

INFORMATION REPORT

July 10, 2003

SECY-03-0116

For: The Commissioners
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-03-0116 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING JULY 4, 2003

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Contact:
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 4, 2003

Meetings Related to Generic Safety Issue (GSI) 191 - Assessment of Debris Blockage on PWR Sump Performance

On June 30, the staff conducted a public workshop to clarify the intent of Bulletin 2003-01, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Sump Recirculation at Pressurized Water Reactors (PWRs)" with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), PWR industry representatives and other stakeholders. The meeting was well attended and conducted in the format of prescribed addressee questions and staff answers. The meeting was successful in answering questions posed on the intent of the Bulletin. Another public meeting was held the next day with the NEI Sump Performance Task Force. Topics included the status of industry guidelines addressing resolution of GSI-191, preliminary results of NRC research including chemical effects and plans to characterize PWR latent debris, and the status of NRC generic communications relating to GSI-191.

Workshop on Risk-Informed, Integrated Decision Making with GAN

From June 23-30, 2003, the staff participated with the Department of Energy (DOE) in a workshop along with participants from the United States industry, DOE, International Atomic Energy Agency, and Gosatomnadzor (GAN). The workshop covered Probabilistic Safety Assessment (PSA) as well as deterministic principles, techniques, programs, applications, and lessons learned. The focus of the workshop was to help senior managers in GAN and at the nuclear power plants understand and appreciate the value of PSA insights to optimizing plant safety through the integrated decision making process. Attendees were from Russia and the Ukraine.

The original plan included briefing the staff at the American Embassy on June 30, 2003, regarding the success of the workshop. However, GAN requested an additional day on the Reactor Oversight Process and Significance Determination Process. United States representatives briefed the Embassy via telephone and accommodated GAN's request. On Monday, the staff conducted a high level but fairly detailed presentation and interactive discussion with GAN representatives equivalent to NRC Office and Division Directors. GAN and the various plant managers expressed appreciation for the workshop.

Staff Holds Public Meetings on the H.B. Robinson Draft Environmental Impact Statement in Support of License Renewal

The NRC staff participated in two outreach activities last week related to the license renewal application for the H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2. On June 25, 2003, the staff conducted two meetings to solicit comments from the public on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (DSEIS) issued on May 7, 2003. The DSEIS is a plant-specific supplement to the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-1437). The people at the meetings included representatives of the NRC staff, Carolina Power and Light Company, the nuclear industry, and the news media. The staff employed all of the usual means of notifying the public in advance of the meeting, such as

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notices in the local newspapers and flyers posted in the community. No members of the public spoke during the meeting. The comment period ends on July 30, 2003.

In addition, in an effort to improve communication and increase interaction with members of the public, the staff conducted open houses for one hour prior to each meeting session with displays and brochures.

Staff meets with GAO on biannual decommissioning trust funds

On July 1, 2003, staff of the General Accounting Office (GAO) and NRR, held a meeting regarding GAO's upcoming report on the NRC's review of biannual decommissioning trust funds reports. GAO had a number of clarification questions about the staff's reviews of the 1998 and 2000 biannual reports. GAO indicated that they will provide their draft report for NRC review and, in coordination with the NRC's Office of the Executive Director for Operations, they will hold an exit conference with the NRC by the end of July 2003. Their schedule for completion and issuance of the final report is October 2003.

Exelon Early Site Permit

By letter dated June 27, 2003, Exelon Generation Company informed the NRC that it will not be submitting its early site permit (ESP) application by the end of June 2003 as Exelon had previously indicated. Exelon stated that the seismic evaluation effort for its ESP application is not yet complete. Exelon stated further that it is still refining the scope of work necessary to provide the seismic-related information and is not able at this time to identify when this work will be complete. Exelon will advise the NRC as to its plans once the seismic scope of work has been fully refined which Exelon expects to be around mid-August 2003.

10 CFR Part 52 Proposed Rule

On July 3, 2003, the proposed rule for 10 CFR Part 52 was published in the Federal Register for a 75-day comment period. The proposed rule seeks to clarify the regulations governing the licensing processes for early site permits, design certifications and combined licenses for nuclear power plants. The proposed changes are based on lessons learned during the previous design certification reviews and discussions with stakeholders about the early site permit, design certification, and combined license review process. Two of the most significant proposed changes include a requirement for applicants who reference an early site permit to update emergency planning information and a requirement for applicants who reference a certified reactor design to include a plant-specific probabilistic risk assessment in their licensing application that reflects site-specific design information and design changes.

