

November 5, 1998

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

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James L. Blaha  
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ENCLOSURE A

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

**Performance Assessment Process Improvements (IRAP, Industry Proposal, and PIs)**

The technical framework group entered its second week of work at Headquarters. These groups continued to make good progress in the development of the cornerstones (including identification of objective performance indicators) and the baseline inspection program. The assessment process group will commence work on November 2.

The Director, DISP, the three group leaders (P. Baranowsky, B. Mallett, M. Johnson), the office of Research, and the Director, OE, conducted a prebrief for the EDO on the Commission presentation on regulatory oversight, which is scheduled for November 2. A prebrief of the Chairman was held on

October 29.

The NRC and the industry held a two day public meeting on October 27 and 28 to commence development of the safeguards portion of the oversight framework. Good progress was made in identifying the important areas to measure and means of measurement.

NRR (with participants from OE, RES, and AEOD) held a public meeting with NEI on October 28, 1998, to discuss the continued development of performance assessment process and inspection program improvements.

### **Risk Informed Baseline Inspection Program**

On October 26-30, 1998, the NRC Baseline Inspection Task Force conducted its second week of meetings to assist in the development of a program for the NRC baseline inspection of power reactor licensee performance. The task force is comprised of members from all four NRC regions as well as individuals from headquarters program offices with expertise in risk assessment, field inspection, safeguards, emergency preparedness, and health physics. The task force will address issues raised regarding the current and proposed inspection program, provide a document describing key elements in the inspection program, and provide draft input for a Commission paper by December 11, 1998.

This effort is being conducted in coordination with other NRC-wide tasks such as the task group that is developing the framework to combine the proposed baseline inspection program, a new assessment program, and enforcement. During its second week, the task force continued the process of soliciting input from regional and HQ program offices to identify issues and questions that will have to be considered in developing the baseline programs as well as to develop a listing of "inspectable items." The group also continued to conduct meetings with other task forces, NEI, and NRC contractors, all of whom are working on related topics. In addition, the task force is contacting other government agencies such as the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Occupational Safety and Hazard Agency to discuss the use of risk informed information as it relates to their inspection programs.

### **TI 2515/137 Breaker Inspection Waterford 3 Nuclear Plant**

Circuit breaker inspection per TI 2515/137 was performed at Waterford 3 from October 5 through 9, 1998. A previous attempt of this inspection per same TI was terminated on September 1, 1998, due to the inclement weather (hurricane "Earl" was predicted to hit the New Orleans area on September 2, 1998). EELB staff participated in the last inspection. Overall assessment regarding the power circuit breaker maintenance program appears adequate, however, the team observed several weaknesses. These were: failure of reactor trip breakers (RTB) to close (closing operation is non-safety-related) has not been tracked or evaluated as part of the established maintenance rule program; no refurbishment of power circuit breakers was performed except for reactor trip breakers; some of the 4 kV and 600 V breakers have preventive maintenance every six years which is inconsistent with the industry practice of three years; breakers are not tested at the calculated minimum voltage; the breakers response times are not trended; non-conservative cable resistance based on average ambient temperature of 25 C was used for breaker control circuit voltage drop calculation. The licensee has committed to fix these weaknesses.

All eight inspections per TI 2515/137 were completed as of October 9, 1998. We expect all reports will be issued by November 30, 1998. A panel comprising of EELB, HQMB, and PECB staff will summarize the inspection findings and evaluate if any further regulatory action or inspections are required. NEI has scheduled a meeting with the NRC staff on December 1, 1998, to exchange ideas on the breaker issues.

### **Oconee**

The Division of Engineering last week forwarded the "Final Report on the Oconee Emergency Electrical Power System and Other Related Matters" to the Division of Reactor Projects I/II. This is an in-depth report dealing with many of the issues surrounding the design of the Oconee emergency electrical power system, which utilizes hydroelectric generators as its emergency power sources. The report also includes an assessment of issues related to the Oconee standby shutdown facility (SSF). The report is the combined work of the Electrical Engineering Branch, the Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch, and the Plant Systems Branch.

