

June 4, 1998

For: The Commissioners  
 From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /s/  
 Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MAY 29, 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: M. Tschiltz, OEDO

ENCLOSURE A

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

**NRC Meeting with NEI Regarding Draft Revision to NUMARC 93-01, R2**

On May 21, 1998, Ms. Suzanne Black and Mr. Richard Correia from HQMB and Mr. Gary Holahan from DSSA, along with other staff members, conducted a public meeting with representatives from NEI to discuss issues related to a draft revision to NUMARC 93-01, "Industry Guideline for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants." The draft revision to NUMARC 93-01, R2, was developed by NEI and submitted to the NRC via letter dated May 1, 1998, to address proposed revisions to 10 CFR 50.65 as described in the December 17, 1997, SRM. Various topics related to NEI's

draft revision to NUMARC 93-01 were discussed including the development of industry guidance concerning the conduct of assessments for equipment out-of-service and the process for incorporating existing NUMARC guidance for shutdown configuration control. The discussions during the meeting were beneficial in identifying sections of the draft revision of NUMARC 93-01 which the NRC staff believes will require amplification prior to the NRC's initiation of any endorsement via RG 1.160. At the conclusion of the meeting, both the staff and NEI agreed that future meetings would be necessary to discuss refinements to NUMARC 93-02, R2; however, no specific dates were identified.

### **Vogtle Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2**

On May 20, 1998, the NRC staff issued license amendments for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Units 1 and 2 to increase the allowed outage time for an emergency diesel generator from 72 hours to 14 days. The significance of this action is that it represents the first of a new generation of risk-informed licensing actions using the latest industry guidance contained in Draft Regulatory Guide 1.177 and a companion Standard Review Plan 16.1.

### **Commonwealth Edison Company**

On May 21, 1997, Oliver Kingsley, President of ComEd's Nuclear Generation Group announced that following a 3-month assessment of site and corporate roles and responsibilities, the corporate organization will be realigned and reduced in size. The corporate realignment will result in an organization which will mirror the site organizations and is intended to eliminate duplicate responsibilities and establish staffing levels "consistent with good industry practices."

The reductions will affect approximately 320 non-bargaining unit positions out of the current number of 1,075. The organizational realignment, which is underway, will affect an initial 250 positions and is expected to be completed by the end of July. The remainder of the positions will be eliminated throughout the rest of the year.

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

Quad Cities Units 1 and 2 have been shutdown since September 1997 and December 1997, respectively, because of Appendix R safe shutdown concerns. In January 1998, a CAL was issued confirming that the licensee would complete the revised safe shutdown analysis (SSA), revised safe shutdown procedures and identify Appendix R discrepancies along with the compensatory measures that will be put in place to compensate for these discrepancies.

On April 29, 1998, the licensee provided their closure letter for the CAL indicating completion of the actions listed in the CAL. A special fire protection (CAL closure) inspection team held an exit on Friday, May 22, 1998. The conclusion of the exit was that Quad Cities was still in noncompliance with Appendix R; however, with the changes made and compensatory measures in place, there is reasonable assurance that the plants could be safely shut down in the event of a fire. The two issues of noncompliance are multiple spurious operations and loss of 125 Vdc control power to certain 4 kV switchgear.

The licensee issued a letter to the staff on May 22, 1998, which confirmed commitments that will bring them into compliance. The licensee has committed, as a part of an effort to strengthen the overall fire protection and safe shutdown capabilities at the Quad Cities station, to reduce the need to evacuate the control room and to improve electrical control and distribution, including actions that will result in the availability of 125 V DC breaker control power during fires in certain plant areas. The licensee has also committed to a study of multiple spurious operations and to complete a point-by-point review of the SSA against Appendix R requirements.

A CAL closure letter was issued on May 22, 1998, based on the inspection activities identified, the compensatory actions committed to by the licensee, and discussions between the licensee's staff and the NRC. The staff had concluded the issues at Quad Cities had been sufficiently addressed to support startup of Unit 2 and that when the remaining actions are completed on Unit 1, conditions will be acceptable to support the startup of Unit 1.

