

September 3, 1998

SECY 98-208

For: The Commissioners

From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /s/

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 28, 1998

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\*No input this week.

James L. Blaha  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
M. Tschiltz, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 28, 1998

Lasalle Units 1 and 2

LaSalle Unit 1 entered startup mode on August 1, 1998, following a 22 month maintenance outage. On August 4, 1998, the licensee manually scrambled the unit to repair two failed intermediate range monitors. The unit restarted again on August 6, 1998. During testing at low power, the RWCU system experienced 3 isolations. The first, on August 17, 1998, was caused by inadvertent bumping of loose leads by instrument maintenance technicians. During attempts to put the system back into service, an automatic isolation occurred on high flow. The isolation was the result of a setpoint added during the extended shutdown without adequate changes in procedures. Another isolation on August 18, 1998, was caused by a relief valve lifting. On August 19, 1998, the licensee manually scrambled the unit due to increasing reactor water level. During testing of the 1A turbine-driven reactor feed pump, flow from this pump stopped suddenly due to a failed logic card in the controller circuitry. Operators attempted to manually restore level, but level rose to a point that required operators to scram the reactor per the test procedures. The licensee replaced the failed components and restarted on August 21, 1998. The unit reached 100% power on August 26, 1998. The inspectors' observations of licensee performance during the startup have been positive. A Unit 2 restart organization is in place and has begun to scope work for the Unit 2 outage. The current plan is to restart Unit 2 in May 1999.

Criticality Analysis For Fuel Storage

The staff has placed a memorandum from L. Kopp to T. Collins concerning regulatory requirements for criticality analysis of fuel storage at light-water reactors (LWRs) used by the Reactor Systems Branch in the Public Document Room. The principal objective of this memorandum is to compile in a single document the regulatory requirements for criticality analysis of new and spent fuel storage at LWRs. The Nuclear News Flashes published by McGraw-Hill on Friday, August 21, 1998, inappropriately referred to the memorandum as new guidance. The memorandum only communicates existing staff positions on regulatory requirements that have been previously published in various safety analysis reports or other NRC documents and does not transmit or imply any new or changed requirements or staff positions. The information presented is not applicable to fuel storage in casks, nor does it consider the mechanical, chemical, thermal, radiological, and other aspects of the storage of new and spent fuel.

Status of Shutdown Inspection Procedure

In Staff Requirements Memorandum "Staff Requirements - SECY-97-168 - Issuance for Public Comment of Proposed Rulemaking Package for Shutdown and Fuel Storage Pool Operation," dated December 11, 1997, the Commission directed the staff to "...continue to monitor licensee performance, through inspections and other means, in the area of shutdown operations to ensure the current level of safety is maintained." In response to the SRM, the Reactor Systems Branch (SRXB) was directed to draft an inspection procedure covering shutdown operation. SRXB has completed this draft inspection procedure. Copies of the draft procedure were sent to the four Regions for comment in a memorandum dated August 20, 1998. Comments from the

Regions are expected to be received by September 21, 1998. After resolution of comments from the Regions and prior to final issuance of the procedure, SRXB plans on inviting CRGR interest.

#### San Onofre Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG) Allowable Outage Time (AOT) Extension

The Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch (SPSB) completed its evaluation of the risk associated with the proposed San Onofre Units 2&3 EDG AOT extension from 3 to 14 days and provided written input to the lead technical branch (EELB). The extended AOT would allow on-line EDG maintenance activities that are normally performed during refueling outages. The licensee indicated that performing EDG maintenance at power using the proposed extended EDG AOT would result in a net risk decrease. The licensee's risk analysis, which used both at-power and shutdown PRA, demonstrated that the reduction in shutdown risk due to increased EDG availability would be greater than the increase in at-power risk due to decreased EDG availability at power. SPSB concluded there is a reasonable assurance that the licensee's risk analysis supports the EDG AOT extension and that the overall risk impact of the proposed change meets the intent of the criteria and guidelines used in the Regulatory Guide 1.174 and 1.177.