International Communications/Information Exchange on SWR-1000

During the week of June 23, 2003, the staff led a team of NRC staff members from two offices on a visit to the SWR-1000 principal test facilities in Erlangen and Karlstein, Germany. The SWR-1000 is a Framatome Advanced Nuclear Power (FANP) boiling water reactor design that incorporates passive safety features. FANP requested pre-application discussions with the staff and expects to submit a design certification application sometime after 2005. The purpose of the visit was to introduce the test facilities to the NRC staff and to provide the opportunity for the

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staff to review and observe FANP's quality assurance controls at these facilities. The visit included a trip to FANP's facility in Karlstein, Germany, where SWR-1000 vent testing, quencher testing, fuel design critical heat flux testing, and components testing (e.g., spring assisted check valve, control rod drives) will be performed. The visit also included a trip to FANP's facility in Erlangen, Germany, where external vessel cooling and fast boron injection testing will be performed.

NRC Special Inspection of Quad Cities Unit 2 Steam Dryer Failure

From June 23-26, 2003, the NRC staff from Region III and NRR participated in a special inspection of the recent failure of the steam dryer upper hood at Quad Cities Unit 2. During the inspection, the NRC staff met with Exelon and GE Nuclear Energy personnel to discuss the licensee's efforts in identifying the cause of the failure, and to assess the structural adequacy of the repair of the damaged areas of the steam dryer. The special inspection team reviewed the licensee's analyses of the steam dryer repair to the upper hood. The team concluded that the repairs are adequate to preclude a recurrence of a fatigue-type failure in the repaired section. The root cause of the failure, including the flow-induced loading on the dryer structure, is still under investigation by the licensee. Consequently, the licensee committed to a re-start power ascension for Quad Cities Unit 2 that is limited to a power level equivalent to the licensed power level before the extended power uprate until the root cause determination is completed and presented to the NRC staff.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 4, 2003

DOE, NRC, and State of Ohio Meet Regarding Battelle Decommissioning Project

On July 1, 2003, the Region III Administrator, the Director, Division of Waste Management (DWM), Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and other NRC staff conducted a site tour and participated in a periodic meeting with the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Ohio Department of Health at the Battelle Columbus Laboratories Decommissioning Project, West Jefferson site. During the meeting, the Federal and State partners discussed issues surrounding the cleanup of the site, including DOE funding, DOE contract change, transuranic waste shipments, schedules for site cleanup, and Ohio's involvement in the oversight of the project. Overall, the meeting was successful in furthering open communications among the primary stakeholders in the site cleanup. A tentative follow-up meeting among Region III, DWM staff, and the State Department of Health is being planned for mid-July. The next NRC and DOE periodic meeting is planned for mid-October.

NRC and U.S. Army Staffs Meet on Jefferson Proving Ground

On July 1, 2003, staffs from the U.S. Army and NRC met at NRC Headquarters to discuss a proposed Jefferson Proving Ground license amendment that would amend the license to a possession-only license, which will be maintained until decommissioning occurs. The amendment, if submitted and granted, would create a 5-year renewable possession-only license for an indefinite time period. The staffs also discussed the information that would be needed in the amendment request. The public asked a number of questions about the type/frequency of environmental monitoring and what criteria would be established as "action levels" for the Army.

North Anna Independent Spent Fuel Storage License Amendment 2

On June 30, 2003, the Spent Fuel Project Office issued Amendment 2 to Materials License SNM-2507, for the North Anna Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation. This amendment will allow North Anna to store spent nuclear fuel in the TN-32 dry storage cask with Technical Specification limits that support North Anna's operational needs.

Public Comments on Control of the Disposition of Solid Materials

In February 2003, staff published a *Federal Register* notice soliciting public comments on the potential rulemaking for controlling the disposition of solid materials and the scope of the environmental impact statement to support the rulemaking effort. As of June 30, 2003, when the public comment period ended, staff had received over 2500 comments. A large number of the comments contain the same text. The staff has begun evaluating the comments and will prepare a scoping report scheduled to be completed in October 2003. Public comments are being placed on the external NRC web site.

Meeting with Nuclear Fuel Services on the Blended Low-Enriched Uranium Project

On June 27, 2003, NRC staff met with Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) representatives, at NRC Headquarters, to discuss plans for NFS submittal and NRC review of the amendment application for the Oxide Conversion Facility, which is the third of three license amendment applications associated with the Blended Low-Enriched Uranium (BLEU) project. NFS proposed to deliver the third amendment application, the Oxide Conversion Building, in October 2003.

On June 30, 2003, a second meeting with NFS was held to discuss technical issues prior to the issuance of the Request for Additional Information request related to the Enrichment Preparation facility, the second BLEU amendment which is currently under staff review.

