| CRANSTON, Gregory | Reactor Engineer | RI |
| Retirements | | |
| GRAY, William | Staff Accountant | CFO |
| PHILLIPS, Laurence | Section Chief | NRR |
| SHEA, James | Director, BCA | OIP |
| WILDER, Patricia | Int'l Program Assistant | OIP |
| Departures | | |
| CAUDILL, Steve | MC&A Physical Scientist | NMSS |
| MOODY, Robert | Sr. Auditor | OIG |

Office of Public Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending February 27, 1998

Media Interest

There was press interest in New Jersey about the tritium leak at Oyster Creek.

Florida papers reported on NRC's meeting on Crystal River, and on reviews of incidents at St. Lucie.

There was press coverage of Commissioner Diaz' visit to the Catawba plant.

| Press Releases | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Headquarters: | |
| 98-30 | NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet in Rockville, Maryland, March 2-4 |
| 98-31 | Note to Editors: ACRS reports |
| 98-32 | NRC Media Workshop Scheduled |
| 98-33 | NRC Names Dr. Graham B. Wallis to Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards |
| Regions: | |
| I-98-20 | Note to Editors: Upcoming Meetings on Millstone |
| I-98-21 | NRC, Vermont Yankee to Discuss Apparent Violations Found by Special Inspection of Plant's Design, Configuration |
| I-98-22 | NRC Sends Radiation Specialist to Oyster Creek |
| II-98-14 | NRC Staff Issues Order to Former Farley Nuclear Plant Employee Prohibiting Involvement in NRC-Licensed Activities |
| II-98-15 | NRC Staff to Discuss Apparent Violations With Physician and Hospital in Puerto Rico on March 2 |
| II-98-16 | NRC Staff Issues Assessment of Performance at Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant |
| III-98-15 | NRC Staff to Discuss Quad Cities Plant Performance March 3; Regional Administrator to Brief News Media Following Meeting |

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 1998

IAEA Director-General Mohammed ElBaradei

Chairman Jackson and Commissioner Dicus met, in separate meetings, with IAEA Director-General Mohammed ElBaradei, who visited Washington for the first time in this capacity. Discussions focused principally on nuclear safety issues at the Agency and agreement was reached between ElBaradei and the Chairman on pursuing a possible MOU or exchange of letters between the IAEA and the International Nuclear Regulators Association (INRA) on cooperative activities.

Office of the Secretary
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending February 27, 1998

| Document | Date | Subject |
|--|----------|--|
| Decision Documents Released to the Public | | |
| 1. SECY-98-006 | 1/12/98 | Proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the U.S. and Romania |
| SRM on 98-006 | 2/18/98 | (same) |
| Commission Voting Record on 98-006 | 2/18/98 | (same) |
| 2. SECY-97-274 | 11/28/97 | Response to Request for Reconsideration or Delay of Implementation of the Portion of the Final Policy Statement on Restructuring and Economic Deregulation of the Electric Utility Industry Addressing Joint and Several Liability of Owners |
| SRM on 97-274 | 1/20/98 | (same) |
| Commission Voting Record on 97-274 | 1/20/98 | (same) |
| 3. COMSAJ-98-003 | 2/20/98 | Discussion on Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Regulation |
| Information Papers Released to the Public | | |
| 1. SECY-98-017 | 2/11/98 | Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 6, 1998 |
| 2. SECY-98-025 | 2/17/98 | Revised Schedule for Guidance in Support of Final Rule on Radiological Criteria for License Termination |
| 3. SECY-98-027 | 2/18/98 | Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 13, 1998 |

| Memoranda Release to the Public | | |
|--|---------|---|
| 1. M980219B | 2/25/98 | Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session, Thursday, February 19, 1998 - SECY-98-005 and 005A - 21st Century Technologies, Inc.: Revised Draft Adjudicatory Order 1) Declining to Take Sua Sponte Review of a Licensing Board's Approval of a Settlement (LBP-98-1), and 2) Terminating a Proceeding on Licensee's Challenge to Confirmatory Order |