The review did not identify any vulnerabilities in the design or operation of the Oconee emergency electrical power system or SSF that would require immediate corrective actions to be taken. Duke has responded with commitments to a number of recommendations the staff made in its draft report which the staff believes will resolve its concerns in those areas.

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

On October 22, 1998, amendments were issued which approved an extended power uprate for Hatch Units 1 and 2. The amendments increased the maximum thermal power level from 2558 MWt to 2763 MWt, which is an increase of approximately 8 percent. In 1995, an increase of about 5 percent above the original licensed power was approved; thus, the extended power uprate is about 13 percent above the original licensed power. Hatch is the second GE facility to receive approval for extended power uprate; Monticello received its approval in September 1998.

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) discussed the Hatch application with the staff and the licensee at a Subcommittee meeting on August 27, 1998, and at the Full Committee meeting on September 2, 1998. In its letter to the EDO dated September 15, 1998, the ACRS agreed with the staff's recommendation for approval of the amendments.

The licensee intends to implement the amendment on Unit 2 prior to the startup from the current refueling outage, which is scheduled for November 10, 1998, and for Unit 1 prior to startup from the refueling outage of spring 1999.

### Millstone Unit 3

- 1) **Hearing on RSS Amendment:** On August 25, 1998, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) ruled that the Citizens Regulatory Commission (CRC) had standing in the CRC's request to intervene in a Millstone Unit 3 license amendment. The proposed license amendment would revise the Millstone Unit 3 licensing basis by eliminating the requirement to have the recirculation spray system directly inject into the reactor coolant system following a design basis accident, with the exception of loss-of-coolant accident scenarios involving a long term passive failure. A prehearing conference (conference call) was held on September 3, 1998, to discuss the contentions. The staff is waiting for ASLB's final decision concerning the contentions.
- 2) **Hearing on Sump Pump Amendment:** On September 2, 1998, the ASLB ruled that the CRC did not have standing in its petition to intervene in a license amendment dated April 1, 1998. The proposed amendment would revise the Millstone Unit 3 licensing basis by adding a new sump pump subsystem in the engineered safety feature building to address groundwater inleakage through the containment basemat. On September 11, 1998, the CRC filed a notice of appeal. In its appeal, the CRC stated that the license amendment proposed a band-aid approach to a serious safety issue and the CRC is rightly concerned and possesses a legal right to participate. On October 23, 1998, the Commission concurred fully with the ASLB conclusion that CRC lacked standing because it failed to demonstrate that the requested amendment either has obvious potential for offsite consequences or would otherwise pose a plausible risk of injury in fact to CRC or its representative member. Therefore, the Commission affirmed the ASLB decision.

### Perry Nuclear Power Plant

On September 2, 1998, the licensee detected an increase in the long-lived isotope Xe-133 in the offgas pretreatment steam, indicating the existence of a pinhole leak in a fuel rod. The GE Fuel Performance Manager was consulted and concurred with the conclusion that a pinhole leak existed. Subsequent examinations led the licensee to conclude that the leak came from a twice-burned fuel bundle. The leak was suppressed by repositioning of the control rods. In addition, the licensee implemented administrative procedures to limit power changes to less than or equal to one percent per hour to prevent further degradation to the fuel pin.

On October 28, 1998, the licensee identified a second increase in noble gas thus indicating a second pinhole leak in a fuel rod. The licensee intends to take actions to identify and suppress this second leak over the upcoming weekend.

No obvious cause of the failure can be determined at this time. The most common cause of fuel failures among BWRs is debris-induced fretting. The Perry facility has been operating at essentially full power since the fall 1997 refueling outage. The next refueling outage is scheduled for April 1999.