Meeting with International Uranium Corporation

On June 30, 2003, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards and Office of the General Counsel staff met with representatives from International Uranium Corporation (IUSA) and Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS). Three members of the public listened in, via speaker phone, and one reporter was present. This meeting was at IUSA's request to discuss an upcoming license amendment request to receive and process alternate feed materials at the White Mesa mill (10 CFR Part 40) from an NRC-licensed NFS facility (10 CFR Part 70). IUSA outlined a process whereby Department of Energy legacy materials would be down-blended with depleted and natural uranium at the NFS facility, to create "ore" that would be entered into the uranium fuel cycle at the White Mesa mill in Utah. IUSA noted that the application would also include a White Paper and Environmental Report.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 4, 2003

Reactor Operating Experience Results and Databases Web Page

The Division of Risk Analysis & Applications (DRAA) has launched a beta version of its web page containing results from operating experience analyses and links to supporting database sites. The link to this webpage is <http://nrcoe.inel.gov/index.cfm>. The page contains updates of key reliability and risk related analyses for reactor accident initiating events, risk significant systems, important components, common-cause failure information (parameter estimates and failure insights), and frequently used risk related information derived from reactor operating experience data. In the future the web page will provide links to supporting databases, including capability to access and search licensee event reports (LERs). DRAA will continue to update and improve the web page over the next several months based on new developments and user feedback. Currently the web page is only available to NRC staff. After the initial beta test period, there is a plan to make portions of this information available to the public.

Research Reports on Containment Structure Integrity

Two major research reports summarizing a significant containment study have recently been published. The work was a joint research effort by the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research and the Japan Nuclear Power Engineering Corporation (NUPEC). The reports are available on the NRC Public Web Site and printed copies are currently being distributed.

One report, NUREG/CR-6810, "Overpressurization Test of a 1:4 Scale Pre-stressed Concrete Containment Vessel Model," describes the design, construction, and testing of this large model which was representative of current PWR containment designs. The objective of the tests was to obtain data on the structural response of the model to pressure loading in order to validate analytical modeling and to observe failure mechanisms.

The other report, NUREG/CR-6809, "Post-test Analysis of the NUPEC/NRC 1:4 Scale Pre-stress Concrete Containment Vessel Model," documents work done under NRC/NUPEC sponsorship to assess the effectiveness of calculational methods that can be used to predict the responses of actual containment structures when subjected to beyond design basis pressure loading. Strengths and weaknesses of different approaches are documented.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 4, 2003

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-03-021, Three Mile Island, Units 1 and 2 - UNUSUAL EVENT DUE TO A FIRE INSIDE THE PROTECTED AREA GREATER THAN 15 MINUTES - SUBSTANTIAL MEDIA INTEREST.

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Office of Administration
Items of Interest
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Early Site Permits, Standard Design Certifications, and Combined Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants (Part 52, et al.)

A proposed rule that would amend the requirements for early site permits, standard design certifications, and combined licenses for nuclear power plants was published in the Federal Register on July 3, 2003 (68 FR 40026). The proposed amendments are based on the NRC staff's experience with previous design certification reviews and on discussions with stakeholders about the early site permit, design certification, and combined license processes. The amendments are intended to improve the effectiveness of the licensing process for future applicants. The comment period for this action closes September 16, 2003.

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Chief Information Officer
 Items of Interest
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Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of June 27 through July 3, 2003:

Vacancies filled under NSIR/DNS-2003-003, selectees, rating panel documents, etc.	FOIA/PA-2003-0333
White Mesa Uranium Mill, Docket No. 40-8681, archeological reports, licensing documents, correspondence between NRC and state, Federal agencies re: investigation of cultural sites, implementation of statutes and regulations	FOIA/PA-2003-0334
EA-02-248, report 030-01997/2002001 (DNMS), all documents	FOIA/PA-2003-0335
Hypurrcat, NY, licensing records, applications, agency inquiries, reciprocity, all records	FOIA/PA-2003-0336
Thyrocat, NY, licensing records, applications, agency inquiries, reciprocity, all records	FOIA/PA-2003-0337
Statement of Work, 33-01-189	FOIA/PA-2003-0338
Allegation RIV-96-A-0275, including all correspondence between named individual and NRC	FOIA/PA-2003-0339
OI report 3-1999-016S and interviews/depositions of persons named in report	FOIA/PA-2003-0340
OIG and OI reports on self, records from 5-20-01 to 6-24-03	FOIA/PA-2003-0341
Rep. Richard Burr, NC, all correspondence, 1-1-95 to present	FOIA/PA-2003-0342
Records on self, 1989	FOIA/PA-2003-0343