Commission Correspondence Released to the Public

1. Letter to Gilbert F. Casellas, EEOC, dated February 20, 1998, provides the NRC's Annual Affirmative Employment Program Accomplishment Report for FY 1997
2. Letter to Congress, dated February 20, 1998, provides NRC's FY 1999 Performance Plan
3. Letter to Senator Dale Bumpers, dated February 18, 1998, concerns a possible proposal by the DOE to use private companies to dispose of DOE waste on private property
4. Letter to Jill Lipoti, N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, dated February 18, 1998, concerns the proposed termination of the independent radiation monitoring program
5. Letter to Peter Somani, Ohio Department of Health, dated February 18, 1998, informs of the final decision of the NRC on its independent radiation monitoring program
6. Letter to Robin O'Leary, dated February 18, 1998, concerns the attainment of Eagle Scout by a Troop member

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Revised agenda for the 449th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards scheduled to be held on March 2-4, 1998

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 1998

Michael Meisner Named President of Maine Yankee

Maine Yankee has announced that as of March 1, 1998, Michael Meisner, Vice President for Nuclear Safety and Regulatory Affairs, will assume the duties of President of Maine Yankee. The announcement follows the resignation of Michael Sellman who has accepted the position of Sr. Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer at Wisconsin Electric Power Company.

Mr. Meisner will continue the current duties of President under the provisions of a contract for management services between Maine Yankee and Entergy Nuclear Inc. Mr. Meisner is Maine Yankee's chief liaison with the NRC, a position he has held at other Entergy nuclear facilities.

Koch Engineering Enforcement Conference

On February 24, 1998 a predecisional enforcement conference was held by Region I staff with Koch Engineering Company, Inc., Tru-Tec Division. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the findings of an NRC inspection conducted on September 15, 1997. The inspection was conducted in order to follow-up on a transportation event which had been reported to the NRC on August 28, 1997. The event involved an empty transportation package that had originally contained three cesium-137 sealed sources (1, 18, and 100 millicuries) that had arrived at 10:00 a.m. at a Wilmington, North Carolina Federal Express facility. The sources were subsequently located at a Federal Express facility in Memphis Tennessee, and retrieved by Koch Engineering. Three apparent violations were identified during the inspection. The violation considered for escalated enforcement action involved the licensee's failure to comply with 49 CFR 173.415(a). The licensee failed to examine or test each closure device before each shipment of a package containing radioactive material which resulted in a shipping container opening and releasing its radioactive contents during shipping. The licensee's Corporate Radiation Safety Officer admitted the violations. The licensee described its perspective on the root causes of the violations and described corrective actions taken and planned. An appropriate enforcement sanction is pending.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 1998

Southern Nuclear Operating Company

On February 23, 1998, representatives from Southern Nuclear Operating Company were in the Regional Office to discuss general plant performance at Hatch and diesel generator issues at Vogtle. The licensee described actions they have taken to correct deficiencies in a concrete structure enclosing the diesel generator exhaust system.

Commissioner Diaz at Catawba

Commissioner Diaz, accompanied by the Regional Administrator, visited the Duke Energy's Catawba Nuclear Plant on February 26 meeting with the resident inspectors, touring the site and speaking with various licensee managers.

Carolina Power and Light Company - Harris

On February 26, 1998, representatives from Carolina Power and Light Company were in the Regional Office to attend a Predecisional Enforcement Conference to discuss an apparent violation involving unauthorized personnel receiving unescorted access to protected and vital areas at the Shearon Harris Plant.

Florida Power Corporation - Crystal River 3

On February 26-27, 1998, the Executive Director for Operations visited the Crystal River 3 facility. He toured the site and attended a public meeting with Florida Power Corporation. After the meeting, he met with several members of the Florida press and answered their questions. Also during the visit, he was briefed by the Restart Panel (Inspection Manual Chapter 0350) on their final meeting concerning the facility restart.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 1998

Management Meeting with Commonwealth Edison Company - LaSalle

On February 24, 1998, a meeting was conducted in Marseilles, Illinois, between management representatives from Commonwealth Edison Company and members of the NRC staff. The meeting discussion focused on the status of the LaSalle Nuclear Power Station's improvements. Related topics that were discussed included the plant's corrective action program and the engineering support to plant projects. Regional Administrator A. Bill Beach participated in the meeting.

