

INFORMATION

April 20, 2001

SECY-01-0065

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0065 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING APRIL 13, 2001

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*No input this week.

/RA/

John W. Craig
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Contact:
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 13, 2001

Reactor Oversight Process

The Inspection Program Branch (IIPB) conducted a public meeting with industry's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) working group on March 29, 2001, to discuss and review proposed changes and comments to the first revision of NEI 99-02, "Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guideline." A final draft of revised NEI 99-02, Revision 1, was issued on April 5, 2001. IIPB also conducted another of a continuing series of public meetings on April 4, 2001, with industry's working group on the ROP. The key issues discussed included: lessons learned workshop issues, problem identification and resolution inspection activities, initiating event performance indicator pilot testing activities, potential removal of T/2 fault exposure time for surveillance failures from the unavailability PI, physical protection significance determination process (SDP) development status, status on industry trends, and reviews of frequently asked questions (FAQs). The next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2001.

National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference

Representatives of NRR and the Incident Response Operations (IRO) attended and made presentations on emergency preparedness issues at the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference held in Nashville, TN on April 2-5, 2001. NRC regional State Liaison Officers also attended. This conference is held annually and is attended by a wide range of representatives of the national radiological emergency preparedness community including federal, state, and local governments, NEI, nuclear industry, consultants and vendors. International representatives were also in attendance.

Improved License Renewal Guidance Documents Status

On April 5, 2001, the staff briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Full Committee on the improved license renewal guidance documents. The improved guidance documents consist of: Generic Aging Lessons Learned (GALL) report, Standard Review Plan for License Renewal, and Regulatory Guide for License Renewal (endorsing Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) document 95-10, Rev. 3). NEI is conducting a demonstration project consisting of preparation of sample license renewal application sections following the guidance of these documents. NEI plans to submit these samples for staff review within a month to address implementation details.

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2001-10 Revisions to Staff Guidance on Notices of Enforcement Discretion, dated April 2, 2001

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a regulatory issue summary (RIS) to notify addressees that NRC Inspection Manual Part 9900, "Technical Guidance - Notice of Enforcement Discretion" has been revised to clarify the differences between "regular" and "severe weather" Notice of Enforcement Discretions (NOEDs). The RIS transmitted a copy of the revised inspection manual chapter.

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Generic Industry Activities on New Plants

On April 5, 2001, representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) made a presentation to the NRC staff on the various activities that NEI is initiating in support of their plan to enable new plant business decisions. NEI has established the following Task Forces, under its Executive Task Force on New Plants:

- Early Site Permitting
- Part 52 Licensing Issues
- New Plant Regulatory Framework
- NRC-Related Financial Considerations

The Chairman of each task force described task force objectives and plans for future interactions with the NRC staff. They identified numerous documents and proposed rule changes that the industry desires NRC to review in the 2001 - 2004 time frame. At the conclusion of the meeting, the NRC staff described its organizational efforts for future licensing activities in NRR and RES.

NEI/INPO Industry Workshop on Grid Reliability

On April 2-4, 2001, an industry workshop on grid reliability issues was held at the Double Tree Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The participants included members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and individual electric utilities.

The subject workshop was well attended by industry and included representatives from transmission owners and operators. The Plenary Session included presentations on grid reliability perspectives, nuclear plant experience, grid reliability issues, grid operator/plant interface discussion, design verification of grid assumptions and setpoints, and response of industry organizations to grid voltage reliability issues. The presenters discussed low grid voltage events and issues on their transmission systems and at their plants, and the response of their organizations to address and correct the problems. The need to have a protocol to establish and maintain good communications between the grid operator and the nuclear plant operator was discussed.

At the conclusion of the workshop, NEI and INPO identified follow-on actions to be taken to obtain better coordination between industry groups and better interchange among plants of information and materials on the subjects discussed. The workshop was developed by NEI as an element of the voluntary industry initiative requested by the staff to address low switchyard voltage issues. Specific information on the materials presented at the Workshop can be downloaded from <http://webboard.nei.org/~grid>. Information on the industry initiative is documented in NRC Regulatory Information Summary 2000-24.

Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3

An ASLB Board was established pursuant to a request for hearing submitted by the Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone and the Star Foundation on September 8, 2000. The hearing request was submitted in response to a license amendment request for Unit Nos. 2 and 3 dated February 22, 2000, that would relocate selected procedural details contained in the Radiological Effluent Technical Specifications to the Radiological Effluent Monitoring and Offsite Dose Calculation Manual (REMDCM), in accordance with NRC guidance. On November 28, 2000, the staff issued the license amendments. On March 29, 2001, the ASLB issued a Memorandum and Order that found the petitioners' contention to be inadmissible and denied the intervention petition. One of the ASLB administrative judges dissented in the ASLB's finding. On April 9, 2001, the petitioners filed an appeal, requesting that the Commission review the ASLB ruling and remand the proceedings to a hearing.

STP Nuclear Operating Company

The NRC staff met with STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) on April 4 and 5, 2001, to discuss resolution of open items identified in the November 15, 2001, draft safety evaluation (SE) on the risk-informed exemption requests from the special treatment requirements. To facilitate the discussions, the NRC staff provided STPNOC with comments on STPNOC's proposal for the South Texas Project (STP) Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) that describes the processes that form the basis for the licensee's exemption requests. Significant issues that remain are the elements of the treatment processes to address (1) environmental and seismic design conditions; (2) inspections, tests, and surveillance controls; (3) maintenance requirements for components with a designed life; (4) control of measurement and testing equipment; and (5) the general level of detail required in the STP FSAR. STPNOC indicated that the level of detail required was not consistent with describing the outcomes of the elements of the treatment processes, but included discussions on how these treatment elements should be accomplished.

On April 6, 2001, the NRC staff and STPNOC briefed the full Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) on the status of the resolution of the open items from the draft SE related to treatment. The primary area of concern expressed by ACRS appears to be directed at the proper categorization of the structures, systems, and components. ACRS members raised concerns with (1) addressing common cause failure; (2) the nexus between STPNOC's categorization process and the Significance Determination Process, specifically the aspect of addressing frequency of initiating events; (3) criteria to use to evaluate proposals by other licensees that follow the STPNOC approach; and (4) the basis for assuming a reduction in confidence given a change in treatment.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 13, 2001

Department of Energy TMI-2 License Amendment Issued

On April 4, 2001, the Spent Fuel Project Office issued Amendment 1 to Materials License No. SNM-2508 held by the Department of Energy (DOE) for the receipt, possession, storage, and transfer of spent fuel at the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) located at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory site in Scoville, Idaho. DOE requested the amendment to correctly reflect the number of fuel and filter canisters that could be stored at the ISFSI, and expects to complete the final TMI-2 ISFSI loading activities by June 2001.

Babcock and Wilcox Technologies, Inc., Submittal of Integrated Safety Analysis Plan

In a document dated March 26, 2001, Babcock and Wilcox Technologies, Inc., submitted the Integrated Safety Analysis Plan required by 10 CFR Part 70, Section 70.62(c)(3)(i).

Interagency Committee on Dam Safety Meeting

On April 10, 2001, a staff member from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards attended the quarterly Interagency Committee on Dam Safety meeting at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Topics discussed at the meeting included funding, training, and information resources. It was announced that the theme of next year's Technical Workshop will be "Responding to Dam Safety Emergencies." The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which has inspection responsibilities for 19 dams, attended the meeting as part of its ongoing initiative in dam safety, as mandated by the *Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety*.

Staff Attends a Distinguished Lecture on Model Calibration at the U.S. Geological Survey

On April 4, 2001, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) staff attended the National Ground Water Association's 2001 Distinguished Henry Darcy Lecture entitled "Guidelines for Effective Model Calibration (Any Model!)" presented by Dr. Mary C. Hill of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) at the USGS Headquarters in Reston, Virginia. This lecture, which is named in honor of Henry Darcy's 1856 discovery of the basic law governing ground water flow, is intended to foster academic interest and excellence in ground water science, and is scheduled for presentation at several locations in the U.S. and in a number of foreign countries. The lecture focused on using nonlinear regression and associated statistics to improve on traditional calibration and testing of models. Dr. Hill used the Death Valley regional ground water system, which underlies the Nevada Test Site and the proposed high-level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, as an example to illustrate her approach. Following the lecture, NMSS and RES staff participated in a round-table meeting with Dr. Hill and Dr. Ward Sanford of the USGS to discuss her methodology. During the round-table discussion, Dr. Hill stressed the importance of using geographic information system and 3D geospatial modeling tools to organize and analyze the data and develop reasonable conceptual geological/hydrological models to provide a viable framework for hydrologic modeling. She also highlighted the importance of considering alternative