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 4, 2003

Arrivals		
EDWARDS, Robert	CONSULTANT	HR
OMOTOSHO, Emmanuel	STUDENT IT SPECIALIST (summer)	NSIR
PACHIKARA, Reshma	MANAGEMENT ANALYST (summer)	RES
RAIBI, Michele	SYSTEMS ANALYST	OCFO
ROBLES, Milton	NUCLEAR SAFETY INTERN	NRR
WEBB, Susan	SECRETARY (OA)	NMSS
Departures		
MCDERMOTT, Jeffrey*	CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICER	OCA

*As of June 27, 2003

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 4, 2003

Media Interest

Chairman Diaz appeared in a CNN report on Indian Point that aired on Saturday, June 28. The segment was followed by a live discussion between Ed Lyman of the Union of Concerned Scientists and Jack Devine of Polestar Applied Technology, an Entergy consultant.

The Journal News in N.Y. reported on an interview with Commissioner McGaffigan in which he said the NRC has its own standards to determine the effectiveness of emergency evacuation plans for nuclear power plants and would not necessarily defer to a negative evaluation from FEMA.

The New York Times and *The Journal News in N.Y.* reported that a study commissioned by the operator of the Indian Point nuclear power facility has concluded that it would take nearly nine-and-a-half hours to evacuate everyone within the 10-mile zone around the plant. That is twice as long as previously estimated.

Staff from the Office of Public Affairs fielded numerous media calls on a transformer fire in a turbine building at decommissioned Unit 2 of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
03-086	NRC Advisory Committee On Reactor Safeguards To Hold July Meeting In Rockville, Maryland (7/1)
Regions:	
I-03-041	NRC Proposes \$3,000 Fine Against Washington, D.C. Hospital (7/1)
III-03-046	NRC Oversight Panel To Meet With Davis-Besse Officials July 9 (7/1)
III-03-047	NRC Public Meeting July 10 On Updating Generic Environmental Impact Statement For License Renewal (7/3)
IV-03-029	NRC To Hold Regulatory Conference With Entergy Operations, Inc. (7/2)

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 4, 2003

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-03-0100	6/17/03	Rulemaking Plan on Post-Fire Operator Manual Actions
Information Papers		
1. SECY-03-0107	6/26/03	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending June 20, 2003
Memoranda		
1. M030702B	7/2/03	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-03-0098 - Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Co. (Haddam Neck Plant License Termination Plan); Intervenor's Petition to Consider Dose Standard with Respect to Children

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressman Dennis Kucinich, dated June 30, 2003, concerns the NRC staff's inspection activities at the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant.
2. Letter to Congresswoman Berkley, dated June 26, 2003, concerns onsite inspection oversight for the Yucca Mountain Site Nevada project.
3. Letter to Congressman David Hobson and Senator Pete Domenici, dated June 26, 2003, provides report on regulatory efficiencies gained by consolidating or eliminating regional offices.
4. Letter to Colin Powell, Secretary of State, dated June 25, 2003, concerns U.S. citizen participation in United Nations organizations.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena.
2. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Future Plant Designs.

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Region I
Items of Interest
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Indian Point

Region I management representatives met on July 1, 2003, with the newly appointed Director of Public Security for Westchester County, New York, one of the counties in the emergency planning zone for the Indian Point station. The Region I representatives explained the mission, organization and interests of NRC relative to Indian Point.

Risk Assessment - Army Chemical Agent Monitors

During an inspection on June 25, 2003, at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, an inspector from the Region I Division of Nuclear Materials Safety met with representatives of the Department of the Army, Soldier, Biological and Chemical Command (SBCCOM) to discuss information about the chemical agent monitors and chemical agent detectors used under NRC license. A representative of ATL, Inc., a contractor for the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), who is performing a risk assessment of the use of these devices, was present during the inspection.

Unusual Event due to a Fire at Three Mile Island (TMI) Unit 2 Generates Substantial Media Interest

On July 2 at approximately 10:40 a.m., fire and heavy smoke was reported coming from a 480V switchgear room in the TMI Unit 2 turbine building. AmerGen declared an Unusual Event at 10:56 a.m. due to a fire inside the TMI protected area greater than 15 minutes in duration. AmerGen, as well as several local fire departments, responded to the event and extinguished the fire as of 11:25 a.m. The fire started inside a dry-type transformer located in nonradiological area of the plant; the transformer supplies one set of 480V switchgear. AmerGen terminated the Unusual Event at 12:45 p.m. There was no impact on TMI Unit 1; the plant continued to operate at full power. There was no radiological release due to the fire. No personnel injuries occurred due to this fire.