Management Meeting with American Electric Power Company - D.C. Cook

On February 27, 1998, a meeting was conducted at the D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Station between management representatives from American Electric Power Company and members of the NRC staff. The meeting discussed NRC inspections of ice condenser problems at the plant and fibrous material in the reactor containments. The utility representatives also reviewed the status of their corrective actions as a result of an NRC design inspection in August and September of 1997. Regional Administrator A. Bill Beach participated in the meeting.

Public Meeting on Advanced Medical Systems, Inc., in Cleveland, Ohio

On February 26, 1998, NRC staff held a public meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, to discuss recent inspection findings at Advanced Medical Systems (AMS), Inc. AMS formerly manufactured sealed cobalt-60 sources for medical uses, an activity now discontinued. Currently, AMS is authorized only to handle sealed cobalt-60 sources and to perform routine radiation protection activities.

This special NRC inspection conducted in December 1997 found no radioactive contamination outside the AMS property and no radiation levels above normal background radiation at nearby neighborhood locations. NRC conducted the inspection in response to concerns expressed by Cleveland city officials and neighborhood residents. Inspectors reviewed the facility's fire detection and security systems and the storage of radioactive waste. They also performed radiation surveys and collected environmental samples at AMS, surrounding residences, at a nearby industrial site, and at a neighborhood park. The Ohio Department of Health and the City of Cleveland Fire Department participated in portions of the NRC inspection.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 1998

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with an Entergy Operations, Inc., Employee

The Regional Administrator and members of the Region IV staff met with an Entergy Operations, Inc., employee and his representatives to conduct a predecisional enforcement conference. The purpose of the predecisional enforcement conference was to discuss if inaccurate information was intentionally provided to the NRC in an apparent attempt to avoid a Notice of Violation for a violation of radiation work permit requirements.

Deputy Regional Administrator Visit to Fort Calhoun Station

The Deputy Regional Administrator visited the Fort Calhoun Station on Thursday, February 26. While at the site, he toured the Fort Calhoun Station and met with key licensee managers. Topics discussed included general management oversight at the facility.

Predecisional Enforcement Conference with South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company

A predecisional enforcement conference was held on February 26, 1998, with STP Nuclear Operating Company to discuss an apparent violation of 10 CFR 50.7 which occurred in the licensee's Design Engineering Department during a period from 1994 to 1996.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 27, 1998

| CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 6 | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|---------|--|---|
| OCA Contact | DATE & PLACE | TIME | WITNESS | SUBJECT | COMMITTEE |
| Combs | TBA 406 DSOB | TBA | Markup | S. 8, Superfund Reauthorization | Sen. Chafee/Baucus Environment & Public Works |
| Gerke | 03/03 2154 RHOB | 1:00 | Markup | H.R. 2883, GPRA Amendments | Reps. Horn/Kucinich Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform & Oversight |
| Combs | 03/04 2167 RHOB | 10:00 | Markup | H.R. 2727, Superfund Reauthorization | Reps. Boehlert/Borski Water Resources & Environment Transportation & Infrastructure |
| Combs | 03/05 2322 RHOB | 10:00 | TBA | H.R. 3000, Superfund Reauthorization | Reps. Oxley/Manton Finance & Hazardous Materials Commerce |
| Gerke | 03/05 311 CHOB | 2:00 | TBA | Paperwork Reduction | Reps. Horn/Kucinich Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform & Oversight |
| Gerke | 03/05 342 DSOB | 2:00 | Markup | S. 981, Regulatory Improvement Act; S. 1364, Reports Elimination Act | Senators Thompson/Glenn Governmental Affairs |
| Madden | 03/11 2362B RHOB | 10:00 | DOE | FY99 Budget for DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy | Reps. McDade/Fazio Energy & Water Appropriations Appropriations |

| | | | | | |
|--------|---------------------|-------|-------------|--|--|
| Madden | 03/12 2362B RHOB | 10:00 | DOE - OCRWM | FY99 Appropriations for Nuclear Waste Management | Reps. McDade/Fazio Energy & Water Appropriations Appropriations |
| Madden | 03/17 116 DSOB | 9:30 | DOE | Environmental Management Program | Senators Domenici/Reid Energy & Water Development Appropriations |
| Gerke | 04/28 SR-253 | 9:30 | TBA | Year 2000 Computer Problem | Sen. McCain/Hollings Commerce, Science & Transp |