

October 29, 1999

For: The Commissioners  
 From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /s/  
 Subject: SECY-99-255 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 22, 1999"

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James L. Blaha  
 Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending October 22, 1999

#### Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant Hearing Status

The discovery phase of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) hearing related to Carolina Power & Light Company's (CP&L's) request to increase the spent fuel storage capacity at its Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant (HNP) is in progress. Discovery will end after the last deposition scheduled for November 4, 1999.

On October 14, 1999, NRC staff members participated in the deposition of David Lochbaum at the law offices of Shaw Pittman in Washington D.C. Mr. Lochbaum was named by the Board of Commissioners of Orange County, North Carolina (BCOC, the intervener), as its expert on matters relating to Technical Contention 3 (TC-3). TC-3 concerns the licensee's proposed [10 CFR 50.55a\(a\)\(3\)\(i\)](#) alternative plan for the spent fuel pool cooling system

pipng.

On October 21, 1999, NRC staff members participated in the deposition of Dr. Gordon Thompson at CP&L's Corporate Offices in Raleigh, North Carolina. Dr. Thompson was named as BCOC's expert on matters relating to Technical Contention 2 (TC-2). TC-2 concerns whether 10 CFR 50, Appendix A, General Design Criteria 62 allows credit for fuel enrichment and burnup limits in criticality calculations.

During the week of October 18, 1999, NRC staff members participated in the depositions of Carolina Power & Light Company's (CP&L's) experts on both contentions at HNP and at CP&L Corporate Offices. Staff members also participated in a tour of the HNP spent fuel storage facility. One member of the NRC staff was deposed on October 18, 1999, other NRC staff depositions are scheduled for October 29, and November 4, 1999.

The ASLB is scheduled to hear oral limited appearance statements in accordance with section 2.715(a) of the Commission's regulations on December 7 and 8, 1999, in the vicinity of HNP. Written summaries must be filed by all parties on December 20, 1999, and the ASLB will hear oral arguments on January 4, 2000 in the ASLB Hearing Room (TWFN).

### **Decommissioning Activities**

During October 13 and 14, 1999, the staff held a decommissioning counterparts meeting in Meriden, CT, regarding NRC inspection of decommissioning power reactors. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Regional offices, NRR, NMSS, OSP, and RES and covered a variety of decommissioning-related topics including inspection, future rulemaking, limited site release, State coordination and involvement, and license termination. Additionally, on the evening of October 13, the staff conducted a public meeting to present the NRC [Inspection Manual Chapter 2561](#) , "Decommissioning Power Reactor Inspection Program," recent inspection findings, and planned program improvements. The audience included representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI ), reactor licensees, the Environmental Protection Agency, the States of Illinois and New Jersey, local citizen groups, and approximately 40 members of the general public. Following this short presentation, the floor was opened to the public for questions and answers to a panel of NRC managers representing the Regional offices, NRR, and NMSS. The most significant theme throughout this meeting was the public's desire to become more involved with the actual inspections conducted by the NRC staff. On the following day, October 14, the staff also held a meeting with NEI and senior management of six decommissioning power reactor facilities on specific aspects of decommissioning inspections and our rulemaking and generic guidance initiatives. In general, NEI and the industry had very favorable comments regarding the NRC decommissioning inspection program. In particular, the NRC was complimented on their frequency and timing of inspections and the high caliber of the individual inspectors from both the regions and headquarters. This meeting was open to public observation.

### **NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 99-03, "Resolution of Generic Issue 145, Actions to Reduce Common-cause Failures"**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued this [regulatory issue summary](#) on October 13, 1999, to notify nuclear power reactor licensees about the staff's resolution of Generic Issue 145, "Actions to Reduce Common-Cause Failures," and to communicate the broad insights that have been developed from the staff's review of the common-cause failure events identified in licensee event reports during the 15-year period between 1980 and 1995.

### **Reactor Oversight Process Improvements**

On October 20, 1999, the Transition Task Force (TTF) for the Revised Reactor Oversight Process conducted a periodic video conference with the Executive Forum (Deputy Regional Administrators) to discuss the status of the supplemental inspection program. During this meeting the TTF staff provided an overview of the Supplemental Inspection Program. This included discussions of policy issues associated with implementing the supplemental inspections.

