

INFORMATION REPORT

SECY-00-0221

November 22, 2000

For: The Commissioners  
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: SECY-00-0221 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 17, 2000

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**WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 17, 2000**

The Weekly Information Report is compiled by the Office of the EDO and includes highlights of Headquarters and Regional Office activities.

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 17, 2000

**Participation in Annual Meeting of American Board of Health Physics Panel of Examiners**

On November 5-6, 2000, a staff member from the Emergency Preparedness and Health Physics Section (EPHP), Operator Licensing, Human Performance and Plant Support Branch (IOLB), participated in the annual meeting of American Board of Health Physics Panel of Examiners. The annual meeting took place in Tysons Corner, VA. The panel met to discuss this year's certification examination and to construct a new examination for 2001. Additionally, the panel reviewed and approved about

100 multiple choice test questions for inclusion in the exam bank. The EPHP staff participant is a member of the American Board of Health Physics Panel of Examiners for Part 1 of the Certification Examination in Health Physics and her term as an exam committee member expires at the end of 2001.

### **Regulatory Conference on ALARA Findings for Callaway**

On November 9, 2000, the EPHP, IOLB, and the Inspection Program Branch participated via video teleconference in a Regulatory Conference held in Region IV. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss an apparent violation and three related, potentially white findings with the Callaway licensee. The apparent violation and potentially white findings involved the failure to maintain radiation doses ALARA during Callaway's last refueling outage.

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 17, 2000

### **Radiation Safety Officer Counterpart Meeting**

On November 1-2, 2000, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety staff participated in the Fifth Annual Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) Counterpart Meeting hosted by Region IV. RSOs and other staff from Regions I, II, III, IV, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) participated. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information and ideas about the radiation safety program for NRC employees. Topics included a peer review of the programs in Region I and NMSS, the NRC dosimetry program, mail room x-ray machines, the employee exposure database system, surveys and disposal records, and Management Directive 10.131.

### **Meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes**

On November 8-9, 2000, the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI) met. Major areas of discussion were: (1) the status of the 10 CFR Part 35 rulemaking; (2) NRC recognition of specialty boards; (3) the draft implementation plan for Part 35; (4) licensing issues associated with intravascular brachytherapy and the use of yttrium-90 for in situ radiation treatment of hepatic tumors; and (5) current efforts to make NRC activities more risk-informed and performance based. The meeting was open to the public, with the exception of the first session on November 8, 2000, which was closed to provide the required Annual Ethics Training for ACMUI committee members and to discuss issues involving personal privacy information. Representatives from several of the medical speciality professional societies attended the meeting.

### **Meeting Regarding the International Atomic Energy Agency Transportation Regulations**

From November 6-10, 2000, a Spent Fuel Project Office staff member participated in an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Technical Committee Meeting regarding regulations for the safe transport of radioactive material. Specific topics considered during the meeting were: (1) transitional arrangements (e.g., "grandfathering" of transportation package designs) for a proposed two-year revision cycle of the regulations; (2) radiation protection programs for transportation workers; and (3) implementation of the transition from the 1985 to the 1996 revisions to the regulations. Two draft technical documents and a draft report were developed. The draft report regarding transitional arrangements will be considered by the IAEA Transport Safety Standards Advisory Committee early in 2001.

### **Meeting to Discuss Shutdown of Uranium Enrichment at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant**

On November 13, 2000, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) and Region III, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, met with U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) and Department of Energy (DOE [EXIT](#)) Oak Ridge staff. This meeting was held to discuss USEC's planned shutdown of uranium enrichment activities at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in June 2001, and the regulatory implications of the transfer of the enrichment facilities regulatory oversight from the NRC to the DOE. The working-level meeting was open to the public for observation. An audience of about 20 individuals attended the meeting, including Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA [EXIT](#)) staff, plant employees and a representative from Congressman Strickland's (D-Ohio) office. During the meeting, USEC provided its plans for termination of enrichment operations at the Portsmouth plant and described the proposed changes to the certificate documents and plant modifications requiring prior NRC review and approval to support the shutdown. The changes include an amendment submittal to install cold traps in the autoclave facilities.