conceptual models and indicated the usefulness of viable conceptual models in addressing data insufficiencies and assessing and quantifying prediction uncertainties. NMSS and RES staff are factoring in the USGS methodology and guidelines for technical guidance for ground-water modeling reviews.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Begins General Licensee Registration Program

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has initiated a registration program for certain general licensees who possess devices containing at least 10 millicuries of cesium-137, 0.1 millicurie of strontium-90, or 1 millicurie of cobalt-60 or any transuranic isotope.

To follow-up on the Commission Memorandum dated March 30, 2001, "Status Update of Staff Efforts to Implement New General License Rules, Including the Registration Program," the staff completed mailing the initial set of 77 registrations on April 10, 2001. The staff estimates that approximately 400 registrations will be routinely mailed per month so that all registrants are contacted within the next year.

The 10 CFR Part 40 Jurisdictional Working Group

During April 11-12, 2001, the 10 CFR Part 40 Jurisdictional Working Group met to further discuss the responsibilities of NRC and other regulatory agencies regarding source materials with low concentrations of uranium and thorium and their decay products. Working group members representing numerous federal and state agencies attended the meeting. Topics discussed included updates on regulatory actions related to source material and NORM/TENORM, agency citations of authority, and draft NUREG-1717. A member of the public presented information regarding the Zircon and Zirconia Mineral Industry at the request of the working group. The next working group meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 2001.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
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Public Workshop on NRC Program on Human Performance

On April 2–6, 2001, a workshop was held to review the NRC's Program on Human Performance and to provide recommendations for human performance activities needed by the agency over the next 5 years. The objective of the NRC's program is to ensure that nuclear safety is maintained through effective regulation and oversight of human performance in the design, operation, and maintenance of nuclear facilities. This includes (1) identifying human performance issues important to safety, (2) increasing understanding of the causes of and safety and risk implications of these human performance issues, (3) improving our ability to model human performance, and (4) implementing the appropriate risk-informed regulatory response.

Workshop participants included NRC staff from RES, NRR, and NMSS; staff from NRC contractors and National Laboratories; industry representatives from Electric Power Research Institute and Nuclear Energy Institute, vendors, utilities and plants; other government agencies that have significant human performance programs; experts in human factors and risk from other applications, and the public.

Preliminary results of the workshop indicated that there are both practical and technical bases that should be the main "drivers" for the next version of the program plan. From a practical standpoint, the drivers are the needs of NRR and NMSS, as related to their current and future human performance activities, and other programs within RES. From a technical standpoint, the drivers include risk insights, operational experience, emerging technologies and associated issues, cooperative efforts between industry and NRC, and making better use of human performance activities being conducted by other U.S. and international agencies.

Public Workshop to Exchange Information on Two Draft Documents

On April 9, 2001, a workshop was held to exchange information on two draft regulatory documents and the associated public comments received. The documents were Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1096, "Transient and Accident Analysis Methods," and Draft Standard Review Plan (SRP) Section 15.0.2, "Review of Analytical Computer Codes." These documents resulted from recommendations from several task groups, including the 1996 Maine Yankee Independent Safety Assessment Team. The documents stress the need for a structured process for thermal hydraulic code development, assessment, documentation, and review. The regulatory focus is on methods used to analyze transients and accidents as described in NUREG-0800 (SRP) Chapter 15.

The NRC provided the background and history of the two drafts, a summary of the public comments received, and recommendations for modifications based on those comments. Five presentations were made by participants. The principal concern of the commenters and participants was the need for a "graded" approach to the application of structured methodology described in DG-1096. As a result, the NRC participants agreed to develop such an approach based on:

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1. The novelty of any new analysis methods compared to currently approved methods.
2. The complexity of the transient or accident being analyzed.
3. The degree of conservatism of the methods being proposed.
4. The risk or safety importance of the event being analyzed.
5. The extent of plant design or operational changes and whether they necessitate a re-analysis in accordance with 10 CFR 50.59.