#### Management Changes

Bob Holbrook, who has been Site Engineering Manager at Quad Cities since January 1998 has accepted the Nuclear Generation Group (NGG) Training Manager position at ComEd Downers Grove office. Dave Wozniak has been named the new Site Engineering Manager. Dave has most recently been acting Station Manager at Byron Station and he was the acting Site Engineering Manager at Quad Cities for a few months before Bob Holbrook took the position in January 1998.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 28, 1998

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Technical Exchange Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute

On August 26, 1998, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office met with industry representatives at a meeting coordinated by the Nuclear Energy Institute. The meeting followed a workshop format and provided an opportunity for an open technical exchange. The topics discussed included ultrasonic examination of stainless steel cask closure welds, and the inclusion of ASME Code requirements in the licensing of spent fuel storage and transportation casks. The meeting, which was noticed and open to the public, was held at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters. Approximately 60 attendees representing utilities, vendors, and contractors were at the workshop.

Licensing of Green River Uranium Mill Site for Long-Term Care

On August 20, 1998, the Division of Waste Management (DWM) placed the Green River, Utah, site under a general license consistent with the provisions of 10 CFR 40.27. The Green River disposal site was reclaimed by the Department of Energy (DOE) under Title I of the Uranium Mill Tailings Act of 1978. DOE is in the process of completing the Title I program. Four sites are left to be licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Work at two of these sites is complete, and DWM is awaiting information from DOE to complete licensing. DWM anticipates that the licensing of the Ambrosia Lake, New Mexico, and Slick Rock, Colorado, sites should be complete in September/October. The remaining two sites at Maybell and Naturita, Colorado, will be licensed in early 1999 once DOE completes reclamation work.

Staff Terminates Materials License at Cintichem

On August 19, 1998, Division of Waste Management staff terminated the radioactive materials license (SNM-639) issued to Cintichem, Inc., for its Tuxedo, New York, facility. The action marks the end of a multi-year, multi-agency effort related to the decommissioning of this facility. Cintichem used radioactive materials from 1961 through 1990 in the production of radioisotopes and services for a variety of research, production, medical, and educational institutions and groups. Cintichem currently held two licenses issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), SNM-639 issued pursuant to 10 CFR Part 70 for operations involving special nuclear material and R-81, which was issued by the NRC pursuant to 10 CFR Part 50 for the operation of a 5-megawatt (thermal) test reactor. An order to terminate the test reactor license was also issued by NRC on August 19, 1998.

Six principal buildings were located at the facility including a reactor building, a hot laboratory building, a maintenance/engineering building, an administration building, a heating plant, and a low-level waste storage building.

On January 16, 1992, NRC amended SNM-639 to authorize decommissioning. Results of Cintichem's surveys and confirmatory surveys conducted by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education demonstrated that the facility meets the criteria for unrestricted use prescribed in the approved decommissioning plan for the site. On May 27, 1998, Cintichem affirmed that all

radioactive material had been removed from the site. This was confirmed by inspection of the site by NRC and the State of New York on June 15, 1998. NRC staff concluded that decommissioning actions at the Cintichem facility were complete and Cintichem's Tuxedo, New York, facility meets the unrestricted release criteria prescribed in Cintichem's radioactive materials license. A notice to this effect was published in the Federal Register on August 18, 1998.

#### Meeting with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and U.S. Enrichment Corporation to Discuss Technical Aspects of the Atomic Vapor Laser Isotope Separation

On August 18, 1998, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff, reviewing the Atomic Vapor Laser Isotope Separation (AVLIS) facility, met with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and U.S. Enrichment Corporation personnel to discuss technical aspects of the AVLIS facility and to view the AVLIS demonstration facility at LLNL. Specific technical areas discussed at the meeting included accident analysis, electrical, instrumentation and control, and human factors.

#### Meeting with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and U.S. Enrichment Corporation to Discuss Integrated Safety Analysis

On August 20, 1998, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff met with U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) personnel to discuss the Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA) methodology being applied to the Atomic Vapor Laser Isotope Separation. The ISA methodology being employed uses Failure Modes and Effects Analyses (FMEA), Preliminary Hazards Analyses, Accident Analyses, and in some cases, Event and Fault Tree Analyses. Questions were raised regarding how the methodology is applied to external events and how unmitigated release analyses were performed. The staff discussed guidance on performing ISAs. USEC is planning to submit the ISA methodology portion of their license application to the staff for its review in the near future.