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ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending October 22, 1999

### **American Society of Non-Destructive Testing Annual Conference**

On October 13-15, 1999, a representative from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety attended the American Society of Non-Destructive Testing Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, and gave a presentation on current radiography certification issues. The conference was attended by several hundred people. About 100 attendees are involved with industrial radiography involving Nuclear Regulatory Commission or Agreement State oversight. The presentations covered the entire spectrum of non-destructive testing. There was a 1 day session devoted to radiation safety.

### **Annual Meeting of the Council on Ionizing Radiation Measurements and Standards**

On October 13, 1999, a representative from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety gave a presentation entitled "Some Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Rulemaking Activities Relating to Dosimetry and Standards" at the Occupational Radiation Protection Workshop of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Council on Ionizing Radiation Measurements and Standards (CIRMS). The meeting, sponsored in part by NRC, was held on October 13-15, 1999, at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland. CIRMS is a private organization made up of international leaders from the academic, government, and industrial sectors dedicated to identifying needs for new measurement technologies and the development of new standards in the field of ionizing radiation. The attendees at the workshop uniformly supported and were enthusiastic about NRC being pro-active in promoting the development of consensus standards and recommendations, and in their regulatory use.

### **Meeting with Department of Energy on West Valley Spent Fuel Shipments**

On October 15, 1999, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards management met with the Department of Energy (DOE **EXIT**) to discuss possible Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review of the transportation packaging to be used for the shipment of spent fuel from the West Valley, New York, site to the Idaho National Environmental and Engineering Laboratory. Issues discussed included licensing authority under 10 CFR Part 71, the possible need for a cost reimbursable agreement for NRC to conduct a review, and technical issues associated with full load shipments using the TN-REG and TN-BRP casks. The staff agreed to hold future meetings with DOE on these issues.

### **Second Public Workshop on Revision of the Fuel Cycle Safety Inspection Program**

On October 20, 1999, the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards and Regions II and III hosted the second public workshop with the stakeholders to exchange views on how the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) should revise its baseline safety inspection program for nuclear fuel cycle facilities. The first public meeting with the stakeholders was held on September 16, 1999. The participants at the workshop included representatives from the nuclear fuel facility licensees, the Nuclear Energy Institute, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the media. The concept of using objective performance indicators with accompanying performance thresholds to support the risk-informed and performance-based regulatory requirements was discussed. NRC will continue this stakeholder process during the revision of the fuel cycle safety inspection program.

### **High-Level Waste Disposal Criticality**

Staff from the Division of Waste Management met early in October 1999 with the Department of Energy (DOE) and their contractors to discuss the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) request for additional information (RAI) on the Disposal Criticality Analysis Methodology Topical Report submitted by DOE to NRC for review and approval. The Topical Report proposes an approach for analyzing the probability and consequences of post-closure criticality events at the potential Yucca Mountain repository site. In this technical exchange, some of the questions were clarified and both sides moved towards agreement on a number of issues raised in the RAI. Some of these issues included consideration of the seismic and volcanic events in developing criticality scenarios, validation of neutronics models, and assumptions for the degradation models. It was agreed that, through subsequent teleconferencing, the DOE's proposed responses to the RAI will be discussed further and DOE will submit their final responses to the RAI by the end of October.

### **California Earthquake Possible Relationship to Yucca Mountain Seismic Events**

On October 16, 1999, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake (Hector Mine) occurred in the Mojave Desert (2:46 a.m. PDT), 150 miles from the Yucca Mountain site. It was felt in Las Vegas, Nevada, but did no structural damage there or at the site (according to preliminary reports from the University of Nevada Seismological Laboratory in Reno, Nevada (UNR), and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's on-site representatives). The earthquake focal point was about 6 km deep on the Lavic Lake fault. It broke the surface along a 40 km-long trace that had displacement of up to 4.7 meters. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) reported the Lavic Lake fault had not previously been identified as active because there was no evidence the fault had ruptured in the past 10,000 years. The USGS considers the Hector Mine earthquake to be a "rare" event that could not have been anticipated based on a standard probabilistic assessment of earthquake rates.