The licensee stated all physical work required for startup had been completed for Unit 2 and plant startup did commence on May 23, 1998. The licensee projects that Unit 2 would reach full power on May 29, 1998, and that Unit 1 would be ready to startup on May 29, 1998.

### **Duane Arnold Energy Center**

On May 22, 1998, the NRC issued Amendment No. 223 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-49 for the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) in response to the licensee's application dated October 30, 1996, as supplemented. The amendment reflects full conversion from DAEC's current Technical Specifications (TS) to a set of improved TS (ITS) based on NUREG-1433, "Standard Technical Specifications, General Electric Plants BWR/4," Revision 1, dated April 1995, and on guidance provided in the Commission's "Final Policy Statement on Technical Specifications Improvements for Nuclear Power Reactors," published on July 22, 1993 (58 FR 39132).

The licensee plans to implement the ITS on August 1, 1998.

### **Hope Creek Generating Station**

At 2020 hours on May 19, 1998 (with the unit in Mode 1 at 100% power), Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG) "B" was declared inoperable due to higher than allowed particulate concentration in the associated fuel oil storage tanks (FOSTs). The suspected cause for the high particulate concentration is a tank truck of fuel oil received in January 1998.

PSE&G determined that the FOSTs needed to be cleaned to meet the TS particulate concentration limit. Sufficient time was not available to clean and refill the FOSTs for EDG "B" within the 72 hour TS Action Statement allowed outage time. Therefore, PSE&G requested enforcement discretion to extend the allowed outage time an additional 7 days. The NRC granted the notice of enforcement discretion at 1545 hours on May 22, 1998.

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

**Chemical/Biological Incident Handbook**

On May 27, 1998, the Information Analysis Team (IAT), working with the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety and the Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data, provided radiological input to a first responder Chemical/Biological Incident Handbook. The handbook, which is adding information on radiological/nuclear threats for its second edition, is sponsored by the Interagency Intelligence Committee on Terrorism (IICT) at the Central Intelligence Agency. Over 20,000 copies of the first edition were printed and distributed throughout the federal, state and local governments for use by emergency personnel responding to a Weapons of Mass Destruction incident. In addition, the IAT also provided comments to the IICT on Project Tie Down, an unclassified nuclear, chemical and biological threat assessment for the Pentagon.

**Amendment to the Nuclear Assurance Corporation International-Legal Weight Truck Certificate of Compliance**

On May 27, 1998, the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) approved the transport of up to 120 TRIGA intact and/or failed spent fuel elements in the Nuclear Assurance Corporation International's Legal Weight Truck (NAC-LWT) shipping cask. The SFPO technical review included an extensive analysis to ensure the safety performance of separate inner canisters designed for the transport of failed TRIGA fuel elements. The TRIGA contents approval for the NAC-LWT involved a significant short-term SFPO staff resource impact, and was performed in an expedited manner to support the Department of Energy's foreign research reactor spent nuclear fuel (non-proliferation) program.

**Assistance to the State of Nebraska on Their Independent Performance Assessment Accompanying the Draft Safety Evaluation Report for the Proposed Low-level Waste Disposal Facility**

On May 25, 1998, Division of Waste Management (DWM) and Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety staff participated in a telephone conference with representatives from the State of Nebraska on questions raised at a public hearing on dose assessments used in U.S. Ecology's analysis and Nebraska's Independent Performance Assessment for the proposed low-level radioactive waste (LLW) disposal facility in Nebraska. This conference call originated in response to a request from the State to the Office of State Programs. Nebraska attendees included officials from the Department of Environmental Quality and contractors working on the Independent Performance Assessment including Dr. Dan Bullen of Iowa State, a current member of the high-level radioactive waste disposal - Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

Nebraska asked DWM assistance in two areas: (1) with respect to the performance objectives in 10 CFR Part 61, what guidance should be used for dose assessments, ICRP 30 or ICRP 60, and should doses be calculated for a 5-year old child rather than an adult; and, (2) how much chlorine-36 can be expected to be disposed of in a LLW facility and what are the sources for this radionuclide? Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff informed Nebraska that the regulations of 10 CFR Part 20, that are based upon ICRP 30, is the correct methodology for use in compliance with the performance objectives. 10 CFR Part 20, and Nebraska's conforming regulations, already incorporate a dose reduction factor for assurances that the regulations are adequately protective of children, as well as adults. With respect to the question on the amount of Chlorine-36 to be expected in a LLW disposal facility, staff discussed the representative inventory derived from disposal records for the Richland, Washington, facility used in the development of the draft Branch Technical Position on "A Performance Assessment Methodology for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facilities."

