

March 17, 2000

SECY-00-0067

For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
/RA/
Subject: SECY-00-0067WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING MARCH 10, 2000

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*No input this week.

/RA by Debra J. Corley Acting For/

James L. Blaha
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
J. Shea, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 10, 2000

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

Contact: J. Shea, OEDO by E-mail: jws1@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 10, 2000

Farley Nuclear Plant, Unit 1

Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) shut down Unit 1 on March 3, 2000, to refuel the reactor and replace steam generators. SNC also implemented new Improved Technical Specifications at Unit 1 on March 1, 2000. SNC has not identified any problems implementing the ITS as of March 7, 2000.

Trojan

Portland General Electric Company (the licensee) has revised their schedule for Trojan decommissioning based on problems with the transport licensing of the spent fuel casks. Following the identification of problems with the drop testing and analysis for the multi-use casks (storage and shipment), BFS, the cask vendor, has withdrawn the transport license application. The current estimate is that the additional time for transport licensing of the casks will not permit loading the spent fuel in the casks for about 2 years. Based on this delay, the licensee will be reducing the onsite decommissioning staff by about 100 in the near term. Decommissioning work on the portions of the facility not related to the spent fuel pool will continue with a staff of approximately 300 for about 1 year. At that time, the staff will be reduced to about 80 for monitoring and maintenance activities with an additional 20 people retained for decommissioning and Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) expertise. With cask licensing projected for late 2002, completion of the transfer of the spent nuclear fuel from the spent fuel pool to the ISFSI is not expected until 2003. Following decommissioning of the spent fuel pool, Part 50 license termination is projected for 2005.

INPO / NRC Coordination Meeting on Training

On February 28, 2000, Operator Licensing and Human Performance Section staff members met with representatives of INPO to discuss and exchange information on training-related issues. The INPO staff attending the meeting are responsible for the evaluation of training programs for nuclear power plant workers to support the accreditation of training programs through the National Academy for Nuclear Training. INPO staff lead discussions on training and accreditation initiatives for the 2000, implications of withdrawal of accreditation from a training program, and possible impacts of industry transfers and mergers on the accreditation of training programs. The NRC staff lead discussions on the implementation of Revision 8 to the Operator Licensing Examination Standards and rulemaking efforts related to simulator testing under 10 CFR 55.31, "How to Apply for a License."

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 10, 2000

Meeting of Federal Guidance Subcommittee of the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards

On March 2, 2000, a representative from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety participated in a strategy meeting with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense to formulate an action plan for revision of the Federal Guidance for the General Public, which was issued in 1961. The starting point will be the revision proposed by EPA in 1994, on which EPA terminated work in 1997 after interagency comments and discussion. Current areas of agreement and disagreement among agencies will be identified. The areas of agreement will form a starting point for the revision. The subcommittee will attempt to resolve areas of disagreement and present unresolved issues to the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards by the fall for consideration.

Certificate of Compliance for RH-TRU 72B Transport Package Issued

On March 3, 2000, the Spent Fuel Project Office issued a Certificate of Compliance for the RH-TRU 72B transport package. The package will be used for shipping remotely handled, plutonium-contaminated waste materials from Department of Energy (DOE) facilities to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico. Under the Federal WIPP Land Withdrawal Act, DOE may not transport any radioactive materials to or from the WIPP facility, except in packages approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Waste Management Conference

During the week of February 28-March 2, 2000, Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) staff attended the annual Waste Management Conference in Tucson, Arizona, and discussed Transportation Safety Studies, including efforts to involve stakeholders in the design of the Package Performance Study. The SFPO presentation was followed by an industry speaker who expressed industry concerns regarding these studies and their potential impact on domestic transport of radioactive materials. A joint question and answer session followed these two talks.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Denial of U.S. Enrichment Corporation License Request

On March 6, 2000, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards management and staff met with representatives of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) to discuss the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) denial of USEC's first submittal in connection with the Paducah Higher Assay Upgrade Project (HAUP). The January 21, 2000, submittal had requested deletion of two Technical Safety Requirements (TSRs) which established enrichment limits below the 2.75 wt % U²³⁵ plant-wide limit. USEC considered these TSRs an impediment to completing licensing of the Paducah HAUP by December 2000. NRC denied the amendment request for lack of adequate technical basis. At the March 6, 2000, meeting, USEC expressed concerns that NRC was trying to impose additional requirements that were

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not part of the certification basis by denying the request to remove TSRs on doubly contingent operations. USEC presented no new information outside their original submittal. The NRC staff is considering the information and views provided by USEC.