### Fort Calhoun Station

On October 19, 1998, the NRC issued the safety evaluation for the Safety Injection Tank (SIT) amendment to Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) for the Fort Calhoun Station. This risk-informed amendment increased the allowed outage times (AOT) for the SIT. This effort was coordinated through the Combustion Engineering Owners Group (CEOG) and closed a 39 - month old licensing action. The safety evaluation was completed as item I.C.9 of the tasking memo response.

### Management Changes

The licensee (Duquesne Light Company) has announced that effective October 23, 1998, Richard D. Brandt assumed the position of Division Vice President, Operations Support Group. Mr. Brandt had previously been assigned as the Division Vice President, Nuclear Operations Group and Plant Manager. Concurrently, Kevin L. Ostrowski assumed the position of Division Vice President, Nuclear Operations Group and Plant Manager. Both Mr. Brandt and Mr. Ostrowski will report to James E. Cross, President, Generation Group and Chief Nuclear Officer. The previous Division Vice President, Operations Support Group, Ronald LeGrand, has left Duquesne Light Company.

Mr. John Hammonds has been named as Engineering Support Manager at the Hatch facility, effective October 31, 1998. Mr. Hammonds has been with Southern Company for 15 years, serving in Operations and Nuclear Safety & Compliance.

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ENCLOSURE B

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

### Westinghouse Electric Company

Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC), a division of CBS Corporation, submitted a proposal on September 28, 1998, to change the name on their Special Nuclear Material license to accommodate the anticipated sale of the facility to a Morrison Knudsen/British Nuclear Fuels consortium. On October 27, 1998, the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards had preliminary discussions with the Office of the General Counsel to address considerations for modifying the WEC license in a timely manner to meet the proposed schedule.

### Physical Protection Bilateral Visit to France

During the week of October 19-23, 1998, a member of the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards participated on the U.S. delegation to bilateral discussions held in France with French officials concerning the physical protection of nuclear materials. In addition to the technical discussions, the

delegation visited the Flamanville Nuclear Power Plant and the La Hague reprocessing facility near Cherbourg, France.

#### **Private Fuel Storage Delays Response to Request for Additional Information**

Private Fuel Storage (PFS), LLC, applicant for a license to construct and operate an away-from-reactor independent spent fuel storage installation on the reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians, has told the staff of the Spent Fuel Project Office that the response to the staff's request for additional information (RAI) regarding certain geologic and seismic parameters of the proposed site will be delayed from mid-December 1998 to some time in February 1999. The staff's RAI was issued in April 1998. While PFS has provided a staggered response to most of the items in the RAI, the items in question were part of a series on the geology and geomechanics of site and region which were recognized by PFS as extremely challenging. In order to respond to these, PFS has undertaken an expanded geologic program. The need to run several additional seismic lines and then to analyze the data (along with Autumn/Winter weather conditions at the site) is given as the reason for the delay. This delay will impact the staff's ability to complete its safety evaluation of the proposed site of the PFS facility.

#### **GA-4 Spent Fuel Transportation Package Certificate Issued**

On October 27, 1998, the Spent Fuel Project Office issued a certificate of compliance to General Atomics for the GA-4 Legal Weight Truck spent fuel shipping cask. The GA-4 is the first new legal weight truck spent fuel shipping cask design to be approved since 1989. The cask is authorized to transport up to four pressurized-water reactor spent fuel assemblies, a capacity that is four times greater than existing legal weight truck designs. The GA-4 is approved for 12 different Westinghouse, Babcock & Wilcox, Combustion Engineering, and Exxon/ANF fuel types. The overall dimensions of the cask are approximately 90 inches in diameter and 234 inches long, with a maximum gross weight of 55,000 pounds. General Atomics is considering submitting an application for approval of a similar design, the GA-9, which would be designed to transport up to nine boiling-water reactor spent fuel assemblies.

