

# INFORMATION REPORT

March 15, 2004

SECY-04-0043

For: The Commissioners  
From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: SECY-04-0043 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK  
ENDING MARCH 5, 2004

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\*No input this week.

**/RA by Melinda Malloy Acting For/**

William M. Dean  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
T. Bloomer, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 5, 2004

Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant - Power Uprate Approved

On February 27, 2004, the NRC staff approved a request by the Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC) to increase the generating capacity of the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant by 6 percent. This power uprate request was approved following the staff's safety review and increases the generating capacity of the plant from 1673 to 1772 megawatts thermal. NMC intends to implement the power uprate by the end of March 2004.

Seabrook Power Station - Power Uprate Public Meeting

On March 3, 2004, a Category 1 public meeting was conducted at the NRC Headquarters, Rockville, MD between the NRC staff and representatives from Seabrook Power Station. At this meeting Seabrook discussed with NRC staff their planned 5 percent power uprate license amendment request submittal.

Quad Cities Unit 2 - Steam Dryer Indications

On February 24, 2004, Quad Cities Unit 2 began a refueling outage. Quad Cities Unit 2 has had a history of steam dryer degradation since implementing an extended power uprate (EPU). During the outage, the licensee identified several indications of steam dryer degradation. Some of the indications are old, and some are in areas repaired or modified in June 2003. The licensee has sent the indication reports to General Electric (GE) for evaluation and are in the process of providing them to the NRC. The staff will be discussing these indications and the licensee's dryer repair plans with the licensee once GE and the NRC have a chance to evaluate the indication reports. Quad Cities Unit 2 operated for almost 8 months following the June 2003 dryer repairs; about 6 months of this was at full EPU power.

Meeting with the Westinghouse Owners Group to Discuss Proposed Topical Report for Risk-Informing Non-Loss-of-Coolant Accident (Non-LOCA) Transients and Accidents

On March 3, 2004, the staff met with members of the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) to discuss the WOG proposal to reclassify non-LOCA transients and accidents using a risk-informed approach. The staff pointed out the relationship of this proposal to the current efforts to risk-inform the design-basis LOCA as part of the 10 CFR 50.46 rulemaking effort and the resource constraints within the staff to review the WOG proposal at this time. As such, the staff requested that the WOG delay further action on this initiative until resources can be made available from the 10 CFR 50.46 rulemaking effort to focus on the WOG initiative. The WOG agreed to delay submittal of a topical report on this issue until they have met with the staff sometime in the future after a better understanding is available on the direction the staff is going with regard to design basis accident redefinition.

### Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)/NRC Workshop on Debris Impact on Emergency Coolant Recirculation

On February 25-27, 2004, Division of Systems Safety and Analysis staff attended an NEA/NRC Workshop on Debris Impact on Emergency Coolant Recirculation held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Presentations were made by representatives from several countries on approaches taken and results achieved to date. The NRC approach to pressurized-water reactor (PWR) sump performance resolution was discussed.

### Meeting with North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC)

Representatives from NRR and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research met with NERC on February 25, 2004, at their offices in Princeton, New Jersey. NERC is a voluntary organization that develops operating standards for the electric power grid and monitors compliance by control area operators. NERC discussed their short-term and long-term corrective action program in response to the August 14, 2003 Power Outage Event.

An audit of all the large control areas is currently under way to assess compliance with the operating standards. These audits should help to identify any systemic problems that could contribute to a degraded grid condition. FERC is participating in these audits in an oversight capacity. The staff emphasized the need to communicate degraded grid conditions to nuclear plant operators.

NERC is developing a reliability functional model based on electricity markets and through the introduction of new market players. The new model will specifically address functional duties at each level for maintaining grid reliability. Several standards are undergoing enhancements along with the development of a new standard for reliability and security.

### Public Meeting on Revised Order EA-03-009

On March 2, 2004, the staff held a public meeting on the revised Order (Enforcement Action (EA) 03-009) regarding inspection requirements of reactor pressure vessel (RPV) upper heads and associated penetrations. The revised Order refines the inspection requirements of the original Order EA-03-009, which was issued on February 11, 2003, by incorporating new information gained from inspections performed during the past year. Approximately 20 members of industry and the public attended the meeting, with an additional 33 individuals participating by telephone. The NRC staff made a brief presentation introducing the changes addressed in the revised Order, which was then followed by a question and answer session. A summary of the meeting will be posted on the NRC's web site that will include all of the questions asked and the associated responses, along with general clarifications discussed during the meeting. This summary will also be distributed to the recipients of the revised Order to ensure that they are made aware of the topics discussed.