#### Meeting with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration

On August 26, 1998, representatives from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards met with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) staff to discuss the 10 CFR Part 70 draft proposed rule. The OSHA participants represented organizations responsible for safety standards, technical support, policy, and health standards. The meeting was held to identify any potential areas of concern that OSHA may have with the proposed rulemaking package.

#### Sealed Source and Device Vendor Workshop

On August 24-27, 1998, the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety conducted a workshop on the application and review process for safety evaluation and registration of sealed sources and devices containing sealed sources. Registration certificates created based on these safety evaluations are used as the basis for authorizing the products for use by others. Fourteen Agreement State personnel and five Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) personnel attended the four-day workshop held at NRC Headquarters.

The workshop was intended to provide in-depth explanation of the process for evaluating sealed source and device designs for licensing, and to offer guidance for regulatory staff performing such evaluations. Casework exercises were provided to develop a better understanding of how to apply the information contained in the workshop lectures. Specific topics discussed included a slide presentation on types of devices and sources, the review process, blueprint reading, general engineering principles, servicing and maintenance, radiation profiles, quality assurance and quality control, prototype testing, generating the certificate, root cause analysis, lessons learned from incidents, and new technologies. Feedback from workshop participants was positive.

#### Nuclear Regulatory Commission/Department of Veterans Affairs Master Materials License Meeting

On August 25, 1998, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards management representatives, along with the staff review team, met with representatives of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) management and technical staff at Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters. The meeting was a planned follow up of the June 19, 1998, meeting. At that meeting the DVA committed to submitting a completely new application, and both groups agreed to meet in August to clarify any questions the DVA might have with previous deficiency questions and the development of a new application. The status of the revised application was discussed and the DVA indicated it expected to submit the application on or about September 30, 1998. The DVA also discussed its proposed responses to the five global issues identified in the deficiency letter as major issues. DVA senior management continued to provide strong commitments to the master materials license application and significant changes appear to have been made to the proposed program. At the end of the meeting, both groups concluded the meeting provided useful and meaningful exchanges of information. NRC committed to quickly reconvening its review team when the application is submitted and reviewing the application in 45 days.

#### Public Meetings on 10 CFR Part 35 Rulemaking

On August 19-20, 1998, the first of the facilitated public meetings on the proposed revision of 10 CFR Part 35 was held in San Francisco, California. There were approximately 25 participants around the table, with additional members of the public in the audience. The meeting addressed topics addressed during development of the proposed rule, including definition of and application of risk to the proposed rule, training and experience, provisions for radiation safety committee, and use of industry standards. In general, the participants expressed positive views on the proposed rule as a significant step in the right direction.

Additional meetings are scheduled in Kansas City, Missouri, on September 16-17, 1998, and in Rockville, Maryland, on October 21-22, 1998. In addition, the Part 35 revision will be discussed on October 31, 1998, at the All Agreement States Meeting.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 28, 1998

17<sup>th</sup> Annual EPRI Steam Generator NDE Workshop

During August 17 through August 19, DET staff member, Dr. Muscara attended the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual EPRI Steam Generator NDE Workshop held in Breckenridge, Colorado. There were approximately 200 attendees from Europe, the USA, and Japan representing NDE vendors, utilities, NSSS vendors, research laboratories, and universities. Technical sessions covered a number of areas related to steam generator inspection requirements, technology, data analyses, and recent inspection experience. Vendor exhibits were also visited to have questions answered and details provided on new probes (both eddy current and ultrasonics), inspection hardware, electronics, and computer software.