### **The Interagency Nuclear Security Steering Group Meeting**

On November 8, 2000, FCSS staff attended the Nuclear Security Steering Group (NSSG) meeting held at the DOE offices in Germantown, MD. Other attendees at the meeting included members of the DOE Office of Safeguards and Security, the Department of Defense Nuclear Command and Control System (NCCS), the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA [EXIT](#)), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI [EXIT](#)) Weapons of Mass Destruction Operations Unit. DOE, DTRA, and NCCS provided classified updates to current and future nuclear security programs and exercises. The FCSS staff provided an update to the Adversary Characteristics process and FBI provided a Domestic Threat update. The session provided useful insight on a variety of threat and security issues and new initiatives. The next NSSG meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2001.

## **Nevada On-Site Representatives Meet With Chairman of Clark County Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Advisory Committee**

On November 9, 2000, the NRC's On-Site Representatives (ORs) met with the Chairman of the Clark County Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Advisory Committee to discuss potential areas for future interactions with the local government. Discussion topics included the continuing need for periodic public meetings to address the status of the NRC's oversight of the proposed High-Level Waste Repository at Yucca Mountain and growing community interest in the NRC's hearing process. The desire for an NRC management presentation to the Advisory Committee and expanded out-reach efforts directed at soliciting public input and increasing tribal involvement were also discussed. The meeting resulted in a productive exchange of information and future OR interactions with the Advisory Committee are anticipated.

## **Staff Meets with AAR Manufacturing to Discuss Remediation Proposal**

AAR Manufacturing, Inc. (AAR), a non-licensee on the Site Decommissioning Management Plan, has recently proposed a revised remediation plan (RP) which incorporates the use of a thorium concentration limit corresponding to [10 CFR Part 40.13\(a\)](#) (i.e., unimportant quantities of source material) as its remediation criteria. In 1981, AAR purchased thorium contaminated property from a former Atomic Energy Commission licensee. The site was identified through the terminated license review project and AAR is voluntarily remediating the site in accordance with an RP approved by the staff in 1998. Based on a dose assessment completed by the NRC staff and Commission guidance related to the transfer of unimportant quantities of source material, the staff informed AAR that the new proposed remediation criteria would not be approved. The staff gave AAR the option to return to the approved RP or to perform its own site-specific dose assessment and submit it for review. The staff met with AAR on November 14, 2000, to discuss issues dealing with the remediation of the site. AAR provided background information concerning the site and summarized its site-specific dose estimate of 94 mrem/y. AAR committed to formally submit this dose estimate for staff review.

## **NRC Staff Holds Workshop on Decommissioning**

On November 8-9, 2000, staff of the Division of Waste Management (DWM) held a workshop on decommissioning at the NRC's headquarters. The purpose of the workshop was to provide a forum for industry and non-industry stakeholders to discuss with the staff the NRC's processes and procedures for managing the decommissioning of nuclear facilities. Current issues facing the staff and licensees as they implement the NRC's requirements pertaining to [10 CFR Part 20](#), Subpart E (the License Termination Rule) were also discussed. The staff made presentations on the NRC's decommissioning requirements and process for both materials and reactor facilities, and on staff expectations for license termination and decommissioning plans. Presentations were followed by a series of facilitated, roundtable discussions on decommissioning issues, such as releasing portions of sites prior to license termination and requirements for institutional controls for sites contemplating license termination with restrictions on future site use. Approximately 130 individuals attended the workshop, including representatives from the nuclear industry, various public interest groups, and other federal and state agencies. The transcripts of the workshop as well as material used during staff presentations will be posted on the NRC's decommissioning website.