### American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code Meetings

NRR staff attended ASME Section III, IX, and XI Code meetings the week of February 23, 2004, in Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida. Some of the highlights of the Section XI meetings include:

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The Task Group (TG) on Boric Acid Corrosion discussed current Code requirements related to the visual examinations associated with pressure tests of borated water systems. These examinations are currently conducted (with some notable exceptions) with insulation in place. The TG developed and approved an addition to the IWB-2500 tables specifically for pressure boundary components fabricated from Alloy 600/82/182 materials that will require direct (i.e., bare metal) examination. The frequency of such inspections will be every refueling outage. Performing direct visual examinations would assist in the early identification of through-wall leakage in borated water systems, which can also assist in mitigating any consequent boric acid corrosion of ferritic materials exposed to such through-wall leakage. The TG will present the proposed Code change to the Working Group on Inservice Inspection Optimization and the Subcommittee for Section XI during the May 2004 Code meetings.

The TG on Alloy 600 discussed potential changes to Code examination requirements for reactor vessel upper head penetrations and welds. The technical basis document that forms the basis for the proposed changes (which was developed by the industry's Materials Reliability Program) has not been provided to the Task Group, so no formal action on the revised inspection requirements took place. The NRC representative, as well as the Chair of the Task Group, stressed the importance of receiving the technical basis document by the end of March so that Code actions may proceed during the May and August 2004 Code meetings.

#### License Renewal Application for Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

On February 26, 2004, the staff received from the Nuclear Management Company, Limited Liability Corporation (LLC), the licensee for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, its application requesting the extension of the operating licenses for an additional 20 years beyond their current 40-year terms, pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 51 and 54. Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 are pressurized-water reactors designed by Westinghouse with current operating licenses that expire at midnight on October 5, 2010, and March 8, 2013, respectively. The staff plans to hold a public information session near the plant on March 31, 2004, to describe the safety and environmental reviews which will be performed, and other steps in the license renewal process.

#### Nuclear Utilities Procurement Issues Committee (NUPIC) - Semi-Annual Meeting

On February 25-26, 2004, representatives of the Division of Inspection Program Management (DIPM) attended the semi-annual meeting of NUPIC members in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The NRC conducted presentations on NRC participation on NUPIC audits, future NUPIC/NRC interaction, and staff efforts to assess options for adopting other international quality assurance standards (SECY-03-0117). An extensive question and answer session on several different topics of interest to NUPIC members followed the presentation.

#### NRC Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2004-03: Risk-Informed Approach for Post-Fire Safe-Shutdown Associated Circuit Inspections

On March 2, 2004, the NRC staff issued the subject RIS. Beginning in 1997, a series of licensee event reports identified plant-specific problems related to potential fire-induced electrical circuit failures that could prevent operation or cause mis-operation of equipment necessary to achieve and maintain hot shutdown. These problems were documented in NRC

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Information Notice 99-17, "Problems Associated With Post-Fire Safe-Shutdown Circuit Analysis." In 1998, the staff began interactions with stakeholders to develop an effective risk-informed solution to the issue. Due to different stakeholder interpretations of the regulations, the staff temporarily suspended the associated circuit portion of fire protection inspections. This RIS clarifies the approach that will be used by the staff to perform post-fire safe-shutdown associated circuit inspections.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 5, 2004

Kick-off Meeting for the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses' Reviews of Integrated Safety Analysis Summaries

On February 25, 2004, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) met with the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (hereafter, the Center) in San Antonio, Texas to discuss the Center's reviews of Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA). Since this was the first task order on the contract involving the actual review of an ISA summary, the purpose of the kick-off meeting was to provide the Center with information on NRC's expectations for ISA summary reviews. This information included regulatory framework, depth of review, communications with NRC staff and licensees, and the format for the final product, which is a Technical Evaluation Report.

Meeting with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

On March 2, 2004, FCSS staff met with members of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), at their request. Two CNSC licensees are planning to produce slightly enriched uranium at their facilities, beginning in 2005-2006. FCSS staff members discussed their experiences in licensing fuel fabrication facilities with CNSC staff responsible for licensing and compliance of the proposed Canadian facilities. The discussion also focused on fire protection and criticality safety -- areas of particular interest to the CNSC staff. CNSC staff also visited the Global Nuclear Fuel-Americas facility in Wilmington, North Carolina, on March 4, 2004.