It was suggested that another public workshop may be valuable after this work has been completed. If the resultant changes to DG-1096 are significant, the documents will be issued again for public comment.

Regulatory Guide for Determining Pressure Vessel Neutron Fluence

The staff has issued Regulatory Guide 1.190, "Calculational and Dosimetry Methods for Determining Pressure Vessel Neutron Fluence." This guide has been developed to provide guidance to licensees on state-of-the-art calculations and measurement procedures that are acceptable to the NRC staff for determining pressure vessel fluence.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
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Release of RASCAL 3.0

IRO has released a new computer code for making dose projections during a radiological emergency. RASCAL 3.0, Radiological Assessment System for Consequence AnaLysis, will soon be replacing the currently-used RASCAL 2.2. A technical manual describing the calculations has been published as NUREG-1741, "RASCAL 3.0: Description of Models and Methods." The new code is Windows-based rather than DOS-based, increases the flexibility for analyzing reactor accidents, and increases the analysis capability for fuel cycle and radioactive material emergencies. RASCAL 3.0 has been installed on the Incident Response Center computers, sent the regions for installation, and sent to States and other interested parties. Training on RASCAL 3.0 will be conducted in the Professional Development Center during the week of April 23-27 and will be attended by HQ, Regional, and State personnel. RASCAL 3.0 will be used for the first time in an exercise during the May 16 Palo Verde exercise.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-01-009, FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (Beaver Valley 2), BEAVER VALLEY UNIT 2 FIRE IN PROTECTED AREA GREATER THAN 15 MINUTES.
2. PNO-II-01-011, Jackson Paving and Construction, Inc., STOLEN ASPHALT GAUGE.
3. PNO-III-01-012, Exelon Generation Co., LLC (Byron 2), FOUR WORKERS AT BYRON WERE ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL DUE TO DECREASED OXYGEN IN CONDENSER WORK SPACE.
4. PNO-III-01-013, Midwest Testing, LOST MOISTURE-DENSITY GAUGE.
5. PNO-II-01-012, Florida Testing and Environmental, STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.
6. PNO-II-01-13, Redondo Construction Company, STOLEN AND RECOVERED PORTABLE MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending April 13, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
April 6, 2001 through April 12, 2001:

Site assessment, Mohansic/Taconic Corporate Park, 26-51 Strang Boulevard, Yorktown,
Westchester County, NY. (FOIA/PA-2001-0215)

Nuclear test conducted in the state of Nevada, 1965 through 1975. (FOIA/PA-2001-0216)

Chernobyl accident records. (FOIA/PA-2001-0217)

Contract Sytel Inc., NRC-33-96-194 and last 12 months of modifications. (FOIA/PA-2001-0218)

Consolidated Edison, 3/29/2001 response to NRC's 2/27/2001 letter re chilling effect and any
statements taken by named Con-Edison investigator during investigation.
(FOIA/PA-2001-0219)

Perry plant, records related to whistle blowers at Perry. (FOIA/PA-2001-0220)

Laguna Verde power plant near Veracruz, Mexico, all records. (FOIA/PA-2001-0221)

Radioactive waste site listing, United States and worldwide. (FOIA/PA-2001-0222)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
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Retirements		
Raddatz, Charlene	SENIOR HEALTH PHYSICIST	NMSS

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Office of Public Affairs
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Media Interest

Region I reported media interest regarding the barge shipment of Haddam Neck steam generators. There were also press inquiries on the findings of the Indian Point 2 95003 Inspection team.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-040	Note to Editors: NRC 2002 Budget Request Available
Regions:	
I-01-18	Note to Editors: NRC Issues Report on Inspection Team's Findings for Indian Point 2
IV-15-01	NRC Regional Administrator to Hold Press Conference at San Luis Obispo