The meeting ended with the State concluding that they had obtained sufficient information to develop an adequate response to the questions raised and thanking NRC staff for the assistance.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Meetings on Atlas Tailings Reclamation**

On May 21, 1998, staff from the Division of Waste Management (DWM) and the Office of the General Counsel met with staff from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in Lakewood, Colorado, to discuss FWS' Biological Opinion on the proposed reclamation of Atlas Corporation's uranium mill tailings in Moab, Utah. Atlas has proposed reclamation of the tailings in place, at a location near the Colorado River. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff have requested a biological opinion from FWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). FWS held the meeting as part of the Section 7 consultation process. Its purpose was to try to reach agreement between the two agencies on NRC staff comments and on the reasonable and prudent alternatives needed to reduce impacts to endangered species. The two agencies reached agreement on the steps that Atlas should take to try to expedite clean up of the ground water. In addition, agreement was reached that FWS will include in the final biological opinion, acute and chronic standards for ammonia in the Colorado River, with a mixing zone allowed for the chronic standard, that must be met during long-term stabilization. It was also agreed that when NRC staff reviews Atlas' revised ground-water cleanup plan, consultation with FWS will involve reopening the consultation on the reclamation plan rather than initiating a new consultation. On May 22, 1998, FWS held a second ESA-Section meeting with DWM staff and Atlas Corporation where NRC and FWS discussed the actions needed by Atlas.

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

**Preliminary Notifications**

1. PNO-IV-98-021, Omaha Public Power District, (Ft. Calhoun 1), LOSS OF OFFSITE POWER
2. PNO-IV-98-021A, Omaha Public Power District, (Ft. Calhoun 1), LOSS OF OFFSITE POWER
3. PNO-II-98-027, Virginia Power Co. (Surry 1), NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT: SHUTDOWN TO REPAIR VALVE LEAK

---

ENCLOSURE F

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

**OWFN Garage Repair Project**

The General Services Administration awarded the OWFN Garage Repair Project to Juniper Construction Company on May 27, 1998. A pre-construction meeting is being scheduled for the week of June 1, 1998 to discuss the project and to establish a start date for the actual work. A network bulletin will be issued once the details of the schedule are developed. A "re-mapping" of the areas to be repaired will be completed before actual construction work begins. All work will be performed after hours.

**Restack**

The move to the completed Restack 12th floor of OWFN (NRR personnel) began May 27, 1998 and will be completed by June 1, 1998.

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

On May 26, 1998, President Clinton issued an Executive Order (EO), "Establishment of the Enrichment Oversight Committee." The Order was issued to further the national security and other interests of the U.S. with regard to uranium enrichment and related businesses after the privatization of USEC. Under the Order, NRC will need to coordinate with the EOC on matters involving foreign ownership, control or influence, as well as, NRC activities and determinations necessary for the issuance, reissuance, or renewal of a certificate of compliance or license to the privatized USEC.