Meeting with Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, and the Japanese Nuclear Energy Safety Organization

On March 2, 2004, FCSS met with Takeshi Seino and Nobuyuki Hara, both of whom work for the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, and with Tsuchino Susumu, who works for the Japanese Nuclear Energy Safety Organization, at their request. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the staff's review of the U.S. Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility and to answer questions. Before the meeting, Dr. Seino provided a questionnaire containing 40 questions in the areas of confinement, fire/explosion, criticality safety, seismicity, and electricity. At the outset, FCSS staff presented an overview of 10 CFR Part 70, one of the primary NRC regulations governing the staff's safety review. FCSS staff discussed answers to the questions contained in the questionnaire, as well as other questions posed.

Semi-Annual Meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes

On March 1-2, 2004, the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and staff and management of the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, met with the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI). Issues concerning implementation of the revised 10 CFR Part 35, the proposed rulemaking on the training and experience segments of Part 35, the licensing of emerging technology modalities, and radiation dose reconstruction for the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital member of the public exposure case were discussed during the publicly noticed meeting. On March 2, 2004, during the annual meeting with the Commission,

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the ACMUI discussed the proposed training and experience amendments to Part 35 and the St. Joseph case.

NRC Staff Meeting on Decommissioning of Westinghouse Hematite Facility

On February 27, 2004, the Director, Division of Waste Management (DWM); Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, Region III (RIII); and staff met with the Director of the Westinghouse Hematite Decommissioning Project and his staff. The purpose of the management meeting was to announce a planned change in NRC project oversight responsibilities from RIII to DWM, and to discuss Westinghouse's proposed decommissioning plan (DP). The Westinghouse-Hematite facility is currently undergoing decontamination activities under approved license conditions. Westinghouse provided an overview of its current decommissioning organization, site history and operations, past environmental studies conducted at the site, current decontamination activities, public outreach activities, planned licensing overview, and an outline of its proposed DP. The State of Missouri Department of Natural Resources participated in the meeting, as well as representatives of two past site operators. Because of the complex nature of decommissioning the site, NRC and Westinghouse management agreed to hold a follow-up meeting soon.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
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International Workshop on Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) Sump Performance

On February 25-27, 2004, managers and staff members from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) and Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) attended the International Workshop on PWR Sump Performance co-chaired by the Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI) and the NRC, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This workshop was the result of a RES initiative to generate international dialog and collaboration toward resolution of this important safety issue. Over 130 representatives from 13 countries participated in sessions on Safety Assessment and Regulatory Requirement, Experimental Work, Analytical Work, and Industry Solutions. Extensive discussions were held on sump performance assessment methods, plant modifications, and operating procedures to resolve this issue. NRR and RES presented NRC's approach to sump performance resolution and related research in U.S., respectively.

At the workshop, the Institut de Radioprotection et de Sureté Nucleaire (IRSN) proposed and solicited participation from the international community for an extensive test program at two European facilities to investigate PWR debris and chemical effects, and their impact on sump performance. The tests would be conducted through the end of 2005. RES management is considering participation in this major international cooperative research effort. A key issue is the ability of the international program to provide test results on a schedule to support NRC decision making.

Release of NUREG/BR-0308, "Effective Risk Communication: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Guidelines for External Risk Communication" and NUREG/CR-6840, "The Technical Basis for the NRC's Guidelines for External Risk Communication"

RES, with contributions from the Risk Communications Steering Committee, recently released NUREG/BR-0308 and NUREG/CR-6840 to provide guidance to agency staff and management on NRC-specific communication topics and situations that deal with risk to ensure the agency's openness with the public. NUREG/BR-0308 contains practical, how-to guidance, tailored to NRC needs, that reflect the risk communication understanding of researchers, trainers, and practitioners from numerous Federal, State, private, and educational organizations. NUREG/CR-6840 presents a comparative analysis of NRC's risk communication needs and the state-of-the-art in risk communication practices, with a focus on external risk communications. In addition to providing a resource for the data collected during the formulation of NUREG/BR-0308, NUREG/CR-6840 also provides recommendations for how the NRC can best incorporate risk communication principles throughout the agency.