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-01-0033	3/2/01	Proposed Renewal of the Section 123 Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation with Morocco
2. SRM on SECY-01-0033	3/20/01	(same)
3. Voting Record on SECY-01-0033	3/20/01	(same)
4. SECY-01-0047	3/16/01	Proposed License to Export HEU to Canada for Use in the NRU Reactor to Produce Medical Radioisotopes
5. SRM on SECY-01-0047	4/2/01	(same)
6. Voting Record on SECY-01-0047	4/3/01	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0051	3/23/01	Status Report in Interagency Jurisdictional Working Group Evaluating the Regulation of Low Concentrations of Uranium and Thorium
2. SECY-01-0061	4/6/01	Weekly Information Report Week Ending March 30, 2001
3. SECY-01-0052	3/27/01	Litigation Report - 2001-01
4. SECY-01-0053	3/27/01	Proposed Rulemaking Activity Plan
5. SECY-01-0062	4/11/01	Weekly Information Report Week Ending April 6, 2001
6. SECY-01-0055	3/28/01	Response to SRM of September 8, 1999, Regarding SECY-99-0203, "Regulatory Guide for Updated Final Safety Analysis Reports in Accordance with 10 CFR 50.71(e)" (WITS 199900105)

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Memoranda		
1. M010322	4/11/01	Meeting with Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) 3/22/01

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated April 6, 2001, provides the February monthly report on the status of NRC licensing and regulatory duties.
2. Letter to The Honorable Gray Davis, Governor of California, dated April 6, 2001, concerns the Pacific Gas and Electric Company petition for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.
3. Letter to The President, dated April 4, 2001, concerns the proposed Agreement for Cooperation with Morocco and supporting draft documents.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Application for a License to Import Radioactive Waste (Allied Technology Group).
2. ACRS Subcommittee on Planning and Procedures; Notice of Meeting.
3. ACRS Subcommittee on Plant Operations; Notice of Meeting.
4. Reactor Oversight Process Initial Implementation Evaluation Panel; Meeting Notice.
5. Notice of Acceptance for Docketing of the Application, and Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing, on an Application for Authority to Construct a Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility.

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Region I
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Region I Assistance to the Republic of Tajikistan

From March 11-31, 2001, Eric H. Reber, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, participated as a consultant on an IAEA Mission to assist the Republic of Tajikistan in establishing their regulatory infrastructure for radiation safety. Mr. Reber participated in a mission briefing at IAEA Headquarters in Vienna before leaving for Tajikistan.

In Tajikistan, Mr. Reber trained Tajik radiation safety personnel in the use of radiation detection equipment that was provided by the IAEA. He reviewed radiation safety and environmental monitoring practices during a tour of Tajikistan's hazardous waste disposal facility. Mr. Reber also demonstrated survey techniques to radiation safety personnel, performed surveys and assessed the condition of several uranium mill tailings sites. He participated in a review of proposed legislation that would establish the regulatory authority for regulating the use of radioactive material in Tajikistan. Mr. Reber also participated in briefings with the President of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Haddam Neck Steam Generator Shipments

A barge carrying two steam generator lower assemblies departed from the Haddam Neck plant Monday April 9, 2001, en route to the low-level radioactive waste disposal facility in Barnwell, SC. The steam generators were dismantled in the Fall of 1999 as part of the decommissioning of the Haddam Neck Plant and had been stored on-site in special containers. The remaining two steam generator lower assemblies are scheduled to be transported to Barnwell in a similar manner in May. The trip by barge is expected to take approximately eight days and will terminate at Port Royal, SC. At Port Royal, the steam generators will be transferred to a train for the final leg of the journey to Barnwell. There was extensive newspaper and television coverage of the departure. The NRC monitored the shipment by continuous contact with the licensee and State of Connecticut staff.

Region II
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Region II Training - Health Physics (HP) Topical Review Course

On April 9-10, 2001, representatives of Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education presented the HP Topical Review Course on Detectable Activity to the Region II health physics staff.

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Region III
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Staff Discusses D.C. Cook Plant Performance

Staff members from the regional office and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation met with American Electric Power officials on April 10, 2001, at the Bridgman, Michigan, plant to discuss the performance of units 1 and 2.