---

ENCLOSURE G

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

**Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests Received during the 4-Day Period of May 22, 1998 - May 28, 1998:**

Ocean Co, NJ listing of all discharges of radioactive material since 1948.	(FOIA/PA-98-211)
Interview tapes of named Individual.	(FOIA/PA-98-212)
Private Fuel Storage, NRC contracts with ORNL and CNWRA for SER & EIS of Skull Valley Reservation in Utah.	(FOIA/PA-98-213)
Japan, declassification review of specified records, referral.	(FOIA/PA-98-214)
NDT Services, Inc, inspection at San Juan & Costa Sur, Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority.	(FOIA/PA-98-215)
Titan missiles, storage silos since 1990.	(FOIA/PA-98-216)
IMPAC listing with addresses.	(FOIA/PA-98-217)

---

ENCLOSURE I

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

**Arrivals**

TRIBBLE, April	Summer Intern	NMSS
----------------	---------------	------

**Retirements**

CORVETTE, Connie	Secretary	RES
FONNER, Robert	Special Council for FCSS	OGC
GIETL, Daniel	Sr Investigator	OI
MESENTER, George	Director, PRMD	CIO

**Departures**

ECKFIELD, Edward	MC&A Inspector	NMSS
ELLIS, James	Reactor Engineer	RIII
HOPE, Diane	Secretary	RI
MILLER, Jennifer	Travel Voucher Examiner	RI
TAYLOR, Donald	Reactor Operations Engineer	NRR
WALKER, Colleen	Secretary	RI

ENCLOSURE M

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

**Media Interest**

Eight print reporters, one TV reporter and one local radio station reporter attended the Zion briefing on decommissioning, along with several city officials and members of the public.

There was press interest in the announcement that confirmatory orders were sent to Crystal River, Oyster Creek and TMI for Thermo-Lag fire barrier corrective actions.

Two television and one print reporter attended the meeting on the decommissioning of the Parks Township, PA, shallow land disposal area.

**School Volunteers Program**

Mary Thomas, RES, and Bret Leslie, NMSS, gave career presentations at Sherwood H.S. and Fields Road E.S., respectively.

**Press Releases****Headquarters:**

98-82	NRC to Allow More Licensees to Use Self-Guarantee for Decommissioning Funding
98-83	NRC Order to Florida Power Corp. Confirms Agreement to Complete Fire Barrier Corrective Actions
98-84	NRC Order to GPU Nuclear, Inc. Confirms Agreement to Complete Fire Barrier Corrective Actions at Oyster Creek and Three Mile Island

**Regions:**

I-98-61	Note to Editors: Meeting at Indian Point 2
I-98-62	NRC, GPU to Discuss Oyster Creek Apparent Violations on May 29
I-98-63	NRC Staff Issues Report on Performance at Calvert Cliffs; Performance is "Superior" in One Area, Declines in Two Others
II-98-39	NRC Staff Proposes \$4,400 Civil Penalty Against Physician for Violations of NRC Requirements in Puerto Rico
II-98-40	NRC Staff Issues Report on Performance at Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant
III-98-34	NRC Staff Finds Improvements for Fire Protection System and Procedures Sufficient for Restart of Quad Cities Plant
III-98-35	NRC Staff to Hold Predecisional Enforcement Conference on Possible Fire Protection Violations at Quad Cities Plant
III-98-36	NRC, United States Enrichment Corp. Officials to Discuss Apparent Violations at Portsmouth Plant

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

**IAEA Vacancy Notices**

P-2	Nuclear Physicist/Programmer Research and Isotopes	98/023
P-3	Technical Writer Technical Co-operation	98/024
P-5	Programme Co-ordinator Nuclear Energy	98/025
P-4	Legal Officer Administration	98/026
P-5	Section Head Research and Isotopes	98/027
P-5	Sr. Nutrition Specialist Research and Isotopes	98/028
P-4	Treasurer Administration	98/029
P-5	Head, MESL Research and Isotopes	98/0702

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

Documents Released to Public		Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>			
1.	SECY-98-015	1/30/98	Final General Regulatory Guide and Standard Review Plan for Risk-Informed Regulation of Power Reactors
	SRM on 98-015	5/20/98	(same)
	Comm. Voting Record on 98-015	5/21/98	(same)
<b>Negative Consent Documents</b>			
1.	SECY-98-036	3/4/98	Rulemaking to Modify Event Reporting Requirements for Power Reactors
	Comm. Voting Record on 98-036	5/14/98	(same)
	SRM on 98-036	5/14/98	(same)
2.	SECY-98-044	3/9/98	Modified Rulemaking Plan: "Certification Renewal and Amendment Process," 10 CFR Part 76
<b>Information Papers</b>			
1.	SECY-98-093	4/30/98	Proposed NRC Generic Letter 98-xx, Loss of Reactor Coolant Inventory and Associated Potential for Loss of Emergency Mitigation Functions While in a Shutdown Condition
2.	SECY-98-111	5/21/98	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending May 15, 1998