In addition to learning about current strategies and technologies for inspection of steam generator tubing, Dr. Muscara held several meetings and discussions with EPRI and industry personnel to discuss their participation in NRC's international cooperative program on steam generator tube integrity. Since EPRI is a participant in the cooperative program, we obtained a commitment from EPRI personnel to nominate several NDE industry and utility members to participate in the NDE Task Group for the program. The task group will provide peer review of the NDE activities on a continuing basis. Several members from inspection vendors, utilities, NSSS vendors and EPRI agreed to participate. We plan on holding the first meeting of the task group during the week of September 27, 1998. The major objective of this meeting will be to obtain input from the members and finalize the inspection protocol and plan for the conduct of round robin exercises on the steam generator tube mockup at ANL to quantify the reliability of current-practice inspections conducted on operating steam generators. Obtaining input from the task group will ensure that our testing will be conducted in the same manner and using the same procedures being used for in-service inspections of steam generators.

During the Workshop, it was clear that the industry has recognized a need for improving both the speed and accuracy of in-service inspection for steam generator tubes. This was evidenced by the number of presentations and studies on a) the development and evaluation of eddy current (EC) array probes, b) development and testing of novel EC probe designs, c) design, construction and evaluation of special eddy current probes and software for tomographic imaging, and d) design, construction, and evaluation of several ultrasonic probes and techniques for improved flaw characterization. Most of these probes and techniques are in their infancy stages, and a number of challenges need to be resolved in the areas of sophisticated computer algorithms, complexity of data handling and analysis, and hardware requirements for special cables/wiring and complexity of the electronics. However, these techniques and probes hold promise for improving the accuracy and speed for in-service inspections in the future.

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 28, 1998

Public Meeting to Discuss Reactor Reporting Requirements

A public meeting was held on August 21, 1998, to discuss the advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) to modify power reactor reporting requirements. Attendees were generally supportive of the approach proposed in the ANPR for modifying 10 CFR 50.72 and 50.73. Their principal recommendations for changes and additions to that approach included the following:

1. Conduct tabletop exercises involving licensees, inspectors and headquarters personnel early in the drafting process to discuss the draft amendments and associated guidance.
2. Conduct a public meeting early during the public comment period to discuss the proposed rule and draft guidance.
3. Amend 10 CFR 50.73 to allow 60 days (instead of the current 30 days) for submittal of Licensee Event Reports (LERs).
4. Do not adopt a check the box approach for human performance and other information in LERs (as was proposed in the ANPR). Continue to rely on the narrative description.

The participants also suggested some changes to reporting requirements beyond 10 CFR 50.72 and 50.73, such as deleting the requirement in 10 CFR 50.46 to submit an annual report regarding errors in and corrections to approved ECCS models and analyses that were not significant.

Attendance at Harvard School of Public Health

An IRD/AEOD staff member was a visiting lecturer at the Harvard School of Public Health's course on Nuclear Emergency Planning. This course is attended by emergency planners from utilities, States, and Federal organizations. The lecture given was on the recent large scale Nuclear Exercise at the Salem plant with the States of New Jersey and Delaware and other Federal agencies in May of 1998.

Monitoring of Hurricane Bonnie

AEOD Incident Response Team Coordinators and Operations Officers, together with NRR and NMSS project managers, provided round-the-clock support of Region II during the monitoring of Hurricane Bonnie. Preparations for continuing support to Region I were initiated in anticipation of the hurricane affecting northeastern facilities. Response efforts were terminated with the storm was no longer a threat to licensed facilities.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATIONS

1. PNO-I-98-040, McMinn's Asphalt Company, Inc., STOLEN PORTABLE DENSITY GAUGE FROM LICENSEE'S FACILITY

2. PNO-I-98-041, Ackenheil Engineers, Inc., DAMAGED TROXLER PORTABLE MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE
3. PNO-II-98-038, Federal Express, MEDIA INTEREST IN UNRELATED EVENTS INVOLVING RADIOACTIVE SOURCE
4. PNO-II-98-039, Carolina Power & Light Co. (Brunswick 1 & 2), PREPARATIONS FOR HURRICANE BONNIE
5. PNO-II-98-039A, Carolina Power & Light Co. (Brunswick 1 & 2), UPDATE ON HURRICANE BONNIE
6. PNO-II-98-039D, Carolina Power & Light Co. (Brunswick 1 & 2), UPDATE ON HURRICANE BONNIE

Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 28, 1998

OWFN Restack

The Restack project will resume on 8/31/98 with disassembly of systems furniture on the 10th floor of OWFN after a three-week delay to work out a contractual matter with the provider of systems furniture for NRC. The delay is not expected to affect the overall Restack schedule.