## **Consultancy Meeting at the IAEA on an Institutional Framework for Waste Management and Disposal**

During November 8-10, 2000, a senior manager from the DWM participated in an IAEA consultancy meeting on an institutional framework for waste management and disposal held at IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Twelve individuals, representing seven Member States and the IAEA, attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to make recommendations on ways and means for the collection of information on institutional frameworks for waste management and disposal in Member States, in particular, on geological disposal, and for disseminating this information for further understanding among Member States. Action taken by the consultancy was to reach tentative agreement on the format and substance of a questionnaire to be distributed to Member States in late 2000 with the goal of receiving responses in mid-2001. A report summarizing the responses is scheduled to be published in 2002.

## **DOE Selects New Contractor for Yucca Mountain Project**

Bechtel SAIC Company, Limited Liability Corporation (LLC), was selected as the new Management and Operating Contractor for the DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Program. Three companies submitted bids in this competitive process. The contract is estimated at \$3.1 billion for a five-year period with options up to a total of five additional years. OCRWM manages the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Waste Acceptance, Storage, and Transportation Project at the DOE in Washington, DC.

This announcement was made by Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson on November 14, 2000. Bechtel SAIC, LLC, will assume full responsibility on February 21, 2001, for planning, integrating, and managing the project.

## **Proposed Rule Signed by the Executive Director for Operations**

On November 16, 2000, the Executive Director for Operations approved a proposed rule that amends [10 CFR Part 72.214](#), "List of approved spent fuel storage casks" revising the Transnuclear, Inc. TN-32 cask system listing within the "List of approved spent fuel storage casks." This amendment will allow holders of power reactor operating licenses to store spent fuel in the cask under the revised conditions. The changes proposed for Amendment No. 1 to the TN-32 Certificate of Compliance (CoC) include: (1) addition of B&W/FCF 17 x 17 Mark BW assembly to Technical Specification (TS) 2.1, "Fuel to be stored in the TN-32 Cask," with revised bounding characteristics, and (2) revised TS 4.3.3, "Site Specific Parameters and Analysis" to allow analysis of verification of allowable seismic loads.

This notice informs the Commission that, in accordance with the rulemaking authority delegated to the EDO, the EDO has signed this proposed rule for publication in the Federal Register.

Proposed Rule can be found in ADAMS at ML003762715.

ENCLOSURE C

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 17, 2000

### **Federal Programs for Wire System Safety**

On November 15, 2000, The White House National Science and Technology Council Committee on Technology issued the final report, "Review of Federal Programs for Wire System Safety." RES staff have actively participated in the development of this report. The report concluded that safety of wire systems is a national issue that transcends various government agencies and is important to public health and safety. The interagency working group has recommended four basic strategies to improve wire system safety: (1) altering the perception of wire systems; (2) increasing collaboration between industry, academia, and the government; (3) improving the management and functionality of wire systems; and (4) developing advanced wire system technology.

The report is expected to serve as a benchmark for interagency efforts to optimize government research. It will also facilitate the formulation of a national strategy for wire system safety that includes collaboration among industry, academia, and the government for rapid implementation of advanced technology.

In the interagency working group meeting, the Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, participated in discussions on national strategies, plans to implement the strategies, formation of sub-groups, and suggestions for programs to improve wire system safety.

### **Workshop on Consolidated Thermal-Hydraulics Code and Graphical User Interface**

RES hosted a workshop on its Consolidated Thermal-Hydraulics Code and Graphical User Interface, SNAP, in Annapolis, MD, on November 10-11, 2000. Over 40 people from the RES International User Group attended. NRC staff and contractors made presentations and gave tutorials. Participants were provided with personal computers for hands-on training. Comments from the meeting were favorable and the user community is looking forward to the release of the consolidated code.

The group stayed for the Code Applications and Maintenance Program (CAMP) meeting held November 12-13, 2000, at which presentations were made on the current progress on the development of RELAP5 and on activities in member countries. The newest CAMP member from Canada was welcomed and the ability to model CANDU reactors was discussed.