Publication: Regulatory Guide 1.200, "An Approach for Determining the Technical Adequacy of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Results for Risk-Informed Activities"

On February 27, 2004, RES issued for trial use the subject Regulatory Guide (RG). This RG is expected to provide the level of confidence in the technical quality of the probability risk assessment (PRA) needed to support the identified applications such that an in-depth technical review by NRC staff would not be needed. This RG should allow staff to focus their review on

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key assumptions and areas identified by peer reviewers as being of concern and are relevant to the application. Consequently, this guide is intended to provide for a more focused and consistent review process.

#### Completion of Draft Report on Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI) Pilot Program

A draft of the "Report on the Independent Verification of the Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI) Results for the Pilot Plants" has been completed by RES staff and was sent to NRR on February 24, 2004. This report provides the results of the independent verification effort for the pilot program that was initiated in the summer of 2002. The MSPI was extensively tested, evaluated and reviewed during the pilot plant trial and evaluation period.

#### Issuance of Large Early Release Frequency (LERF) Standardized Plant Analysis Risk (SPAR) Model for First Lead Plant

RES staff has completed the SPAR model for the calculation of LERF for the first lead plant (a Westinghouse 4-loop PWR with a large, dry containment - Comanche Peak 1 and 2). This was sent to the licensee on February 26, 2004, in anticipation of the on site quality assurance review against the licensee's Level 2/LERF Probabilistic Risk Assessment model. The purpose of the LERF SPAR Model Development Program Plan is to produce a set of SPAR models that can be used by staff analysts to make independent LERF assessments of operational events and conditions and other regulatory issues under the guidance specified in Regulatory Guide 1.174. RES is initially developing LERF models for lead plants in ten plant classes.

Nuclear Security and Incident Response  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 5, 2004

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-04-009, Yankee Atomic Electric Company - SPILL OF LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE FROM PACKAGE WHILE IN TRANSIT.
2. PNO-I-04-008, St. Mary Hospital - POTENTIAL MEDICAL EVENT INVOLVING A PROSTATE SEED IMPLANT.
3. PNO-IV-04-008, Altru Health System - MEDICAL EVENT - RADIATION DOSE TO AN UNINTENDED SITE.
4. PNO-IV-04-009, Arizona Public Service Company - SHUTDOWN OF UNIT 3 FOR GREATER THAN 72 HOURS.

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Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 5, 2004

Contract Awards

A competitive firm fixed-price/requirements-type contract (number NRC-03-04-027) was awarded to Anbex Inc. of Branchville, New Jersey on March 5, 2004, for the purchase of potassium iodide (KI) tablets. The period of performance is two years with three one-year option periods. The total estimated price of the contract, inclusive of option years, is \$1,545,246.88. The staff issued several streamlining initiatives, including issuing a combined synopsis/solicitation, establishing a deadline for receipt of proposers' questions, applying simplified evaluation criteria, and using only one source evaluation panel member.

A competitive fixed-price delivery order (number DR-09-04-305) was awarded to Management Concepts of Vienna, Virginia on March 2, 2004, for "Management Control Training." The period of performance is one year with four one-year option periods. The total contract ceiling, inclusive of option years, is \$337,306.

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Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
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Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests received during the period of  
February 27 through March 4, 2004:

Allegation RIV-96-A-0287, all documents including correspondence between named individual and NRC	FOIA/PA-2004-0143
General index of released records, description of agency organization, and administrative staff manuals	FOIA/PA-2004-0144
NRC's Fiscal Year 2005 Exhibit 300s	FOIA/PA-2004-0145
Operator License No. SOP-31197, copy of expiration notice	FOIA/PA-2004-0146
Institutions that specialize in medical imaging	FOIA/PA-2004-0147
Security file on named individual	FOIA/PA-2004-0148
Curtis Wright Corporation, Buffalo, New York, licenses, inspections & contracts	FOIA/PA-2004-0149
Air Force Plant 49 (former), Grider Street, Buffalo, NY, licenses, inspections & subcontracts	FOIA/PA-2004-0150
Curtis Wright or Wright Aeronautical Facility, 300 Fairfield Avenue, Fairfield, New Jersey, licenses, inspections or subcontracts	FOIA/PA-2004-0151
Complaint/communications from named individual re: Palisades Nuclear Power Plant	FOIA/PA-2004-0152

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Office of Human Resources  
 Items of Interest  
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<b>Arrivals</b>		
James Baptist	Project Engineer	R-II
Diane Corlew	Secretary (OA)	R-I
Patricia Garrett	Secretary (OA)	R-I
Thomas Hafera	Reactor Systems Engineer	NRR
Deonna Hester	Secretary (OA)	HR/SPAC
April Leoffler	Secretary (OA)	HR/SPAC
Jay Thompson	Health Physicist	NMSS
Christopher M. Wachter	Law Clerk Intern	ASLBP
Donald Williams, II	Program Analyst	OCFO
<b>Retirements</b>		
Nancy B. Holbrook	Management & Program Analyst	R-IV
Darl S. Hood	Sr. Project Manager	NRR
<b>Departures</b>		
William Franz	Criminal Investigator	R-III
Carl A. Fredericks	Sr. License Fee Analyst	OCFO

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Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
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Media Interest

The Office of Public Affairs (OPA) responded to significant media inquiries on the following:

Media interest continued in efforts by FirstEnergy to win NRC approval to restart the Davis-Besse nuclear plant. OPA HQ facilitated an interview of NRR's Brian Sheron by the Dow-Jones News Wires on lessons learned from Davis-Besse;

There was media interest in public participation opportunities for the Vermont Yankee power uprate request; and

OPA fielded numerous media calls about the special inspection at the Palo Verde nuclear plant, as well as the discovery there of boron deposits on a reactor vessel.

Other Public Affairs Items

OPA supported a scoping meeting of about 250 people in Eunice, New Mexico, for an environmental impact statement on a proposed uranium enrichment plant; and

OPA supported the Commission's public meeting on the coming anniversary of the Three Mile Island 2 accident in 1979 and fielded several related media calls.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
04-029	NRC Announces Availability of License Renewal Application for Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant (3/1)
04-030	NRC Approves Power Uprate for Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant (3/2)
04-031	NRC Issues Annual Assessments for Nation's Nuclear Plants (3/5)
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-04-007	NRC Proposes \$3,000 Fine Against VA Firm Over Temporary Loss of Nuclear Gauge (3/3)
IV-04-007	NRC to Conduct Special Inspection at Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (3/1)
IV-04-008	NRC to Hold Regulatory Conference with Entergy Operations on Waterford Nuclear Power Plant (3/2)

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Office of International Programs  
Items of Interest  
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Japanese Visit to Discuss Safety Evaluation of Mixed Oxide (MOX) Facility

On March 2, 2004, a Japanese regulatory team from the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) and the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES) met with staff from NMSS to discuss the safety evaluation criteria for an MOX fuel manufacturing facility. NISA is developing its evaluation criteria for the MOX fuel fabrication facility under construction at Rokkasho-Mura, and the experimental facility at Tokai-Mura that will become an industrial facility.

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Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. SECY-04-0008	1/26/04	Proposed Amendment to Agreement Between the State of Utah and the Commission Pursuant to Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as Amended
SRM on SECY-04-0008	2/6/04	(same)
Commission Voting Record on SECY-04-0008	2/6/04	(same)
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-04-0036	3/3/04	SECY-04-0036 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 20, 2004
2. SECY-04-0038	3/4/04	SECY-04-0038 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 27, 2004
<b>Memoranda</b>		
1. M040302A	3/2/04	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-04-0023-Private Fuel Storage (Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation) Docket No. 72-22-ISFSI; II. SECY-04-0028-Requests for Application of New Part 2 Rules to Early Site Permit Hearings in North Anna, Clinton, and Grand Gulf
2. M040218B	3/2/04	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Office of Chief Financial Officer Programs, Performance, and Plans

Commission Correspondence

- Letter to David Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists and Shari Weir, Ohio Citizen Action, dated February 25, 2004, responds to letter requesting the Commission conduct a public meeting prior to the restart of Davis-Besse.

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2. Letter to Congresswoman Velázquez, dated February 24, 2004, concerns the Radiac Research Corp. facility in Brooklyn, New York.
3. Letter to Olene Walker, Governor of Utah, concerns the regulatory authority over the possession and use of 11e(2) byproduct material.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Joint Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safety Subcommittees on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment and on Plant Operations (3/25/04).
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Meeting of the Subcommittee on Plant Operations (3/26/04).
3. Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes: Meeting Notice (3/22/04).