Rulemaking Activities for the Week Ending August 28, 1998

Minor Corrections, Clarifying Changes, and a Minor Policy Change; Delay of Effective Date (Parts 20, 32, 35, 36, and 39)

A document that delays the effective date of a final rule that made a series of corrective and clarifying changes to the Commission's regulations concerning the standards for protection against radiation was published in the Federal Register on August 26, 1998 (63 FR 45393). This action was taken in response to a request by industry to allow sufficient time for the modification of procedures to comply with the new requirements. The effective date of the final rule is delayed until October 26, 1998. The effective date of this document was August 21, 1998.

Agency Protest

On August 27, 1998, the Contracting Officer denied as untimely a protest submitted by Securiguard under Request for Proposal (RFP) No. RS-ADM-98-141A entitled "Security Guard Services for the NRC White Flint Complex." The protest alleged that NRC's decision to exclude Securiguard from the procurement of security guard services was unfair because of a flawed evaluation of its proposal under the previous competitive procurement for these services. To be timely, a protest must be filed within 10 days after the basis of the protest is known or should have been known. The Contracting Officer considered the protest as untimely because the protester did not object to the NRC's evaluation until six months after receiving the results of the evaluation from the NRC.

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 28, 1998

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of  
August 21, 1998 - August 27, 1998:

Notices of Enforcement Discretion (NOED) requested by power plant licensees, 1/1/95 through present. (FOIA/PA-98-324)

Senior Management Meeting minutes held in preparation for Operating Reactors & Fuel Facilities Commission briefings of 1/21/98 and 7/29/98. (FOIA/PA-98-325)

PWR Main Steam Line Break with Continued Feedwater Addition, Bulleting 80-04, related documents: 11/17/81 Technical Evaluation Report and 10/20/82 memo from Butler to Speis. (FOIA/PA-98-326)

Depleted uranium, specific licenses issued to Department of the Army. (FOIA/PA-98-327)

Inspection Services, Inc., license and re-evaluation. (FOIA/PA-98-328)

Climax Speciality Metals, all documents related to license STB-1161. (FOIA/PA-98-329)

Browns Ferry, TVA, NRC staff technical evaluations re Inspection Report 50-259,260,296-97-04. (FOIA/PA-98-330)

Office of Human Resources  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 28, 1998

Library of Congress Training and Education Summit Attended

On August 25, 1998, Eileen Mason, Chief, Human Resources Development, attended a Training and Education Summit sponsored by the Library of Congress Internal University. Federal training and education managers throughout government convened to share ideas about how to design and measure the effectiveness of training and education efforts, various approaches to evaluating training, how to manage and budget for training resources, and best practices for identifying training and education requirements.

<b>Arrivals</b>		
LUSHER, John	Health Physicist	NMSS
<b>Retirements</b>		
DEMPSEY, Kenneth	Mechanical Engineer	NRR
<b>Departures</b>		
GARTNER, Judy	Secretary	RIV
MOUSSEAU, Vincent	Reactor Engineer	RES
PRATT, Mark	Electrical Engineer	NRR

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 28, 1998

Media Interest

Headquarters and Region I responded to calls on the Commission's decision on potassium iodide and on demonstrations by anti-nuclear activists in New England.

Dow Jones is printing a story on the change in technical specifications at Zion.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
98-151	NRC Offers Opportunity for Public to Make Oral Statements on New Mexico Project
98-152	NRC Terminates Licenses at Request of Cintichem in Tuxedo, New York
98-153	NRC to Hold Public Meeting on Possible Changes to Enforcement Policy
<b>Regions:</b>	
II-98-55	NRC Rates Summer Nuclear Plant "Superior" in all Four Areas of Latest Assessment Report
III-98-47	NRC Withdraws Proposed \$2,500 Fine Against Overhoff Technology Corp. for Distribution Violations
III-98-48	NRC Staff Rates Monticello Plant "Superior" in Three Areas, "Good" in Fourth Area for Latest Performance Evaluation
IV-98-33	Cooper Nuclear Station Rated "Superior" in One Area, "Good" in Two, "Acceptable" in the Fourth in NRC Assessment Report