#### **Meeting with Hartford Steam Boiler Concerning the Inspection Services Provided by Authorized Inspection Agencies**

On October 26, 1998, the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) met with representatives from Hartford Steam Boiler at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was for Hartford Steam Boiler to present an overview of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) certification process and inspection services provided by authorized inspection agencies. SFPO has been considering recommendations from stakeholders on how to improve the quality assurance oversight of transportation and spent fuel dry cask storage container fabrication facilities. This meeting provided staff with a basic understanding of how an authorized nuclear inspector program meeting ASME requirements might be implemented to provide an onsite representative during the fabrication of transportation and spent fuel dry cask storage containers.

#### **Meeting with the Nuclear Procurement Issues Committee and the Nuclear Energy Institute Concerning Spent Fuel Dry Storage Container Designer Inspections**

On October 27, 1998, the Spent Fuel Project Office met with representatives of the Nuclear Procurement Issues Committee (NUPIC), its Dry Storage Quality Working Group (DSQG), and the Nuclear Energy Institute at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was for NUPIC and DSQG to present their plan for performing inspections of spent fuel dry cask storage container designers and fabricators. NUPIC explained how it has coordinated the inspection efforts of the nuclear utilities in performing inspections of reactor-related vendors over the past decade. Details of how this coordinated inspection program operates were provided. The representatives also discussed why they decided to create DSQG.

#### **Annual Meeting of the American Society of Non-Destructive Testing**

During October 19-21, 1998, a management representative from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety participated in the annual meeting of the American Society of Non-Destructive Testing (ASNT) in Nashville, Tennessee. The representative accomplished a number of important objectives during the meeting including: meeting with the Industrial Radiography Radiation Safety Personnel committee about implementation issues associated with the ASNT radiographer certification program; providing a presentation on NUREG-1631, *Source Disconnects Resulting from Radiography Drive Cable Failures*; interfacing with ASNT leadership on various regulatory issues impacting industrial radiography; and meeting with representatives of the Non-Destructive Testing Management Association (NDTMA) to plan a one-half day workshop for the upcoming NDTMA meeting in February to address the Special Team Inspection recommendations to the radiography industry contained in NUREG-1631. During this workshop, industry representatives, along with assistance from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Agreement States, will develop an industry standard or set of practices for maintenance and inspection of radiography drive cables.

#### **10 CFR Part 35 Public Workshop**

On October 21-22, 1998, the third in a series of three public workshops on 10 CFR Part 35 was held at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters. Participants provided comments on the proposed rule and the Medical Policy Statement. Participants' comments were provided on the following major topics: need for a risk assessment as part of the rulemaking; extension of the public comment period for the rulemaking; training and experience requirements for authorized users and radiation safety officers; NRC approval of certifying organizations; and the deletion of the requirement for a Radiation Safety Committee.

#### **American National Standards Institute Health Physics Society N13 Committee on Radiation Protection.**

On October 23, 1998, two representatives from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety attended the annual American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Health Physics Society (HPS) N13 Committee on Radiation Protection. An overview of the standards currently in development, as well as those standards finalized by the full HPS Standards Committee were reviewed. In addition, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), in accordance with

Public Law 104-113 and the Office of Management and Budget's Circular A-119 on Federal Agency use of codes and standards, requested via letter dated October 22, 1998, that ANSI, through the HPS N13 Committee, consider addressing the specific issues of bioassay sampling and collection during emergencies when future revisions to ANSI 13.30 are performed, or to address them through another standards document, as the N13 Committee determines. The Committee welcomed the initiative of the NRC to use Standards Developing Organizations, such as ANSI and the HPS to assist the NRC in its endeavors to comply with this new law.