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Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 5, 2004

Tennessee Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) Review

On February 23-26, 2004, an IMPEP review of the Tennessee Agreement State Program was conducted by staff from Region I, Region III, the Offices of State and Tribal Programs, Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, and the State of Maine. This review focused on the State's performance over the last four years for seven performance indicators and the State's actions taken in response to recommendations made during the previous IMPEP reviews conducted in August 2000 and October 2001. The Region I Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, attended the exit meeting. The IMPEP Team will draft its report and meet with the NRC Management Review Board.

Maine Yankee Completes Transfer of Spent Fuel to Onsite Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI)

On February 27, 2004, Maine Yankee transferred the final spent fuel storage canister to its onsite ISFSI. The completion of the fuel transfer project allows Maine Yankee to perform final cleaning and surveys in the spent fuel pool, commence draining the pool, remove fuel racks, and demolish the spent fuel pool and control room. Control Room and security functions have been transferred to facilities at the ISFSI. As a result of the transfer of all fuel to the ISFSI, NRC rescinded the May 23, 2002, Order for Interim Safeguards and Security Compensatory Measures (ICMs) in effect at Maine Yankee. The ICMs applied to decommissioning nuclear power plants with spent fuel in the spent fuel pool. The October 16, 2002, Maine Yankee Order for ICMs at the ISFSI remains in effect.

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 5, 2004

South Carolina Electric and Gas Company - V. C. Summer Visit

On March 2, 2004, the Regional Administrator visited the V. C. Summer Nuclear Plant in Columbia, South Carolina. The purpose of the visit was to tour the facility and meet with licensee management and the resident inspectors.

Westinghouse Fuel Fabrication Facility - Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Visit

On March 2, 2004, the Director, Processing Facilities and Technical Support Division, of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and two of his staff members toured the Westinghouse Fuel Fabrication Facility in Columbia, South Carolina.

On March 3, 2004, the Regional Administrator, and the Director, Division of Fuel Facility Inspection attended a public meeting with Westinghouse management in Columbia, South Carolina. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the results of the Licensee Performance Review. The CNSC representatives observed the public meeting

Duke Energy Corporation - Oconee Predecisional Enforcement Conference

On March 2, 2004, representatives from Duke Energy Corporation were in the Regional Office to attend a Predecisional Enforcement Conference. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss an apparent violation of 10 CFR 50.59.

Duke Energy Corporation - Catawba Emergency Exercise Preparation

On March 4, 2004, representatives from the Duke Energy Corporation were in the Region II Office to give an overview of the Catawba Emergency Exercise. The exercise is scheduled for March 16. The NRC is participating with a Regional Base Team, Regional Site Team and a full Headquarters Team. The Regional Administrator is participating as the Site Team Leader/Director of Site Operations.

Region IV  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending March 5, 2004

Public Meeting With Nebraska Public Power District - Cooper Nuclear Station

On March 1, 2004, Region IV conducted a meeting with Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) in Arlington, Texas. Topics discussed during the meeting included NPPD's implementation of their performance improvement plan at Cooper Nuclear Station; NPPD's progress in completing the actions specified in the Confirmatory Action Letter dated January 30, 2003; and the criteria for assessing closure of the actions specified in the Confirmatory Action Letter.

Special Inspection Conducted at Palo Verde Nuclear Station

During the week of March 1-5, 2004, representatives from Region IV and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation conducted a special inspection at the Palo Verde nuclear station. The team evaluated two operational issues occurring in the Unit 2 reactor facility: gas entrainment in the shutdown coolant system during reduced inventory operation, and leakage of coolant from the primary to the secondary side of one of the new Unit 2 steam generators.

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Office of Congressional Affairs  
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**CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 48**

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Portner	03/11/04 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY05 Budget	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Gerke	March 2004 TBA	TBA	DOE	Final Report by U.S. - Canada Power System Outage Task Force	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Long	03/17/04 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY05 Nuclear Energy Budget	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Gerke	03/17/04 2203 RHOB	10:00	Ellis Merschoff, OMB, GAO, DOJ, DOL, HHS, NIST, and Treasury	Agencies' Computer Security Efforts	Reps. Putnam/Clay Technology, Info Policy, Inter- tergovernmental Relations & the Census Government Reform
Combs	03/24/04 2362B RHOB	10:00	DOE	FY05 Nuclear Waste Budget	Reps. Hobson/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Portner	04/29/04 TENTATIVE	TBA	NRC Commissioners	NRC Oversight	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works

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