Office of International Programs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 28, 1998

Bilateral Agreements

The staff is working to conclude negotiations, secure Executive Branch clearance, and/or settle final details of the following Arrangements, which might be available for the Chairman's signature during bilateral meetings with officials of various nations being scheduled on the margins of the IAEA General Conference during the week of September 21:

Renewal information exchange and general cooperation Arrangements with the Greek and Israel Atomic Energy Commissions and with the Indonesian Nuclear Energy Control Board (BAPETEN, the newly established independent regulatory authority, which would replace the Indonesian National Atomic Energy Commission as the signer)

A renewal "Protocol" with the Chinese National Nuclear Safety Administration

A new Memorandum of Understanding for the exchange of classified information on nuclear safety and safeguards with the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada

The renewals all follow the model format used for such agreements and raise no new policy issues. Further, they all involve only a de minimis expenditure of staff resources.

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 28, 1998

Documents Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. SECY-98-172	7/10/98	Proposed Rule: "Certification Renewal and Amendment Processes," 10 CFR Part 76
SRM on 98-172	8/21/98	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 98-172	8/21/98	(same)
2. SECY-98-180	7/28/98	Request for Commission Waiver of Staff Cost Recovery Policy for Work Performed for the U.S. Agency for International Development
SRM on 98-180	8/25/98	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 98-180	8/25/98	(same)
3. COMNJD-98-005	8/6/98	Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
SRM on COMNJD-98-005	8/25/98	(same)
Chmn. Jackson vote on COMNJD-98-005	8/17/98	(same)
Comm. McGaffigan vote on COMNJD-98-005	8/19/98	(same)
4. SECY-98-155	6/30/98	Transition from Site Decommissioning Management Plan to Comprehensive Decommissioning Program
SRM on 98-155	8/27/98	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 98-155	8/27/98	(same)
5. COMSECY-98-024	8/25/98	Response to Issues Raised within the Senate Authorization Context and July 17, 1998 Stakeholder Meeting
<b>Negative Consent Documents</b>		

1. SECY-98-152	6/29/98	Summary of Issues and Recommended Improvements to the Resident Inspector Program
SRM on 98-152	8/21/98	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 98-152	8/21/98	(same)
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-98-191	8/7/98	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending July 31, 1998
2. SECY-98-193	8/13/98	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 7, 1998
<b>Memoranda</b>		
1. M980826C	8/26/98	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session, Wednesday, August 26, 1998: I. SECY-98-203 - Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2), Docket Nos. 50-317-LR, 50-318-LR, Order Referring Petition for Intervention and Request for Hearing to Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, CLI-98-14
2. M980825	8/27/98	Staff Requirements - Briefing on 10 CFR Part 70 - Proposed Rulemaking, "Revised Requirements for the Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material," (SECY-98-185)

#### Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson concerns an agreement between the State of Minnesota and the NRC (incoming of July 10, 1998 also released).
2. Letter to Representative Julia Carson concerns the proposed revisions to 10 CFR Part 35 (incoming of July 22, 1998 also released).
3. Letter to Dr. Robert Meckelburg, American College of Nuclear Physicians, and Dr. James Fletcher, Society of Nuclear Medicine, concerns a request for a 45-day extension to the comment period for revisions to Part 35 (incoming of June 23, 1998 also released).

#### Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Nominations of New Members of the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes.

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 28, 1998

Indian Point Unit 2

The unit completed heatup and is at normal operating pressure and temperature in preparation for restart. The unit has been in an extended outage since October 1997. Following the completion of testing, the unit is planned for a startup on Wednesday September 2. The Region has established extended inspection coverage of operational activities, which will continue through attainment of 100% power operations. Per the conditions of a Confirmatory Action Letter, the licensee will make a written certification of completion of committed actions prior to criticality. The licensee expects to be able to make this certification by August 31, 1998.