The DOE, USGS, and UNR geoscientists and rock mechanists are analyzing the instrumental records of seismic motion, water-level fluctuation and strain in boreholes at Yucca Mountain. There are faults of similar characteristics and seismogenic potential near Yucca Mountain. Staff from the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses and HQ will assess the characteristics of the rejuvenated Lavic Lake fault and its associated damage zones in preparation for reviews of DOE's disruptive event scenario analyses and Topical Report #3 on seismic design scheduled for FY 2000. The preliminary view is that there will be minimal impact on studies and conclusions related to repository design or performance.

### **Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste**

On October 12-13, 1999, staff from the Division of Waste Management (DWM) and the Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) attended the 113<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste's (ACNW) meetings held in Las Vegas, Nevada. On October 12, 1999, the ACNW hosted a round table discussion on the "Role of Safety Assessment in the Yucca Mountain Regulatory Process." Included in the discussion session were presentations by DWM and SFPO staff, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Energy (DOE), affected units of local government (AULG), and the state of Nevada. The state of Nevada indicated that the repository does not "isolate" waste and the general public sees themselves as the recipient of the eventual releases. The EPA outlined the requirements in its proposed standard for Yucca Mountain. During and after these presentations, discussion ensued on a number of topics including ground-water protection, and the differences between the EPA's proposed standard and the dose limit in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) proposed rule at 10 CFR Part 63. Presentations by the AULG focused mainly on issues related to transportation of high-level waste and on comments on DOE's draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). On the evening of October 12, 1999, the ACNW held an open forum to obtain audience comments. Most of the discussion in this session was similar to the round table discussion earlier in the day.

On October 13, 1999, the ACNW was briefed on the status of DOE's Yucca Mountain program. In addition to the DOE's presentations, Nye County discussed the status of its drilling program south of Yucca Mountain, and Clark County gave presentations on its review of DOE's viability assessment and on transportation issues related to its review of DOE's DEIS.

### **Observation Quality Assurance Audit of the First Performance Model Report - Integrated Site Model**

From October 11-15, 1999, the Division of Waste Management (DWM) staff observed the Department of Energy's (DOE's) quality assurance (QA) audit

of the integrated site model (ISM). The purpose of the audit was to evaluate the activities and processes supporting the development of the performance model report (PMR) for the ISM. Four PMR QA audits are scheduled to be completed by the end of January 2000. Analysis modeling reports (AMRs), which feed into the PMRs, software, and supporting data for the ISM, were evaluated as part of the QA audit process. The DWM observers reviewed data, computer codes, and models and found their qualifications acceptable. As a result of the observation audit, the following were noted: (a) It was concluded that technical pieces of the ISM are completed, however, the final product has not been tested; (b) DWM staff will continue to monitor the verification and validation processes of the ISM end product; (c) the data qualification process seems to be in place and is being executed; (d) the method used to prioritize data for qualification needs further clarification; (e) the management and operating (M&O) contractor is expected to assign a project manager to data activities before the next DOE/Nuclear Regulatory Commission management/quality assurance meeting scheduled for December 16, 1999; and (f) DWM staff will continue to monitor the status of data qualification activities and interface regularly with the newly assigned project manager of data qualification at Yucca Mountain.

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ENCLOSURE C

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending October 22, 1999

### **NRC-EPRI Dry Cask Storage Characterization Program Agreement**

The NRC Office of Research and the Electric Power Research Institute have signed an agreement to work together to determine the long-term integrity of dry storage cask systems and spent nuclear fuel under dry storage conditions. The Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Spent Fuel Project Office (NMSS/SFPO), is developing the technical basis for renewals of licenses and Certificates of Compliance for dry storage systems for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste at independent spent-fuel storage installation (ISFSI) sites. These renewals would cover periods from 20 to 100 years, and they require development of a technical basis for ensuring continued safe performance under the extended service conditions. Verification of past performance of selected components of these systems is required as part of that technical basis.