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ENCLOSURE C

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

### **Water Reactor Safety Information Meeting**

Nearly 350 persons representing U.S. industry, government and academia as well as 18 foreign countries attended the 26<sup>th</sup> Water Reactor Safety Information Meeting (WRSM) at the Bethesda Marriott Hotel on October 26-28, 1998. On Monday October 26, NRC Chairman, Shirley Ann Jackson, gave the keynote address on "Transitioning to Risk-Informed Regulation: The Role of Research", and later after lunch, Commissioner Nils J. Diaz gave an address on "LWR Safety: The Convergence Process". Tuesday morning a panel discussed "The Future of Nuclear Safety Research". The panel members were: Ashok Thadani, RES Director and Panel Moderator, Ralph Beedle, Sr. Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer, Nuclear Generation, NEI; James Lang, Director Energy Conversion Division, EPRI; Dennis Harrison, Director LWR Research Division, DOE; Dr. Michel Livolant, IPSN Director, France; and Dana Powers, Vice Chair ACRS. Dr. Carlo Vitanza, Director of the OECD Halden Project gave a talk on the Halden Project after the luncheon on Tuesday, October 27 and Dr. Herbert Kouts, the first NRC Director of Nuclear Regulatory Research of NRC and architect of the first WRSM, spoke about the history of Reactor Safety Research after lunch on Wednesday, October 28.

Papers were presented in the following major areas of research: Pressure Vessel, Severe Accidents, Nuclear Materials and Health Effects, Materials Integrity, Digital Instrumentation and Control, Structural Performance, The Halden Program, Thermal-Hydraulics, Plant Aging, and High Burn-up Fuel.

### **Ground-Water Focus Group Meeting of the National Water-Quality Monitoring Council**

The Ground-Water Focus Group of the National Water-Quality Monitoring (NWQM) Council met at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Headquarters in Reston, VA to review its mission, discuss accomplishments and develop priorities and plans for the FY 1999. The Ground-Water Focus (GWF) Group is a voluntary working committee of the NWQM Council comprised of technical specialists from Federal (e.g., USGS, EPA **EXIT**) and NRC) and State (e.g., Florida, Maryland, New Jersey and New York) agencies and interested professional organizations. The GWF Group develops technical information reports and guidelines, as approved by the NWQM Council, and serves in an advisory capacity to the NWQM Council. Significant products developed by and for the GWF Group include: the USGS Water-Resources Investigations Report 96-4233 "Guidelines and Standard Procedures for Studies of Ground-Water Quality: Selection and Installation of Wells, and Supporting Documentation" and the "Conceptual Framework for Ground-Water-Quality Monitoring" report. Under development is a "National Field Manual for the Collection of Water-Quality Data" being written by the USGS in cooperation with GWF Group members and contributing cooperating partners. Discussions of future plans included an outreach program to provide technical guidelines and information via website, and planning of symposia on ground-water monitoring methods and applications. A Division of Regulatory Applications staff member discussed accomplishments of the NRC-funded research study in the field testing of unsaturated zone monitoring strategies and methods. Participation in the GWE Group will provide timely information on the EPA, USGS and State ground-water monitoring programs, and will facilitate input into the national water-quality monitoring program.

### **Regulatory Guide and Standard Review Plan Issued**

The last documents in the series of guidance documents on probabilistic risk analysis were issued recently. They are Regulatory Guide 1.178, "An Approach for Plant-Specific Risk-Informed Decisionmaking: Inservice Inspection of Piping," and its Standard Review Plan Chapter 3.9.8, "Standard Review Plan for Trial Use for the Review of Risk-Informed Inservice Inspection of Piping"

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ENCLOSURE F

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

### **Restack**

The current phase of the Restack project (10th floor, OWFN) will be completed by November 6, 1998. Employee moves are being scheduled for the week of November 9, 1998. Work on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor will begin November 16, 1998. The project remains on schedule.

### **Rulemaking Activities for the Week Ending October 30, 1998**

### **Financial Assurance Requirements for Decommissioning Nuclear Power Reactors; Correction (Parts 30 and 50)**

A document correcting a final rule that amends the regulations governing financial assurance requirements for the decommissioning of nuclear power reactors was published in the Federal Register on October 27, 1998 (63 FR 57236). The document corrects an inadvertent omission and several typographical errors in the text of the final rule. The final rule becomes effective November 23, 1998.