### **Meeting on High-Burnup Fuel Research at JAERI**

On November 13-14, the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute (JAERI) held its 24<sup>th</sup> NSRR Technical Review Meeting to present results on high-burnup fuel research during the past year. NSRR is the Nuclear Safety Research Reactor in which JAERI has been investigating reactivity-initiated accidents (RIAs). JAERI also conducts other research on high-burnup fuel and all this work was discussed at the recent meeting. NRC has access to JAERI's work on fuel through a formal agreement that has been in effect for five years and is in the process of being extended. Technical sessions covered: (1) fuel behavior under RIA conditions, (2) loss of coolant accident (LOCA)-related research, (3) fuel behavior under normal operation conditions, and (4) fission product release under severe accident conditions. JAERI's testing under RIA conditions includes tests with high-burnup pressurized water reactor (PWR) and boiling water reactor (BWR) fuel; the tests with BWR fuel are also relevant to BWR power oscillations. Thus there is a close match between the areas of JAERI's research and the high-burnup issues identified by the NRC (EDO memo to Commissioners on July 6, 1998), and the results presented will be useful to the NRC.

Journal-quality handouts with quantitative tables and graphs were provided and will be given to NRC staff and contractors with JAERI's permission. The 100 attendees at the meeting included the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Japan's Nuclear Safety Commission and 14 foreign guests, six of whom (including a NRC staff member) made presentations on activities related to JAERI's program.

### **RES Briefs the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Severe Accident Management Subcommittee**

RES briefed the ACRS Severe Accident Management Subcommittee on the severe accident research program on November 15, 2000. NRR probabilistic risk assessment staff also attended the meeting. A RES staff member led off the briefing with an assessment of the human resource issues associated with the increasing severe accident analysis workload, including the effort to risk inform Part 50. RES staff presented a number of recently completed and ongoing severe accident research applications. Applications in the area of maintaining safety include: (1) estimating thermal hydraulic conditions for evaluating steam generator tube integrity; (2) evaluating radiological consequences for spent fuel pool accidents for the decommissioning rulemaking; and (3) estimating design-basis radiological consequences for dry cask storage using more realistic models and probabilistic methods. Applications in the area of reducing unnecessary conservatism include evaluations supporting risk-informing Part 50 and computer code enhancements supporting implementation of the revised (NUREG-1465) fission product source term.

The presentation also described ongoing efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency, such as the severe accident code consolidation and participation in international cooperative programs, including the PHEBUS integral experiments of core melting and fission product release. During the discussions, the subcommittee stated that anticipatory research is needed to investigate fission product release issues for accidents involving air ingress and to investigate core melt and fission product release issues for high burnup and mixed-oxide (MOX) fuels. The subcommittee also stated that the recent RES effort to use experts to rank the issues involved in evaluating fuel integrity during a reactivity insertion accident for high fuel burnups has been successful. The subcommittee endorsed a similar planned effort on fission product releases for high fuel burnups.

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ENCLOSURE D

Incident Response Operations  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 17, 2000

**Agency-Wide Review - Continuity of Operations**

On November 14-16, the Incident Response Office (IRO) hosted an agency-wide review of activities and plans related to maintaining an effective Continuity of Operations (COOP) capability at NRC. Representatives from several Headquarters offices and Regions III and IV reviewed the year-old COOP Plan mandated by Presidential Decision Directive 67 and determined that no significant changes are needed. They reviewed ongoing implementation steps and outlined the next phase, which will involve joint training and exercising of the Incident Response Plan, the Occupant Emergency Plan, and the COOP Plan.

**Preliminary Notifications**

1. PNO-IV-00-032, Drew Memorial Hospital, MISSING RADIOACTIVE CALIBRATION SOURCES.

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ENCLOSURE F

Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 17, 2000

**Acquisition Training**

On November 16-17, 2000, the Division of Contracts and Property Management presented Acquisition for Certification and Training Program modules, "Developing the Independent Government Cost Estimate" and "Negotiation of Project Terms and Conditions."