Under a demonstration program that has been under way since the mid-1980s, the Department of Energy (DOE) has managed some quantities of commercial spent nuclear fuel in four dry storage casks at DOE's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory Test Area North facilities in Idaho. The intent of this cooperative research program is to perform a visual inspection of the dry storage cask and its contents and to evaluate the fuel rods in detail. The cask selected for evaluation is the Gesellschaft fur Nuklear Service Castor-V/21, a nodular cast-iron cask containing fuel assemblies from the Surry nuclear power plant, which was closed and sealed in August 1985. Other participants in this cooperative research program include the DOE Offices of Environmental Management and Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. Their participation will be documented as an addendum to the NRC-EPRI Agreement.

In addition to supporting license renewal, this project is also supporting NMSS's current licensing needs. For example, before the Castor-V/21 cask is returned to the storage pad, the original seals will be removed and retained for future testing. This activity will be coordinated with NMSS/SFPO to support their evaluation of the recent seal failure of the Castor-X/33 cask at the Surry nuclear power plant.

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ENCLOSURE D

Incident Response Operations  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending October 22, 1999

### **Transportation Event**

Members of IRO, NMSS, OSP and Region II, III and IV responded under the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP) to a request for assistance involving a transportation incident reported to the NRC Operations Center on 10/20/99 (event report #36323 and PNO-IV-99-A-046A). A shipment of poly-liners (removed from waste casks) was being transported from Allied Technology Group, Inc (ATG) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee to an ATG facility in Richland Washington. When the shipment arrived, contamination, in the form of resin beads, was identified on the outer surface of several of the liners. The states of Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon and Washington were notified and participated in coordination conference calls through the NRC Operations Center. The Department of Energy Radiological Assistance Program provided monitoring assistance to the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Other Federal agencies participating on the conference calls were the EPA and DOT. There was some media interest particularly in Washington and Idaho. All states conducted radiation surveys of likely areas where the truck may have stopped and no traces of radiation above background levels were found. All states agreed to suspend search efforts on Saturday, October 23, 1999.

### **PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATIONS:**

1. PNO-I-99-047, New York Power Authority (Indian Point 3), UNUSUAL EVENT DUE TO MINOR REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM 9RCS0 LEAK-MEDIA INTEREST
2. PNO-I-99-048, Duquesne Light Co. (Beaver Valley 2), BEAVER VALLEY UNIT 2 FORCED OUTAGE
3. PNO-II-99-045, Carolina Power & Light Co.. (Brunswick 1 2), STATUS OF HURRICANE IRENE

4. PNO-II-99-046, Pritchard Engineering Company, LOST PORTABLE GAUGE

5. PNO-III-99-046, St. John's Hospital, MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION

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ENCLOSURE F

Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending October 22, 1999

**Expand Applicability of Regulations to Holders of, and Applicants for, Certificates of Compliance (Part 72)**

A final rule that amends the regulations concerning licensing requirements for the independent storage of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste was published in the Federal Register on October 15, 1999 (64 FR 56114). The final rule clarifies the obligations of those who hold or apply for a Certificate of Compliance. The final rule allows the Commission to take enforcement action against these persons when legally binding requirements are violated. The final rule becomes effective December 14, 1999.

**Release of Solid Materials at Licensed Facilities: Issues Paper, Scoping Process for Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Meetings (Part 20)**

A document that extends the comment period on the NRC action concerning a potential rulemaking that would set specific requirements on releases of solid materials in order to establish a regulatory framework more consistent with NRC requirements on air and liquid releases was published in the Federal Register on October 19, 1999 (64 FR 56274). The comment period has been extended to December 22, 1999.

**Nuclear Energy Institute; Withdrawal of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-50-61)**

A document announcing the withdrawal of a petition for rulemaking submitted by the Nuclear Energy Institute was published on October 20, 1999 (64 FR 56476). The petition, docketed as PRM-50-61) requested that the NRC amend its regulations concerning fire protection at nuclear power plants.

**Fraud Awareness Training**

On October 21, 1999, OIG conducted fraud awareness training for DCPM staff. The course provided useful insights for detecting and preventing fraud in the procurement field, with special emphasis on emerging issues concerning electronic commerce.