ENCLOSURE G

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

**Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of October 23, 1998 - October 29, 1998:**

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Referral from Department of Defense.  | (FOIA/PA 99-023) |
| License C-03134 for 1263 McBride Ave., Paterson, NJ location.   | (FOIA/PA 99-024) |
| Radioactive Krypton-85 gas tracer, authorized distributor listing.  | (FOIA/PA 99-025) |
| Named individual, all records.  | (FOIA/PA 99-026) |
| Allegation file, RIII-95-A-0020.  | (FOIA/PA 99-027) |
| Framatome Technologies (predecessor B&W) NRC review of submitted Emergency Operating Procedure Guidance under TAC #M54946 for power plants. | (FOIA/PA 99-028) |
| Named Individual, access privileges.  | (FOIA/PA 99-029) |

ENCLOSURE I

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

| Departures        |                           |      |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------|
| DIALLO, Halimatou | Mgmt Info Systems Analyst | NMSS |
| NEGRON, Suzanne   | Office Service Assistant  | RIII |

ENCLOSURE M

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

**Media Interest**

The "Friends of a Safe Millstone" are planning a public meeting on November 19.

The Los Angeles Times is planning a story on the cancellation of the OSRE inspections at reactors. A Milwaukee, WI, television station also aired a story on the issue.

| Press Releases       |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Headquarters:</b> |  |
| 98-193               | NRC Plant Status Report to Change Format   |
| 98-194               | Miraglia Named Finalist for Senior Executives Association Award  |
| 98-195               | Note to Editors: ACRS Meetings   |
| 98-196               | NRC to Grant Two Exemptions to its Package Requirements to Facilitate Shipment of Trojan Reactor Vessel for Disposal |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 98-197          | NRC Issues Certificate to General Atomics for Transportation Cask for Spent Nuclear Fuel |
| <b>Regions:</b> |  |
| I-98-117        | Note to Editors: Millstone Unit 2 Meeting  |
| I-98-118        | NRC Names New Senior Resident Inspector at Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant               |
| I-98-119        | GPU to Brief NRC Staff on Oyster Creek Shutdown Planning                                 |

ENCLOSURE N

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

### Foreign Visitor

On October 26 and 27, Dr. Michel Livolant, Director, Institute for Protection and Nuclear Safety of France, met with the Commissioners. They discussed the proposal for restructuring nuclear safety regulation in France and the impact on IPSN, comparative staffing for nuclear safety regulation in France and the U.S., and the future of nuclear safety research in the U.S. Dr. Livolant was in the country to attend the NRC-sponsored Nuclear Reactor Safety Information Meeting.

### International Licensing Assistance Program (LAP) in Lithuania

Earlier this week, Hans Schechter attended the eighth Steering Group meetings of the international Licensing Assistance Program (LAP) in Lithuania. The purpose of these international meetings is to review progress made by the Lithuanian regulatory authority, VATESI, in the western-assisted safety review of Ignalina unit 1, which is scheduled to receive an operating license in May or June 1999. The plant is currently undergoing extensive modifications and upgrades pursuant to recommendations made early last year by an international safety review panel.

The LAP attendees were able to determine that VATESI staff has made considerable progress in laying out a very extensive and transparent review program and are working very hard on adhering to their proposed licensing schedule. Unfortunately, the plant is not always cooperating fully in the timely delivery of the SAR documents, which tends to place undue loads on the regulators in the performance of the reviews. VATESI was advised to set in advance explicit document delivery dates and require the plant to abide by them.

Several additional assistance topics and seminars were proposed by the western attendees aimed at facilitating the review. The offers were accepted by VATESI, and training is scheduled to commence within the next month. The next Steering Group meeting is scheduled to take place in February 1999.