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ENCLOSURE G

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 17, 2000

**Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of November 10, 2000 through November 16, 2000:**

Licensee listing for production of source material and/or mill tailings possession issued by AEC and NRC.	(FOIA/PA-2001-0043)
Frequent visitor badge program, participants list including organizational affiliation.	(FOIA/PA-2001-0044)
Named individual, desk audit.	(FOIA/PA-2001-0045)
Named individuals, 1947 U.S. Army Air Force Bomb Commanders School records.	(FOIA/PA-2001-0046)
IMPAC listing.	(FOIA/PA-2001-0047)
MLTS database.	(FOIA/PA-2001-0048)
Site assessment, Harahan Pump Canal Project, Jefferson Parish, LA 70123.	(FOIA/PA-2001-0049)

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Human Resources  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 17, 2000

<b>Arrivals</b>
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BUTLER, Rodney	BUDGET ANALYST	RIII
Departures		
JACOBSON, John	RESIDENT INSPECTOR	RIII
QUISSELL, Janet	EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SPECIALIST	IRO

ENCLOSURE J

Office of Small Business & Civil Rights  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 17, 2000

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Directors' Interagency Council

The Acting Small Business Program Manger for the NRC attended the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Directors' Interagency Council's monthly meeting. Two critical issues were discussed at this meeting:

- Executive Order 11625, dated October 6, 2000, which required all Federal agencies with procurement authority to take necessary steps to increase contracting between the Federal Government and small disadvantaged businesses. Each Federal agency is required to develop a long-term comprehensive plan to implement the Executive Order. The plan is due to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget by January 6, 2001.
- The General Accounting Office (GAO) is conducting an audit of the Small Business Administration's (SBA) small business programs. The audit will entail a review of SBA's Goaling, Subcontracts, and Historically Underutilized Business (HUBZone) programs.

Small Business Forum

On November 15, 2000, the Office of Small Business and Civil Rights (SBCR) conducted a Small Business Forum, to discuss NRC procurement opportunities with small businesses. The Director, SBCR, provided opening remarks. The Acting Small Business Program Manager hosted the meeting, with support from various NRC Program Offices. Forty individuals, including representatives from eleven small businesses, attended the Forum. Seven companies discussed their respective capabilities for meeting NRC requirements.

ENCLOSURE M

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 17, 2000

Media Interest

Representatives of print, television and radio media covered a public meeting on November 16, to provide an update on the status of the Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant in Cortlandt Manor, N.Y.

The Rochester-Democrat newspaper is working on a feature story about the Ginna nuclear power plant.

Region III Regional Administrator held a news conference prior to a public meeting on the restart of D.C. Cook.

Reporters from Inside NRC and the South Bend (IL) Tribune are working on stories about a differing professional view filed by an NRC staffer in connection with the containment at D.C. Cook.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
00-175	NRC Approves Transfer of Operating Licenses for Indian Point 3 and Fitzpatrick to Entergy
00-176	V.C. Summer Event Information Available on NRC Web Site
00-177	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste To Meet in San Antonio, Texas, on November 27-29
00-178	Note To Editors: NRC Issues "Lessons Learned" Report on Indian Point 2 Steam Generator Tube Failure
00-179	Commissioner Dicus Elected To Governing Body of International Commission on Radiological Protection

ENCLOSURE N

Office of International Programs  
Items of Interest

Participation in Panel Discussion

The Director, Office of International Programs (OIP), participated in a panel discussion entitled "Strengthening Safety Culture and Infrastructure - an International Perspective" at the November American Nuclear Society Winter Meeting. Her presentation focused on past, present and future NRC assistance to the Newly Independent States and Central and Eastern Europe. Other participants on the panel included Ms. Annick Carnino, Director of the Division of Nuclear Installation Safety at the IAEA, and Dr. James Turner, Assistant Deputy Administrator for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation at DOE.

ENCLOSURE O

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 17, 2000

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. <a href="#">SECY-00-0203</a>	9/29/00	Final Regulatory Guide on Implementation of 10 CFR 50.59 (Changes, Tests, and Experiments)
<a href="#">SRM on 00-0203</a>	11/14/00	(same)
<a href="#">Comm. Voting Record on 00-0203</a>	11/14/00	(same)
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. <a href="#">SECY-00-0213</a>	10/26/00	Risk-Informed Regulation Implementation Plan
2. <a href="#">SECY-00-0218</a>	11/9/00	SECY-00-0218 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending November 3, 2000

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to the Congresswoman Shelley Berkley dated November 6, 2000, provided response to request for an extension to the public comment period for NUREG-1714. NUREG-1714 is the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians and the Related Transportation Facility in Tooele County, Utah."