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ENCLOSURE G

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending October 22, 1999

**Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of October 15, 1999 through October 21, 1999:**

Inspection report, NRC, 030-13550/99-01.	(FOIA/PA 2000-0010)
Contract, NRC-10-94-142, transcription services.	(FOIA/PA 2000-0011)
Berea, KY, Madison county, nuclear facilities and/or waste sites in Berea, KY.	(FOIA/PA 2000-0012)
SVA decommissioning plan, all records re license SNM-696, 1988 through 1995, General Atomics, formerly GA Technologies.	(FOIA/PA 2000-0013)
Enforcement Action (EA) 98-081, including OI report 3-97-013, and the Department of Labor Case 97-ERA-34.	(FOIA/PA 2000-0014)
Vacancy announcement 9949015 (Series 343), applications and selection results.	(FOIA/PA 2000-0015)
Fire Protection Research, "Progress Report on...", SAND-77-0303, NUREG-0206, and "Quick Look Reports on..." for 7/76, 8/76, 10/76, 11/76, 12/76, 2/77 & 3/77.	(FOIA/PA 2000-0016)
Callaway Plant, 5/21/99 correspondence from R.J. Barrett, NRR to S.A. Richards, NRR, re "Revised Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch Input to Safety Evaluation Report on the Change to Technical Specifications at the Callaway Plant to Allow Use of Framatome Electrosleeve SG Tube Repair Methods."	(FOIA/PA 2000-0017)
Babcox & Wilcox facility, Parks Township, PA, regarding PNO-1-97-41.	(FOIA/PA 2000-0018)

MLTS database on disk.

(FOIA/PA 2000-0019)

Contract, awards to companies for access control systems in excess of \$50,000, 1997-1999.

(FOIA/PA 2000-0020)

University of OK Nuclear Pharmacy, license 35-03176-04MD, 10/13-14/99 investigation of alleged wrongdoing.

(FOIA/PA 2000-0021)

Named individuals, all records.

(FOIA/PA 2000-0022)

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Human Resources  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending October 22, 1999

Arrivals		
FORT, Lynn	SR. COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST	OIG
MURTHA, Ann	SECRETARY (OA)	NRR
Departures		
BATTIGE, Ken	STRUCTURAL ENGINEER	NMSS

ENCLOSURE M

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending October 22, 1999

**Media Interest**

The Louisville Courier-Journal is preparing a story on NRC's oversight of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion facility.

There has been media interest in the teamsters strike at ABB-Combustion Engineering in Missouri.

There were 5 television, 4 print and several radio reporters at the G.E. Vallecitos meeting in California.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
99-220	NRC Conducts Full-Scale Emergency Preparedness Exercise in Preparation for Y2K
99-221	Dames & Moore Declines NRC's Offer of Trusteeship for Atlas Uranium Mill Tailings Pile
99-222	NRC Posts Inspection Reports on Internet Website for Nuclear Power Plants in Pilot Assessment
99-223	NRC to Hold Public Workshop in Rockville, Maryland on Potential Changes to Hearing Process
99-224	NRC Revises Enforcement Policy for Assessing the Significance of Violations
99-225	NRC to Hold Meeting in Rockville, Maryland on Control of Solid Materials From Licensed Facilities
Regions:	
I-99-90	Note to Editors: NRC to Meet With Niagara Mohawk to Discuss Performance at Nine Mile Point Nuclear Plants
II-99-50	ASLB to Hear Limited Appearance Statement December 7&8 on CP&L Request to Increase Spent Fuel Storage at Harris
II-99-51	NRC Region II Issues Mid-Cycle Plant Performance Review Results
III-99-44	NRC to Present Findings From Safety Team Inspections at Paducah and Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plants

Office of the Secretary  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending October 22, 1999

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject	
<b>Decision Documents</b>			
1.	SECY-99-234	9/22/99	Request for Extension of Milestone for Final Rulemaking Package on 10 CFR Part 63 (Disposal of High-Level Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada)
	SRM on 99-234	10/19/99	(same)
	Commission Voting Record on 99-234	10/19/99	(same)
<b>Information Papers</b>			
1.	SECY-99-239	9/29/99	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending September 24, 1999
<b>Memoranda</b>			
1.	M991020A	10/20/99	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session, Wednesday, October 20, 1999: I. SECY-99-247 - Advanced Medical Systems, Inc. Petition for Review of LBP-99-28
2.	M991021A	10/21/99	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session, Thursday, October 21, 1999: I. SECY-99-235 - North Atlantic Energy Service Corp. (Seabrook Station, Unit 1) and Northeast Nuclear Energy Co. (Millstone Station, Unit 3), Docket Nos. 50-443-LT and 50-423-LT (Consolidated), Petitions to Intervene