Unit 2 has been removed from service since 1979 and is currently in a safe storage condition. Unit 2 is owned by the FirstEnergy Corporation, but it is monitored and maintained by AmerGen, the licensee for Unit 1.

The NRC monitored AmerGen's response to the fire and the resident inspector responded to the control room. During the event, all power was shut down to Unit 2. Since that time, power to the unit has been restored and temporary power routed to the equipment (e.g., lighting, sump pumps) that was supplied by the damaged switchgear. The cause of the fire in the transformer has not yet been determined. The resident inspector as well as the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety (DNMS) health physicist responsible for oversight of TMI Unit 2 continue to follow AmerGen's and First Energy's review and corrective actions in response to this fire.

Region I and Headquarters public affairs staff responded to numerous local and national media inquiries regarding this event.

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Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 4, 2003

Southern Nuclear Company, Inc. (SNC) - Contract Settlement at Hatch and Vogtle Nuclear Plants

The licensee's contract with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) union, for certain workers at the Hatch and Vogtle Nuclear Power Plants expired on June 30, 2003. Prior to the expiration, licensee and IBEW representatives negotiated a new contract. During this time, the licensee and NRC, Region II, initiated strike contingency plans. These were discontinued, since the union re-voted on the proposed contract at the request of SNC management and, on June 30, 2003, informed SNC management that the contract offer was accepted.

Development of Technical Staff - Knowledge Transfer Sessions

On July 1-2, 2003, the Division of Reactor Safety conducted two special training sessions, as part of an initiative to enhance knowledge transfer to new inspectors. The first session entitled "The History of Design Bases" focused on control of the power reactor design bases since the 1950's. During the session a historical perspective on the control of design were discussed. The second session entitled "Constructing Effective Oversight of Engineering Program" focused on the attributes of a strong engineering program and was designed to provide the inspector with background information to enhance their ability to inspect engineering issues.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending July 4, 2003

Predecisional Enforcement Conference

On July 2, 2003, members of the Region III staff met in the regional office with officials of Columbia Hospital, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for a predecisional enforcement conference on an apparent violation involving the failure to provide adequate security for radioactive material in a laboratory. The conference was closed to public observation because it involves the findings of an NRC Office of Investigations report that has not been publicly disclosed.

Kewaunee and Point Beach Reactor Head Replacement

On July 3, 2003, members of the Region III staff met in the regional office with representatives of Nuclear Management Company to discuss its plans for replacement of the reactor vessel heads at the Kewaunee and Point Beach nuclear power plants. The Kewaunee replacement is scheduled for September 2004; Point Beach Unit 2 replacement is planned for April 2005; and Point Beach Unit 1 replacement is scheduled for October 2005.

Region IV
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Week Ending July 4, 2003

Predecisional Enforcement Conference (PEC) Longview Inspection, Inc.

On July 1, 2003, the Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety and NRC staff members conducted a public Predecisional Enforcement Conference (PEC) with the Director, Longview Inspection, Inc., in Region IV. The purpose of the PEC was to discuss apparent violations of NRC requirements regarding the security and surveillance of a radiographic exposure device used at a temporary jobsite.

Open Public Inspection Exit Meeting with Nebraska Public Power District

On July 1, 2003, the Director, Division of Reactor Projects and other members of the Region IV staff met with officials from the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) to discuss the results of the NRC's second quarterly inspection of NPPD's Strategic Improvement Plan. The meeting was well attended, consisting mostly of NPPD personnel. During the meeting the discussions focused on NPPD's progress in accomplishing required actions as specified in the Confirmatory Action Letter issued by NRC on January 30, 2003. There was some news media coverage as a result of this meeting.

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending July 4, 2003

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 21

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Gerke	07/08/03 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Federal Electronic Records Management: What is the Plan? What is Our Progress?	Reps. Putnam/Clay Tech Policy, Info Policy, Inter-Governmental Relations & Census Government Reform
Portner	07/08/03 2362B RHOB	5:00	Markup	FY04 Energy and Water Development	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Gerke	07/09/03 2247 RHOB	2:00	TBA	Health Care Affordability for Federal Retirees	Reps. Davis/Davis Civil Service & Agency Organization Government Reform
Keeling	TBA SD-342	TBA	Joe D. Whitley	Confirmation to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security	Senators Collins/Lieberman Governmental Affairs
Combs	TBA	TBA	Chairman Diaz, DOE Bechtel, NEI	Yucca Mountain	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Power Energy and Commerce
Gerke	07/24/03 TBA	TBA	TBA	Past, Present, and Future of the Competitive Sourcing Initiative	Senators Voinovich/Durbin Gov't Mgmt, the Fedl Workforce Governmental Affairs

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