### AIT-TECRO Meeting

On October 26-28, the American Institute on Taiwan (AIT) - Taipei Economic Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) held their annual Joint Standing Committee Meeting on Civil Nuclear Cooperation. The NRC team attending the meeting included Brian Sheron, Matthew Chiramal and Margaret Chatterton from NRR, and Kevin Burke from OIP. Representatives from the Department of State, DOE and the national laboratories also attended. After opening remarks and overview presentations from both sides, the meeting broke into three working groups. Working Group I on "Regulatory Matters" was chaired by Kevin Burke and discussed high burnup fuel, digital I&C issues, the Y2K problem and PRA. The Working Group also reviewed the status of 34 cooperative items on the 1997-1998 matrix and discussed nine new items to be included in the 1998-1999 matrix. Following the two-day meeting, the Committee visited Yucca Mountain.

### Nuclear Suppliers Group and Zangger Committee Meetings

Suzanne Schuyler-Hayes, OIP, attended meetings in Vienna, Austria, of the two international nuclear non-proliferation export control regimes, the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Exporters Committee (Zangger Committee).

The NSG considered revisions to its controls on intangible technology transfers and agreed to a restructuring of its guidelines (Annex) on nuclear-related dual-use exports. Also, a special NSG intercessional meeting was held on the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan. In addition to expressing concerns about the testing, participants exchanged information on steps taken to strengthen national export controls in response to the tests.

The Zangger Committee discussed the issue of full scope safeguards and the Committee's mandate under Article 111.2 of the NPT, and a U.S. proposal to include uranium conversion technologies within the scope of the Committee's recommendations.

ENCLOSURE O

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest

| Documents Released to Public |   | Date     | Subject   |
|------------------------------|---|----------|---|
| <b>Information Papers</b>    |   |          |   |
| 1.                           | <a href="#">SECY-98-234</a>                   | 10/8/98  | Weekly Information Report - Week Ending October 2, 1998   |
| 2.                           | <a href="#">SECY-98-235</a>                   | 10/9/98  | Proposed Revision of Appendix K to Title 10 Part 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR Part 50) |
| 3.                           | <a href="#">SECY-98-236</a>                   | 10/15/98 | Weekly Information Report - Week Ending October 9, 1998   |
| <b>Memoranda</b>             |   |          |   |
| 1.                           | Ltr to Chairman Jackson fm D. F. Pilmer, CEOG | 10/15/98 | Direct Measurement of Fracture Toughness  |

**Commission Correspondence**

1. Letter to Senator Daniel Inouye dated October 21, 1998 concerning an upcoming ballot initiative in Hawaii County regarding commercial irradiation facilities (incoming letter dated September 8, 1998 also released)

**Federal Register Notices Issued**

1. Yankee Atomic Electric Company (Yankee Nuclear Power Station); Docket No. 50-029-LA-R; Notice of Reconstitution of Board (Bechhoefer to replace Gleason as Chairman)
2. [10 CFR Part 50](#); Financial Assurance Requirements for Decommissioning Nuclear Power Reactors; Correction

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ENCLOSURE P

Region I  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending October 30, 1998

**Beaver Valley 1 and 2**

Region I performed a reduced scope OSTI at Beaver Valley 1 and 2 during the week of (October 26 - 30), following extended shutdown of the units, to evaluate the effectiveness of licensee actions to improve conduct of operations. Currently, no significant issues have been identified.

**NRC Update to Maine Yankee Community Advisory Panel**

On October 22, 1998, NRC Region I staff presented a synopsis of recent NRC inspection and licensing activities in Wiscasset, Maine, at the monthly meeting of the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) on Decommissioning Maine Yankee. Topics discussed included recent inspection findings, plans for future inspections, NRR licensing actions, and other expected NRC oversight activities. The CAP requested this presentation following the transfer of the Maine Yankee senior resident inspector earlier this year. Approximately 45 individuals attended this initial presentation to the CAP. The presentation was well-received and no outstanding questions resulted. Region I has agreed to make similar presentations approximately quarterly to ensure that the public is kept up-to-date with ongoing NRC activities.

**Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Materials Testing, Inc.**

On October 23, 1998, a predecisional enforcement conference was held with Materials Testing, Inc. concerning violations found during an inspection in July 1998. Nine apparent violations were identified during the inspection, the most significant being the loss of control of a portable moisture density gauge and the apparent lack of management oversight of licensed activities. During the conference, licensee management acknowledged the violations and presented a detailed accounting of the causes of the violations and the corrective actions taken.

**Presentation at Temple University**

On October 21, 1998, a Health Physicist from Region I's Division of Nuclear Materials Safety gave a presentation at the Temple University (Philadelphia, PA) Environmental Health Seminar on the regulatory authority of the NRC. The course was attended by students obtaining their master's degree in the Environmental Health Engineering program.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region II

Items of Interest  
Week Ending October 30, 1998

**Southern Nuclear Operating Company - Vogtle**

On October 27, the Deputy Regional Administrator (DRA) presented NRC certificates to newly licensed operators at Plant Vogtle at an evening ceremony held in Augusta, Georgia. On October 28, the DRA had a discussion with all Vogtle site managers to communicate changes being implemented with NRC programs.

**Tennessee Valley Authority - Watts Bar**

An NRC/TVA management meeting was held October 28, 1998, in the Region II office to discuss Watts Bar plant performance, the results of an ice condenser self assessment, plans for Unit 1 Cycle 2 refueling outage, hardware improvements made in plant security equipment and an overview of current industry initiatives for nuclear power plants.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region III  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending October 30, 1998

**Management Meeting with Commonwealth Edison Company**

On October 27, 1998, a management meeting was conducted in the NRC Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between management representatives from Commonwealth Edison Company and members of the NRC staff. The meeting was a routine management meeting to discuss the status and effectiveness of LaSalle Nuclear Power Station's performance improvement activities. Acting Regional Administrator James Caldwell participated in the meeting.

**Management Meeting with ABB Combustion Engineering, Inc.**

On October 30, 1998, a management meeting was conducted in the NRC Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between management representatives from ABB Combustion Engineering and members of the NRC staff. The meeting was a routine management meeting to discuss general plant performance of the company's Hematite Nuclear Manufacturing Facility.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region IV  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending October 30, 1998

**NRC Represented at Public Meeting in Hilo, Hawaii**

In an October 14, 1998 letter to the Chairman, U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii requested NRC representation at a technical panel meeting, public meeting, and press conference held on October 22 in Hilo, Hawaii, to discuss NRC's licensing process for cobalt-60 food irradiators. On November 3, Hawaiian voters will vote on a referendum calling for a ban on all commercial irradiators. This local interest has been prompted by a proposal to build a food irradiator near Hilo, although the NRC has not yet received a license application.

Jim Montgomery of the NRC's Region IV office attended the meetings and press conference and described the NRC license review process emphasizing that license reviews are conducted in an objective and scientific manner to determine if an irradiator or any other licensed activity can be operated in a manner compatible with optimum public health and safety. The meetings were sponsored by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and a tropical fruit growers association, both of whom are promoting the irradiator and hoping to defeat the ballot initiative. In addition to the NRC and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, the Hawaii Department of Public Works, the Hawaii Department of Health, the U. S. Geological Survey, the University of Hawaii, the Hawaii Volcano Observatory, and the Center for Study of Active Volcanos were represented at the meetings. The irradiator opposition groups opposed Mr. Montgomery's participation in the meetings alleging that he was taking sides in this controversial issue. Mr. Montgomery's comments emphasized that, if invited, the NRC would make the same unbiased presentation describing the license review process to any other group regardless of their position on the irradiator issue.