**Commission Correspondence**

1. Letter to Congress dated October 15, 1999, provides status of fee collection activities for FY 1999
2. Letter to the Honorable T.J. Glauthier, Deputy Secretary of Energy, dated October 13, 1999, concerns foreign investments in domestic utilities owning or operating nuclear units

**Federal Register Notices Issued**

1. Applications for Licenses to Export Nuclear Materials (DOE - Savannah River to export deuterium oxide (heavy water) to Canada)
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting of the Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal; Notice of Meeting on November 18, 1999
3. Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3); Docket No. 50-423-LA-3; Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (Bechhoefer/Cole/Kelber)
4. Hydro Resources, Inc.; Docket No. 40-8968-ML; Notice of Reconstitution (Thomas S. Moore, Presiding Officer)
5. 10 CFR Part 71; Fissile Material Shipments and Exemptions; Response to Comments and Request for Information
6. 10 CFR Part 30; Employee Protection Training; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-30-62)

Region I  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending October 22, 1999

**Indian Point Unit 2 (IP2)**

The NRC recently completed its follow up inspections of findings from a September 1999 IP2 Augmented Inspection Team (AIT). The AIT completed its

review and held a public exit meeting with licensee management on September 27, 1999. A special follow up team began supplementing the ongoing resident inspector review on September 21, 1999. The special team reviewed licensee restart actions consistent with NRC inspection plans described in an October 4, 1999, letter from the NRC to Consolidated Edison. The special team's interim results were subsequently discussed in an October 12, 1999, letter from the NRC to Consolidated Edison and the plant was restarted with criticality being achieved at 7:01 p.m., October 13, 1999.

#### **Vermont Yankee**

On October 15, 1999, the owners of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation accepted a bid from Philadelphia based AmerGen Energy Company for the 540 megawatt BWR-4 Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. The execution of a binding purchase agreement is expected to occur during the week of October 18.

On October 18, 1999, Vermont Yankee selected Samuel L. Newton for the position of operations vice president. He will have executive responsibility for operations, training and outage management at the plant. Since 1985, Newton has served in positions of increasing responsibility with the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations. During his tenure at Vermont Yankee he will remain an INPO employee.

#### **Heritage Minerals, Inc.**

The Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact, and Opportunity for Hearing related to decommissioning of the Heritage Minerals, Inc. site were published in the Federal Register on September 1, 1999. No requests for hearing were received within the 30-day comment period. NRC notified the licensee that the decommissioning timeliness rule requires that site decommissioning in accordance with their Final Status Survey Plan (decommissioning plan) must be completed within 24 months.

#### **Maine Yankee Community Advisory Panel Meeting**

On the evening of October 21, 1999, a representative from the Region I Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch made a presentation to the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) on Decommissioning Maine Yankee. Region I staff makes these presentations quarterly to update the CAP on NRC activities at the decommissioning facility. The results of the last two inspection reports were discussed at this meeting. A representative from EPA Region I (Boston) also addressed the CAP, discussing possible roles for EPA in the decommissioning process. A licensee contractor addressed the CAP on License Termination Plan dose modeling. Approximately 35 people, including 4 media representatives, were in attendance.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending October 22, 1999

#### **Chairman Dicus' Visit to Oconee Nuclear Plant**

On October 18, Chairman Dicus visited the Duke Energy Corporation' Oconee Nuclear Plant in Seneca, SC., and visited the Region II office on October 19.

#### **Nuclear Fuel Services**

On October 18, the staff issued a Severity Level III violation without a monetary civil penalty to Nuclear Fuel Services. Credit was given for corrective action. The violation involved the failure to conduct or to adequately conduct searches of a drum exiting a material access area which contained seven grams of U-235.