Regional Administrator Visit to Haddam Neck

H. Miller, Region I Regional Administrator, visited the Haddam Neck site on Wednesday, August 19, 1998. The visit was planned to emphasize the NRC's concern with the recent problems encountered during the reactor coolant system decontamination that concluded that week. The visit included a tour of the facility and interviews with various members of the Connecticut Yankee management team. A separate assessment visit is planned by NRC in the near future to review the licensee's ability to safely perform the tasks necessary for decommissioning of the facility.

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 28, 1998

Tennessee Valley Authority - Sequoyah

On August 24, 1998, the Deputy Regional Administrator presented NRC Operator Licensing certificates to six newly licensed operators and senior operators at a licensee presentation ceremony.

Florida Power and Light Company - St. Lucie

The Deputy Regional Administrator met in Stuart, Florida on August 27 with representatives of the Florida Power and Light Company to present the results of St. Lucie's Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance. Following the presentation, a meeting was held with State and local officials to discuss activities at the St. Lucie facility.

Hurricane Bonnie

On August 26, 1998, the center of Hurricane Bonnie passed over the Brunswick plant. Both units were shutdown prior to the arrival of the storm. Hurricane force winds were experienced at the site, but no significant damage occurred to the plant. Region II personnel monitored the licensee's activities at the site and staffed the Incident Response Center.

The General Electric Fuel Fabrication Facility in Wilmington, NC, was also shutdown prior to the storm's arrival and lost a secondary electrical feeder, but no significant damage was reported. Following restoration of the electrical feeder on August 28, 1998, the plant staff initiated preparations for the restart of processes which is planned for August 31, 1998.

On August 28, 1998, FEMA completed the assessment of the adequacy of the offsite preparedness in the areas surrounding the Brunswick plant. FEMA concluded that the offsite radiological emergency preparedness capabilities were adequate.

Brunswick Unit 2 started up on August 28, followed by Unit 1 on August 29, 1998.

Region III  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 28, 1998

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

On August 25, 1998, a management meeting was conducted in the NRC Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between management representatives from American Electric Power Company and members of the NRC staff. The meeting discussion focused on the progress toward resolving those issues necessary for the D. C. Cook Nuclear Power Station startup. The utility presented during the meeting the current restart schedule for the two D. C. Cook units. The utility plans to return Unit 1 to service before the end of the year and Unit 2 is scheduled to restart during the first quarter of 1999. The utility indicated that refurbishment of the ice condenser systems, modifications to the containment spray system and other planned work have the potential to delay the restart of the two units. American Electric Power informed the NRC at the meeting that starting in September, a safety system functional inspection of the plant's auxiliary feedwater system will be performed. Additionally, American Electric Power will re-inspect the ice condenser baskets with improved tools and methods to ensure that basket damage has been identified and corrected. NRC Region III Acting Regional Administrator James Caldwell participated in the meeting.

Commonwealth Edison Management Changes Announced - Byron and Quad Cities

On August 24, 1998, Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) announced that effective mid-September William Levis will become the Byron Nuclear Power Station Plant Manager. David Wozniak, currently acting as the Byron Plant Manager, will return to the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station as Station Engineering Manager. Robert Holbrook will move from Quad Cities Site Engineering Manager to become the ComEd Corporate Nuclear Generation Group Training Manager.

Region IV  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending August 28, 1998

Drop-In Visit from Omaha Public Power District

The President and Chief Executive Officer and the Vice President of Omaha Public Power District conducted a drop-in visit on August 27, 1998, with the Regional Administrator and the Director, Division of Reactor Projects, to discuss general management and plant performance topics regarding Fort Calhoun Station.

Notice of Enforcement Discretion (NOED) Requested by STP Nuclear Operating Company for Containment Isolation Check Valves.

On August 26, 1998, the licensee declared numerous containment isolation check valves inoperable due to incomplete code required testing. The check valves had met local leak rate testing requirements, but had not been tested for closure to meet isolation requirements. On August 27, the licensee requested enforcement discretion to extend the allowed outage time by 14 days in order to complete the required testing of some of these containment isolation valves. The Regional Administrator granted the NOED on August 27. NRR approved a separate NOED concerning several other valves for which the testing cannot be conducted until the next refueling outage (March 1999). The resident inspectors will monitor the licensee's progress in their efforts to complete the containment isolation check valve testing for the particular valves in question.