RMI Titanium Predecisional Enforcement Conference

On April 12, 2001, the staff conducted a Predecisional Enforcement Conference with representatives of RMI Titanium (now Earthline Technologies) to discuss possible regulatory violations at the company's Ashtabula, Ohio facility. Although the State of Ohio is an agreement state, the apparent violations involving RMI occurred prior to the State of Ohio obtaining agreement state status.

Reactor Trip Prompts Special Inspection

Region III inspectors conducted a special inspection at the LaSalle plant, unit 2, in Illinois last week following a reactor trip that occurred April 6, 2001. The inspectors held their exit meeting with Exelon officials on April 13, 2001.

Region IV
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Regional Administrator's Trip to West Coast

From April 10-12, 2001, the Region IV Regional Administrator visited the west coast to communicate the NRC's mission and current position concerning the safety of the Diablo Canyon plants, and to view the status of equipment and personnel at the San Onofre site. As specified in the Communications Plan for a Potential Declaration of Bankruptcy, the Chairman sent a letter to the Governor of California (April 6) and the Regional Administrator held a Press Conference to share the Agency's inspection and oversight activities during this period of financial stress and uncertainty.

The Press Conference was held in the San Luis Obispo area. It was attended by members of both the media and the public. Questions focused on the current safety of the plant and how the recent declaration of bankruptcy by PG&E had impacted the morale of the workforce. In addition, the Mothers for Peace were briefed by the Director, Division of Reactor Projects, as part of the Region's outreach efforts in conjunction with the impacts of financial deregulation in California.

In addition, the Region IV Regional Administrator toured the San Onofre facility, concentrating on the work associated with the repair of the Unit 3 Main Turbine and Generator, and the current physical status of Unit 1.

California Electricity and SCE High Energy Transmission Sale

The state of California ISO did not declare an electricity emergency classification this week, ALERT classifications were the norm.

The Governor's office issued a press statement detailing an agreement that had been reached between SCE and the State concerning the sale of the high energy transmission lines of the utility. A separate press statement noted that members of the legislature expressed significant concern about the purchase by the State and great reluctance at consummating the deal. The impacts of this purchase on the long-term financial health of SCE and its potential for precluding bankruptcy have yet to be determined. The increased Regional oversight and attention to indicators of financial stress remain in effect.

Palo Verde Control Element Assembly (CEA) Degradation - Failure of one CEA to Fully Insert during a Reactor Shutdown

At Palo Verde Unit 1, the licensee discovered CEA cracking and CEAs with end-caps missing. As a result, they have extended their outage scope to include full replacement of all 76 full length CEAs and a go/no-go gage inspection of all fuel assembly guide tubes to assure that the guide tubes are free of obstruction.

The license discovered the cracking during a video inspection of CEA 26, because it became unlatched, during the movement of the upper guide structure, and had caught on the core barrel, bending the fingers.

Senator Hagel Visits Fort Calhoun Station

Senator Hagel (R) of Nebraska visited Fort Calhoun Station on Thursday. His visit was coordinated through the licensee and did not include a meeting with the resident inspector staff. Feedback from the licensee indicated that the visit went well.

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Office of Congressional Affairs
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 11

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Portner	TBA SD-124	TBA	TBA	Nuclear Power Programs	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Portner	05/01/01 SD-124	10:00	DOE	FY02 Appropriations for Nuclear Energy	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Gerke	05/03/01 SD-362	10:00	NRC, DOE, Exelon, and others	The Future of Nuclear Power	Energy and Water Development Senate Appropriations Energy and Natural Resources
Portner	05/03/01 2362 RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY02 Appropriations for Nuclear Energy	Reps. Callahan/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	05/03/01 SD-124	2:00	DOE/OCRWM	FY02 Appropriations for Nuclear Waste	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Keeling	05/08/01 TBA	1:30	NRC, DOE, DOD, DIA	Federal Government's Capabilities to Respond to Terrorist Attacks	Commerce, Justice State & Judiciary Senate Appropriations Emerging Threats & Capabilities Senate Armed Services Senate Intelligence Committee

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Combs	05/09/01 2362 RHOB	10:00	DOE/OCRWM	FY02 Appropriations for Nuclear Waste	Reps. Callahan/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
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Note: The Senate is in recess until April 23, and the House is in recess until April 24.

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