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Carolina Power & Light Company (Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant); Docket No. 50-400-LA; Notice (Schedule for Oral Argument).
2. Application for a License to Export Highly-Enriched Uranium.
3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting Notice.
4. ACRS Subcommittee on Planning and Procedures; Notice of Meeting.

ENCLOSURE P

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 17, 2000

Seabrook

The Region dispatched a special inspection team to the Seabrook nuclear power plant on November 7, 2000, in response to the failure of the "B" emergency diesel generator during a 24-hour surveillance run on November 1. The team will evaluate the licensee's root cause investigation and corrective actions, the risk significance of the potential common cause failure mechanism, and possible generic implications of the event. As of November 16, 2000, the licensee's root cause investigation was ongoing.

Haddam Neck Site Repowering Meeting

A meeting, open for public observation, was held at NRC headquarters on November 14, 2000, to discuss

Connecticut Yankee's (CY) plans to repower the Haddam Neck (CT) site. In addition to representatives of NRR and NMSS, the meeting was supported by the Region I Chief of the Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch. CY presented the hazards analysis for the operation of a 700 Mw natural gas plant in the parking lot next to the decommissioning Haddam Neck facility. The hazards analyses encompassed two options: (1) assuming that the spent fuel remained in the spent fuel pool, and (2) assuming the fuel had all been transferred to an onsite Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). The licensee plans to survey the parking lot for any radiological contamination and request a license amendment removing the parking lot from their licensed area.

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ENCLOSURE P

**Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 17, 2000**

**New Maintenance Manager's Seminar at the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)**

On November 16, 2000, the Regional Administrator attended the New Maintenance Manager's Seminar at INPO in Atlanta, GA.

**Carolina Power and Light Company - Brunswick Emergency Exercise**

Region II participated in the Brunswick Emergency Exercise. The Region II participation included a Base Team and a Site Team. The Deputy Regional Administrator was the Director of Site Operations for the Site Team. The State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee in the full scale Brunswick exercise, involving officials of the state of North Carolina and the applicable local governments.

**Reactor Oversight Program (ROP) Regional Meeting**

On November 16, 2000, the Reactor Oversight Program Regional Meeting was held at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, 1900 Sullivan Road, in College Park, Georgia. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for NRC representatives, licensees, the Nuclear Energy Institute, and the public to provide feedback and discuss progress, challenges, and successes related to the initial Regional implementation of the ROP.

**Southern Nuclear Operating Company - Commissioner Merrifield visits the Farley Nuclear Plant**

On November 13, 2000, Commissioner Merrifield, accompanied by the Director of Reactor Safety, visited the Farley Nuclear Plant in Columbia, Alabama. Commissioner Merrifield met with the resident inspectors. His visit included a tour of the facility, a meeting with plant staff, a briefing by various staff organizations, and a meeting with facility management.

**Testing Technology, Inc. - Issuance of Proposed Civil Penalty**

On November 14, 2000, the Regional Administrator issued a Severity Level III Notice of Violation and proposed Civil Penalty in the amount of \$5500 to Testing Technologies, Inc. The violations occurred during the performance of radiography in August 2000.

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ENCLOSURE P

**Region III  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending November 17, 2000**

**D.C. Cook Public Meeting and News Conference Held to Discuss Unit 1 Restart**

On November 14, 2000, Region III Regional Administrator and NRC staff members met with American Electric Power (AEP) officials at the D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant near Bridgman, Michigan, to discuss startup preparations for Unit 1. Prior to the AEP meeting, the Regional Administrator met with members of the press and public to discuss the NRC's monitoring of restart activities and the scheduling of related inspections. AEP has stated that they plan to begin initial startup activities in early December, and reach full power in mid-December. AEP began loading fuel on November 17.