#### **Tennessee Valley Authority - Sequoyah Significance Determination Process (SDP) Meeting**

On October 21, representatives from the Tennessee Valley Authority attended a meeting in the Region II office to discuss risk determination issues associated with a flooding incident at Sequoyah on June 30, 1999. The licensee presented the details of their risk analysis and clarified the differences with the staff's analysis.

#### **Carolina Power and Light Company - Response to Hurricane Irene**

On October 16, due to Hurricane Irene, Carolina Power and Light Company (CP&L) declared a Notification of Unusual Event for the Brunswick Nuclear Plant based on a Hurricane Warning being posted for the area by the National Weather Service. Site preparations were completed and both units remained at 100 percent power. Two resident inspectors were onsite to monitor activities. The licensee staffed the Technical Support Center and the Emergency Operations Facility.

Brunswick exited the Notification of Unusual Event at 11:13 p.m., on October 17, upon lifting of the Hurricane Warning for the area. The Brunswick site experienced approximately 3-4 inches of rain and maximum sustained winds of approximately 30 mph. No damage was sustained by the plant as a result of the storm and the plant remained online at 100 percent power throughout the event.

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Region III  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending October 22, 1999

**NRC Inspectors Assessing Work at Missouri Plant Amid Strike**

Two NRC inspectors were continuing to assess safety performance at the ABB Combustion Engineering Nuclear Power Inc. plant in Festus, Mo., amid a strike by some plant workers that began at 12:01 a.m. on September 29, 1999. The walkout involves 112 unionized workers at the facility, which employs about 200. In particular, the NRC inspectors were assessing the training of replacement workers. The licensee was using managers and engineers, including some from another of its facilities, to handle several aspects of the nuclear fuel production process. As of last week, the NRC inspectors had found that the replacement workers had completed the same amount of training as that required of any worker performing those specific tasks. The strike has generated both congressional and media interest.

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending October 22, 1999

**Meeting with GE Vallecitos**

The Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, Region IV, and the Deputy Director, Spent Fuel Project Office, along with members of their staffs, conducted a public meeting on October 20, 1999, in Livermore, CA. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the public with information concerning activities conducted at the GE Vallecitos facility and NRC's regulatory program relating to transport, possession and storage of irradiated fuel at the facility. The meeting was conducted in response to requests made by local government representatives.

**Electro-Sleeving of Steam Generator Tubes at the Callaway Nuclear Plant**

On October 20, 1999, Callaway completed electro-sleeving activities in the steam generators. The licensee completed electro-sleeving of 31 tubes in Steam Generator A and 26 tubes in Steam Generator C. Electro-sleeving was not performed on any tubes in Steam Generators B and D.

Upon completion of the electro-sleeving process, the licensee ultrasonically tested the tubes to verify that the correct amount and even distribution of material had been deposited. This is believed to be the first time the electro-sleeving process was used in the United States for sleeving of steam generator tubes in a commercial nuclear reactor.

**Grand Gulf Generating Station Public Meeting**

On October 18, 1999, the NRC held a public meeting with representatives of the Grand Gulf Generating Station at the NRC Region IV office in Arlington, Texas. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues identified during recent NRC inspections. The issues discussed included the corrective action program and its implementation, discrepancies in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report, and documentation supporting certain instrumentation setpoints. The licensee presented information related to each issue, emphasizing programmatic enhancements that are expected to result in improved performance.

ENCLOSURE R

Office of Congressional Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending October 22, 1999

**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, No. 39**

OCA CONTACT	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	10/26/99 SD-124	9:30	TBA	Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy & Water Development Appropriations
Gerke	10/26/99 2154 RHOB	10:00	Frank Miraglia, GAO, NEI	Y2K & Nuclear Power: Will Reactors React Responsibly?	Reps. Horn/Turner Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform

					Reps. Morella/Barcia Technology Science
Gerke	10/27/99 2123 RHOB	10:00	Markup	H.R. 2944, Electricity Competition	Reps. Barton/Hall Energy and Power Commerce
Gerke	10/28/99 2154 RHOB	2:00	Markup	Implementation of Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act: Contracting Out	Reps. Horn/Turner Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform