

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

RELEASED TO THE PDR

1/12/00  
date  
JKB  
initials

**INFORMATION REPORT**

January 6, 2000

SECY-00-0006

For: The Commissioners  
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO  
Subject: SECY-00-0006 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEKS  
ENDING DECEMBER 24, 1999 AND DECEMBER 31, 1999

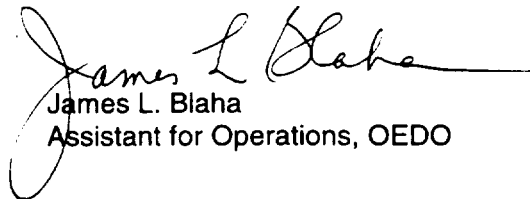
Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A*☆
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C
Incident Response Operations	D
General Counsel	E*☆
Administration	F*☆
Chief Information Officer	G
Chief Financial Officer	H☆
Human Resources	I*
Small Business & Civil Rights	J*☆
Enforcement	K*☆
State Program	L*☆
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N☆
Office of the Secretary	O
Region I	P
Region II	P
Region III	P*☆
Region IV	P*☆
Executive Director for Operations	Q*☆
Congressional Affairs	R*☆

\*No input week ending 12/24/99.

☆No input week ending 12/31/99.

  
James L. Blaha  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
S. Peterson, OEDO

PDR. COMMISS NRCC Weekly

DSIH

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 24, 1999

Nuclear Regulatory Commission/Nuclear Energy Institute Workshop on Spent Fuel Storage Generic Issues

On December 17, 1999, a workshop on spent fuel storage generic issues was conducted at Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters. The workshop was attended by more than 70 representatives from NRC, the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the Electric Power Research Institute, utilities, cask vendors, and the public. The Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and the Senior Vice President, NEI, opened the workshop, set the tone, and emphasized the objectives for the three panels/roundtables. These roundtables included: significant dry cask storage issues and their relative priorities, high burnup fuel and burnup credit. At the conclusion of the workshop, NEI noted that the highest priority issues are high burnup fuel, streamlining the license amendment process, burnup credit, standard technical specifications, and certificate and independent spent fuel storage installation license renewal. On high burnup fuel, NRC committed to work with NEI, and NEI committed to develop a framework for evaluating high burnup fuel issues.

Regarding burnup credit, NRC committed to provide NEI with a study being conducted by the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research on burnup credit, and NEI agreed to review the report.

Meeting with BNFL Fuel Solutions

On December 15, 1999, a management meeting was held between the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and BNFL Fuel Solutions (BFS) to discuss current and future actions being taken by BFS to resolve outstanding corrective actions associated with their response to the October 6, 1997, Demand for Information. At the meeting, BFS indicated they expected to resolve the remaining issues by December 30, 1999, and will notify the Nuclear Regulatory Commission when they are completed. BFS also committed to fabricate casks in conformance with the Certificate of Compliance.

Meeting with Portland General Electric

On December 15, 1999, a meeting was held between the Spent Fuel Project Office and Portland General Electric (PGE) to discuss the root causes associated with the failure of a coating used on the internals of a spent fuel storage cask at Trojan Nuclear Plant. PGE presented its plans to qualify a new coating for use and to submit a 10 CFR Part 72 license amendment to implement the new coating. PGE also presented a proposed schedule to complete these actions. No spent fuel storage casks have been loaded at Trojan, and none will be loaded, until they receive Nuclear Regulatory Commission approval of the license amendment.

Meeting with Molycorp

On December 15, 1999, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection met with representatives of Molycorp

December 24, 1999

ENCLOSURE B

to discuss Molycorp's plans to decommission its Washington, Pennsylvania, facility. This site is listed on the Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP). Molycorp plans to remediate the contaminated portion of the site to meet SDMP Action Plan criteria for unrestricted release. A decommissioning plan (DP) for this action was submitted on June 30, 1999. Molycorp plans to dispose of the waste from this action in an onsite disposal cell. This latter portion of the decommissioning (i.e., the disposal cell) would comply with the criteria in the License Termination Rule (10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E) for restricted release. The DP for the onsite disposal cell is due in April 2000. A fundamental element of the overall plan is long-term institutional controls for the restricted released portion of the site. Molycorp presented and discussed draft documents that they propose to establish such controls. The institutional controls would consist of a legally-binding and enforceable administrative consent order between Molycorp and a government entity, and a restrictive covenant and deed restriction for the property. Financial assurance would consist of an irrevocable letter of credit and a standby trust agreement. The Division of Waste Management staff noted that the success of this approach was dependent upon a government entity agreeing to enter into such a consent order. Staff stated that while an executed order would not be required in the DP submittal, some type of agreement in principle would be needed before the DP could be accepted for review.

#### Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards

On December 13, 1999, the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS) met. Representatives were present from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, Department of Defense, Office of Science & Technology Policy, Occupational Safety & Health Administration, Food and Drug Administration, and other federal agencies. The first presentation was a discussion of the General Accounting Office audit on radiation standards. Other topics discussed included EPA's Radon in Drinking Water Proposed Rule, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Uranium Recovery Program Commission Papers, an update on NRC's clearance rule, NRC decommissioning issues, international meetings, and status of subcommittee activities. The next quarterly meeting of ISCORS is proposed for March 15, 2000, and will be held at NRC Headquarters.

#### Nuclear Regulatory Commission/Department of Energy Management Meeting

In the latest of a series of meetings, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Department of Energy (DOE) management and staff met on December 16, 1999, at NRC Headquarters, to discuss program status and progress in implementation of DOE's quality assurance (QA) program. Attendance at the meeting included representatives from the Nevada Legislature, electric utilities, citizens' groups, state of Nevada, and affected units of local government. The meeting agenda focused on detailed discussion of QA issues and the integrated schedule of documents that support submission of the Site Recommendation Report. DOE's presentation included its plans and methodology for resolving data qualification questions that have grown out of its past QA problems. The NRC staff is reviewing this information and considering possible followup actions.

December 24, 1999

ENCLOSURE B

### Fansteel Advisory Board Meeting

On December 16, 1999, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff attended the fifth Site Specific Advisory Board (Board) meeting in Muskogee, Oklahoma. The meeting began with an update on decommissioning activities at the Fansteel facility; followed by a discussion of a document entitled, "Questions and Answers Related to Fansteel Inc.'s Decommissioning Plan," prepared by Earth Sciences Consultants; followed by board discussions; and ending with questions from the audience. Several members of the public were in attendance, in addition to board members and the local newspaper.

The construction of the containment cell and how it will affect the surrounding environment were the main topics of discussion. Other topics included: (1) the potential for contamination of the Arkansas River; (2) proposed contents of the containment cell; (3) candidates for long term care of the site; (4) possibilities for radiation release to the atmosphere; and (5) flooding concerns. With regard to the latter two topics, the Board informed the public that air sampling data can be obtained from the Fansteel Muskogee facility, and that Fansteel is outside the 500-year flood plain.

December 24, 1999

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 31, 1999

Atlas License Transferred to Moab Mill Reclamation Trust

On December 27, 1999, an Order transferring source material license SUA-917 from Atlas Corporation to the Moab Mill Reclamation Trust was signed. The Order transfers the license to the Trust, and orders the Trust and the Trustee (PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP) to perform reclamation of the uranium mill tailings site in accordance with the terms and conditions of the license. The terms and conditions of the license include reasonable and prudent alternatives and reasonable and prudent measures in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's final biological opinion, as well as mitigative measures developed by Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff. The Order was effective December 30, 1999, and will be published in the Federal Register.

First Annual Report to the President and Congress Regarding Domestic Response Capabilities for Terrorism Involving Weapons of Mass Destruction

The Advisory Panel to Assess Domestic Response Capabilities for Terrorism Involving Weapons of Mass Destruction, chaired by the Governor of Virginia, submitted its first report, "Assessing the Threat," dated December 15, 1999, to the President and Congress. The report notes that: (1) more attention should be paid to the assessment of higher probability/lower-consequence threats (but not at the expense of preparing for lower probability/higher-consequence threats); (2) the concept of a National Domestic Preparedness Office is fundamentally sound, given the complex nature of current federal agencies and programs for countering terrorism that makes it difficult for state and local authorities to obtain federal support; (3) terms such as "weapons of mass destruction" and "mass casualties" need to be revised and codified; and importantly (4) despite improvements, too much ambiguity remains about the issue of "who's in charge" if an incident occurs and efforts need to be accelerated to develop and test agreed-upon templates for command and control under a wide variety of terrorist threat scenarios. Earlier, the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff briefed the Advisory Panel and commented on a draft of the report.

Proposed Rule Signed by EDO

On December 27, 1999, the Executive Director for Operations approved a proposed rule which amends 10 CFR 72.214, "List of approved spent fuel storage casks," adding the NAC UMS Universal Storage System to the list of approved spent fuel storage casks. This amendment would allow the holders of power reactor operating licenses to store spent fuel in the approved casks under a general license.

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

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 24, 1999

Workshop on Entombment Option for Decommissioning Power Reactors

On December 14–15, 1999, the RES Division of Risk Analysis and Applications and the NMSS Division of Waste Management held a public meeting to discuss the viability of entombment as an option for power reactor decommissioning. There were 59 stakeholders in attendance representing several States, various government agencies, industry, and the public. The issues discussed included the potential impacts on the public, States, and other government agencies if the entombment option is permitted; the impact on the low-level waste compacts; the degree of industry interest; institutional controls; engineered barriers; inclusion of greater than Class C waste; and financial provisions needed. In general, the industry favored approval of entombment as an option for decommissioning, whereas other stakeholders raised concerns with this option.

Comments received during the workshop will be used by the NRC staff in developing recommendations on whether to proceed with rulemaking to permit the entombment option as a generic decommissioning alternative for license termination. A transcript of the meeting will be put on the new NRC web page at [www.nrc.gov/NRC/wwwforms.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/wwwforms.html). Additional comments on the entombment option can be submitted on this same web page or in writing.

Draft Regulatory Guide on Alternative Source Terms

RES has issued Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1081, "Alternative Radiological Source Terms for Evaluating Design Basis Accidents at Nuclear Power Reactors." This draft guide is being developed to provide guidance to licensees on acceptable applications of alternative source terms and on the scope, nature, and documentation of associated analyses and evaluations. The guidance being developed is in conformance with recent revisions to the regulations on alternative source terms.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 31, 1999

Research Effectiveness Review Board

The Research Effectiveness Review Board (RERB) was established in response to Commission direction to advise the Office Directors of RES, NRR, and NMSS on the effectiveness of research programs in meeting the needs of the users and the effectiveness of the program offices in supporting and in articulating their needs and priorities to RES. The RERB, which is chaired by RES, has been reconstituted at the level of Deputy and Associate Office Director to improve its efficiency and effectiveness. The RERB met on December 21, 1999, and adopted a change in its approach to reviews to ensure an enhanced focus on coordination between RES and user offices.

During FY 2000, the RERB will review the process involved in two user needs for research, one from NRR and one from NMSS. The review will consider in detail the information from a "vertical slice" approach that begins with defining the need for research and preparing a user need document. The end point of the review will be the use of the research products in regulatory practice. Associated anticipatory research will also be considered. As indicated in SECY-97-224, "Creation of a Research Effectiveness Review Board," a report to the Commission on the advisability of continuing the Board will be prepared at the end of FY 2000.

December 31, 1999

ENCLOSURE C

Incident Response Operations  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 24, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATIONS:

1. PNO-III-99-054, Test Masters, Inc., RADIOGRAPHY ACTIVITIES CAUSE LOCAL EVACUATION
2. PNO-IV-99-057, Reed Engineering Group, Inc., STOLEN PORTABLE MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE

December 24, 1999

ENCLOSURE D



Incident Response Operations  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 31, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATIONS:

1. PNO-II-99-050A, Fairfax County Government, FIXED GAUGE DAMAGED IN A FIRE
2. PNO-II-99-051, Westvaco Corporation, POSSIBLE OVEREXPOSURE OF NON-RADIATION WORKERS
3. PNO-III-99-055, Syncor Corp., FATAL ACCIDENT INVOLVING RADIOPHARMACEUTICAL SHIPMENTS

December 31, 1999

ENCLOSURE D

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 24, 1999

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of  
December 17, 1999 through December 23, 1999:

Self, all records of investigation re Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. (FOIA/PA 2000-0083)

Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp., Aliquippa, PA, re byproduct material license nos. 37-02567-04  
and 37-2567-07. (FOIA/PA 2000-0084)

Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP), current site list. (FOIA/PA 2000-0085)

General Instrument Corp., 3101 West Pratt Ave., Chicago, IL. (FOIA/PA 2000-0086)

December 24, 1999

ENCLOSURE G

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 31, 1999

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of  
December 24, 1999 through December 30, 1999:

Private Fuel Storage, LLC (PFS), application related documents re nuclear waste storage on the Skull Valley Band of Goshutes Reservation. (FOIA/PA 2000-0087)

December 31, 1999

ENCLOSURE G

Chief Financial Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 24, 1999

NRC's 1999 W. Edwards Deming Outstanding Training Award

On Thursday, December 9, 1999, Deborah B. Mahdi, Senior Budget Analyst in the Division of Planning, Budget, and Analysis, accepted NRC's 1999 W. Edwards Deming Outstanding Training Award recognition plaque as a result of NRC being nominated for its Program and Resource Management Training (PRMT) curriculum. This curriculum was developed as a joint effort between the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and the Office of Human Resources to help Agency managers and supervisors improve their program and resource management skills. The training was also designed to help the participants understand concepts of performance measurements and results consistent with the implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act. The recognition plaques are presented annually at the 1999 Dimensions of Leadership Conference to honor those Federal agencies that have completed an innovative and impressive employee development and training initiative.

December 24, 1999

ENCLOSURE H

Office of Human Resources  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 31, 1999

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Dollar Goal Surpassed

As of December 23, 1999, the NRC received CFC donations of more than \$313,000. This surpassed our agency's dollar goal of \$292,000. As a result of these contributions, the NRC qualifies to receive the Pacesetter Award, which is given to agencies that achieve at least a 2.8% increase over last year's donations. The NRC increased its contributions by 3.5% over last year's total. All the office coordinators and keyworkers should be applauded for their hard work throughout the campaign.

<b>Arrivals</b>		
ALLOWAY-MUELLER, Pamela	PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER	RIII
RINI, Brett	TECHNICAL INTERN	NRR
<b>Retirements</b>		
BACHMANN, Richard	ATTORNEY	OGC
BRANCH, Morris	REACTOR OPERATIONS ENG.	NRR
BYKOSKI, Louis	PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
CHEH, Unte	REACTOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER	RES
CLEAVER, Lyle	BINDERY WORKER/COPY MACHINE OPERATOR	OCIO
COPLAN, Seth	SR. PROJECT MANAGER	NMSS
EISS, Abraham	SR. TECHNICAL PROJECT MGR.	NMSS
EUBANKS, Fred	SPACE MANAGEMENT SPEC.	ADM
EWALD, Glen	OFFICE SERVICES CLERK	RIV
FAIRTILE, Morton	SR. PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
FRAHM, Ronald	SR. REACTOR ENGINEER	NRR
GALLO, Robert	CHIEF, OPERATOR LICENSING, HUMAN PERF. & PLANT SUPPORT BRANCH	NRR
GASKIN, Charles	SR. SAFEGUARDS PROJ. MGR.	NMSS
HOOD, Mary	LICENSING ASSISTANT	NMSS
KIME, Camille	BUILDING MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST	ADM

December 31, 1999

ENCLOSURE I

<b>Retirements (Continued)</b>		
KLEINSORGE, William	SR. REACTOR INSPECTOR	RII
KUDRICK, John	SR. REACTOR ENGINEER	NRR
LEE, Jean	SR. ALLEGATIONS COORDINATOR	NRR
LEWIS, Deloris	SECRETARY (OA)	OI
LUNDY, James	SPECIAL ASST. FOR FACILITIES	ADM
POWELL, Russell	BRANCH CHIEF	OCIO
RADDEN, Ira	CIVIL RIGHTS SPECIALIST	SBCR
SANDERS, Rayleona	TECHNICAL WRITER-EDITOR	OCIO
SCHULTZE, Teresa	CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT	OCA
SKINNER, Pierce	BRANCH CHIEF	RII
SPRAUL, John	SR. QUALITY ASSURANCE ENG.	NMSS
SURMEIER, John	CHIEF, URANIUM RECOVER & LOW LEVEL WASTE BRANCH	NMSS
THONUS, Lee	PROJECT MANAGER	NRR
YANIV, Shlomo	SR. TECHNICAL ADVISOR	RES
<b>Departures</b>		
STEWART, Belinda	SECRETARY (OA)	RIV

December 31, 1999

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 24, 1999

Media Interest

OPA received calls on the demonstration by the Y2K World Atomic Safety Holiday, a coalition of 50 public interest groups, urging NRC to shut down nuclear plants before the new year.

OPA headquarters received several calls on the certification of the Westinghouse AP600 reactor design.

There was interest in the \$300K settlement against TSI in the thermo-lag case, and in the sale of the Clinton plant.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
99-264	NRC Considers Requiring Licensees to Notify Native American Tribes of Certain Radioactive Waste Shipments
99-265	Licensing Board to Hear Oral Arguments on Shearon Harris Spent Fuel Pools
99-266	NRC Joint Subcommittee to Hold Meeting on January 13-14 in Rockville
99-267	NRC Completes its Environmental Review of Application to Renew Operating License for Oconee Nuclear Station
99-268	NRC Finds No Outstanding Y2K Problems at Nuclear Plants Undergoing Decommissioning
99-269	Panel Recommends NRC's New Reactor Oversight Process be Used for all Plants
99-270	New NRC Regulation to Permit Nuclear Power Plants to Change Accident Analyses of Public Radiation Dose
99-271	Note to Editors: NRC Staffing for Media Assistance During Y2K Transition
<b>Regions:</b>	
III-99-50	NRC Proposes \$88,000 Fine Against U.S. Enrichment Corp. for Employment Discrimination Violation at Paducah Plant
III-99-51	NRC to Hold "Roundtable Discussion" at Public Meeting on New Reactor Oversight Program

December 24, 1999

ENCLOSURE M

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 31, 1999

Media Interest

There was media interest in the NRC's plans for Y2K and nuclear power plant readiness.

During the New Year's Eve transition, there were media inquiries and interviews regarding minor events at various nuclear power plants that were not related to Y2K.

<b>Press Releases</b>	
<b>Headquarters:</b>	
99-272	NRC Seeks Public Comments on Trojan License Termination Plan
00-1	All Nuclear Facilities in Eastern United States Transition Safely Through the Y2K Rollover
00-2	All Nuclear Facilities in the Midwest Transition Safely Through the Y2K Rollover
00-3	All Nuclear Facilities in Mountain Time Zone Transition Safely Through the Y2K Rollover
00-4	All Nuclear Facilities in the United States Transition Safety Through Y2K Rollover
<b>Regions:</b>	
I-99-105	NRC Region I to Monitor Northeast Plants During Y2K Transition
I-99-106	NRC, Utility to Discuss Yankee Rowe Decommissioning Work
I-99-107	NRC to Hold "Roundtable Discussion" at Public Meeting in Oswego, NY, on New Reactor Oversight Program
II-99-57	NRC Staff Schedules Enforcement Conference With West Virginia University on January 7
II-99-58	NRC Region II to Monitor Nuclear Plants in the Southeast During Y2K Transition



Office of International Programs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 24, 1999

Arrangement between NRC and the Atomic Energy Committee

On Monday, December 20, 1999, the formal arrangement covering exchange of technical information and cooperation in nuclear safety matters between NRC and the Kazakh Atomic Energy Committee (KAEC) of the Ministry of Energy, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Kazakhstan was renewed for an additional 5 year term. The bilateral arrangement was signed by Chairman Meserve for NRC and Chairman Zhantikin for the KAEC and coincide with the visit of Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev to the US.

December 24, 1999

ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 24, 1999

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
<b>Decision Documents</b>		
1. SRM on SECY-99-168	12/21/99	Improving Decommissioning Regulations for Nuclear Power Plants
Voting Record on 99-168	12/21/99	(same)
2. SRM on SECY-99-251	12/21/99	Policy Statement on Staff Meetings Open to the Public: Revision of Section D
Commission Voting Record on SECY-99-251	12/21/99	(same)
3. SECY-99-269	11/17/99	Renewal of the Safety Light Corporation Licenses at Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania
SRM on 99-269	12/22/99	(same)
Voting Record on 99-269	12/22/99	(same)
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-99-281	12/9/99	The Vision of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research Role
<b>Memoranda</b>		
1. M991222	12/2/99	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-99-286 - GPU Nuclear Corporation, Docket No. 50-219-OLA-2, Memorandum and Order (Terminating Proceeding), LBP-99-45 (Dec. 15, 1999); II. SECY-99-287 - Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. et al. (Nine Mile Point, Units 1 and 2), Docket Nos. 50-220 and 50-410

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated 12/17/99, transmits NRC monthly report (for the month of November) on the status of its licensing and regulatory duties .