**Commission Correspondence**

1. Letter to Representative Michael Forbes dated May 20, 1998 responds to a request to hold a public hearing on the proposed restart of the Millstone 3 facility (Incoming of April 24, 1998 also released).
2. Letter to Virginia Governor James S. Gilmore III dated May 19, 1998 concerns the continued participation of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the

NRC's State Liaison Officer program.

3. Letter to Representatives Chip Pickering and Patrick Kennedy, and Senator Pat Roberts concerns possible changes in the NRC's 10 CFR Part 35 regulations on medical use of byproduct material (Incoming letters of April 28, April 22 and May 5, 1998 also released).
4. Letter to Senator Trent Lott concerns possible changes in the NRC's 10 CFR part 35 regulations on medical use of byproduct material (Incoming of April 8, 1998 also released).

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

1. 10 CFR Parts 30, 40, 50, 70, and 72; Self-Guarantee of Decommissioning Funding by Nonprofit and Non-Bond-Issuing Licensees; Final Rule.
2. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Renewal Notice.

---

ENCLOSURE P

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 27, 1998

#### **Cabot Corporation**

On Wednesday, May 20, 1998, the NRC held an enforcement conference with representatives of Cabot Corporation to discuss the results of a special inspection of the packaging and transportation of filtercake containing source material from Cabot's facility in Boyertown, PA to the White Mesa Mill in Blanding, UT. The inspection specifically concerned 25 of 250 packages of material identified to be leaking, or suspected of leaking, that had been shipped between September 2, 1997 and October 23, 1997. The licensee implemented revised procedures for treatment and packaging of the filtercake on October 30, 1997, after which approximately 1000 additional intermodal containers were shipped and did not leak. The enforcement conference was held to review the licensee's evaluation of the problem and corrective actions, and to discuss the licensee's identification of the root cause and preventive actions. A decision regarding enforcement is pending.

---

ENCLOSURE P

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 27, 1998

#### **Commonwealth of Virginia**

On May 22, 1998, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Board of Health, endorsed a recommendation from the Commonwealth's Radiation Advisory Board, and voted unanimously to seek NRC Agreement State Status.

Presumably, enabling legislation will be introduced during the next session of the General Assembly, which is scheduled to convene in January, 1999.

---

ENCLOSURE P

Region III  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending May 27, 1998

#### **Management Meeting with Commonwealth Edison Company - Dresden**

On May 29, 1998, a management meeting was conducted at the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Morris, Illinois, between management representatives from Commonwealth Edison Company and members of the NRC staff. The meeting discussion focused on the recent performance at Dresden regarding reactor scrams and material condition issues.

#### **Workshop on Operator Licensing Examinations**

From May 27 - 28, 1998, Region III hosted a workshop on the examination writing techniques for the licensing of reactor operators and senior reactor operators. The workshop was conducted for Region III's licensees and was based on the guidance contained in NUREG 1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors."

---

ENCLOSURE R

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

**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, No. 18**

<b>OCA CONTACT</b>	<b>DATE &amp; PLACE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>WITNESS</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>
Madden	06/04 TBA	TBA	Markup	FY99 NRC Appropriations	Senators Stevens/Byrd Appropriations
Gerke	06/12 192 DSOB	9:30	DOE, NRC, FERC, OMB, Industry	Y2K and the Power Grid	Senators Bennett/Dodd Special Y2K Technology Problem
Gerke	06/12 2154 RHOB	9:30	TBA	Status of Agencies' Y2K Efforts	Reps. Horn/Kucinich Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform & Oversight

Note: The Senate returns from recess on Monday, June 1; the House returns on Wednesday, June 3.