December 24, 1999

ENCLOSURE O

Federal Register Notices

1. 10 CFR Parts 21, 50, and 54; Use of Alternative Source Terms at Operating Reactors; Final Rule.
2. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, In the matter of: Sequoyah Fuels Corporation, Gore, Oklahoma Site Decommissioning; Notice of Hearing.
3. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, Notice of Meeting.
4. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Plant Operations; Notice of Meeting.
5. Licensing Support Network Advisory Review Panel; Notice of Public Meeting.

December 24, 1999

ENCLOSURE O

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 31, 1999

<b>Document Released to Public</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>Information Papers</b>		
1. SECY-99-285	12/22/99	SECY-99-285 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending December 17, 1999

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congressmen John D. Dingell, Ron Klink, and Edward Markey concerns the release of solid materials containing low levels of radioactive byproduct material (incoming letter dated October 25, 1999, also released).

December 31, 1999

ENCLOSURE O

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 24, 1999

Sovereign Consulting, Robbinsville, NJ

On December 16, 1999, in response to report of a damaged exit sign containing tritium, a Health Physicist from the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety responded to the offices of Sovereign Consulting in Robbinsville, NJ. Negligible levels of tritium contamination (<100 disintegrations per minute per 100 square centimeters) were identified on the bag containing the sign (a generally licensed device), on the floor where the sign had been stored, and in the vehicle used to transport the sign from Sovereign Consulting's client, Rowe International. The exit sign had been broken during removal from Rowe International's Whippany, NJ, facility, which is under demolition. The inspector assisted Sovereign personnel in further bagging the broken sign to prevent spread of contamination. On December 20, 1999, the Health Physicist visited the Whippany facility. Surveys revealed maximum removable tritium contamination levels of between 10,000 and 20,000 disintegrations per minute per 100 square centimeters. These levels are well within the NRC's criteria for release for unrestricted use for tritium. Rowe International and Sovereign Consulting plan to return all of the signs to the manufacturer.

December 24, 1999

ENCLOSURE P

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 31, 1999

Renewal of the Safety Light Licenses

On December 29, 1999, the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety renewed two licenses for the Safety Light Corporation (SLC), Bloomsburg, PA. This site is listed on the Site Decommissioning Management Plan due to a lack of adequate financial assurance. The licenses were due to expire December 31, 1999, based on an Order Approving Settlement Agreement dated December 28, 1994. This settlement agreement allowed continued operation until December 31, 1999, without adequate financial assurance as the licensee contributed toward an escrow account for site remediation.

SLC requested an exemption from the financial assurance requirements of 10 CFR 30.35. After consultation with the Commission (SECY 99-269), the exemption was granted for the next five years, with specific conditions in the licenses to require SLC to continue payments into the escrow account on an increasing schedule, to prepare a decommissioning plan and cost estimate for the tritium part of the license, and to provide the staff a schedule and plan for continued site remediation, including any revised cost estimates, by June 30, 2000.

December 31, 1999

ENCLOSURE P

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 24, 1999

Carolina Power and Light Company - Hatch

On December 22, 1999, a Projects Branch Chief and a Shearon Harris resident inspector attended a Kiwanis Club meeting in Sanford, NC. Sanford is about 25 miles from the Harris site and is in Lee county. Region II had been asked to speak on the function of the resident inspectors at the Harris site and provide information on the spent fuel pool (SFP) expansion at Harris. The staff described the basic functions of the NRC and what the residents do at the site.

December 24, 1999

ENCLOSURE P

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending December 31, 1999

Region II Participation in Y2K Transition Monitoring

The Regional Administrator and several Region II managers and staff participated in the NRC efforts to monitor licensee transitions into the year 2000. The Region manned its incident response center on December 31, 1999 through 6:00 a.m. on January 1, 2000. The NRC resident inspectors at the power reactor plants and the two high enriched fuel facilities reported to the sites during this period. Participation involved communication with the NRC headquarters operations center, the other three regional response centers and the NRC spokespersons in the White House monitoring center and joint public information center. All Region II reactor power plants and fuel facilities successfully made the transition with no Y2K problems that affected plant operations.

December 31, 1999

ENCLOSURE P