Critical Infrastructure Protection Briefing

On March 3, 2000, the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards hosted a briefing that was presented by the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection (OCIP). The briefing presented an overview of OCIP's activities in addressing critical infrastructure protection within the energy sector as required by Presidential Decision Directive 63 (PDD-63). The briefing also outlined areas where joint efforts with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are needed to fully integrate the protection of critical infrastructure assets within the civilian nuclear industry. Attendees included representatives from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the Office of the Chief Information Officer, the Office of the Inspector General, the Incident Response Operations, and the Office of the General Counsel. PDD-63 requires that the U.S. have the capability to protect our nation's critical infrastructures from intentional acts that would significantly diminish the abilities of: (1) the federal government to perform essential national security missions and ensure the general public health and safety; (2) state and local governments to maintain order and deliver minimum essential public services; and (3) the private sector to ensure the orderly functioning of the economy and the delivery of essential telecommunications, energy, financial and transportation services. Any interruptions or manipulations of these critical functions must be brief, infrequent, manageable, geographically isolated, and minimally detrimental to the welfare of the U.S.

Session on Yucca Mountain Water Infiltration at the Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration Meeting

On February 29, 2000, staff from the Division of Waste Management and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (Center) chaired a special session at the annual meeting of the Society of Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration in Salt Lake City, Utah. There were six papers presented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, the Center, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The purpose of the meeting was to present field, laboratory, and model experimentation on the phenomena that control infiltration, especially dripping, in tunnels at the proposed Yucca Mountain repository. Several presentations were on actual infiltration experiments conducted in niches and adits at Yucca Mountain. USGS presented studies of mineral precipitates found in small cavities in the Yucca Mountain rock that suggest infiltration rates much smaller than those being used for performance assessments at the proposed site. One paper by the Center/NRC highlights the difficulty in accurate computer modeling of the dripping phenomenon. Another paper by the Center pins the theoretical basis for the behavior of drops forming on irregular surfaces with the influence of evaporation and chemistry. The papers evoked useful and interesting discussion among the presenters and audience.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 10, 2000

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-II-00-12, Carolina Power & Light Co. (Brunswick 1 2), UNIT 1 LOSS OF OFFSITE POWER
2. PNO-II-00-013, Associated Couriers, VEHICLE ACCIDENT INVOLVING RADIO PHARMACEUTICALS
3. PNO-II-00-014, Clinical Pharmacy Services, IODINE-131 SPILL
4. PNO-II-00-014, Clinical Pharmacy Services, UPDATE ON IODINE-131 SPILL

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Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 10, 2000

Correction to Comments on the Final Rule "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: (HI-STAR 100) Addition" (Part 72)

A document that supplements the administrative record of the final rule "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: (HI-STAR 100) Addition" was published in the Federal Register on March 3, 2000 (65 FR 11458). This document ensures a complete and accurate administrative record by correcting several comment responses that were inconsistent with corresponding language in the NRC staff's Safety Evaluation Report or the Certificate of Compliance. This action was effective October 4, 1999.

Risk-Informing Special Treatment Regulations (Parts 21, 50, 52, 54, and 100)

An advance notice of proposed rulemaking that requests public comment on a contemplated rulemaking that would provide an alternative risk-informed approach for special treatment requirements in the current regulations was published in the Federal Register on March 3, 2000 (65 FR 11488). The comment period for this action closes May 17, 2000.

Draft FY 2000-2005 Strategic Plan

A document that requests public comment on the NRC's draft FY2000-2005 Strategic Plan was published in the Federal Register on March 3, 2000 (65 FR 11613). The Strategic Plan provides a blueprint for the NRC to plan, implement, and monitor work needed to achieve its goals. The comment period for this action closes April 7, 2000.

Contract Award

On March 3, 2000, the Division of Contracts and Property Management awarded contract No. NRC-02-00-010 to Advanced Technologies and Laboratories International, Inc., entitled "Technical Assistance for Fuel Cycle Facilities, Transportation and Spent Fuel Storage Site, Decommissioning, and Uranium Recovery." The total value of the contract is \$5,597,813.00 for one base year plus four one-year options. The contract was awarded using the following streamlining initiatives: electronic transmittal of the statement of work; electronic (Internet) posting of solicitation; set deadline for proposers' questions; and simplified evaluation criteria.

Contract Award

On March 3 2000, the Division of Contracts and Property Management awarded contract NRC-38-00-284 to Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC, entitled, "Pressurized Water Reactor Maintenance Course." The total value of the contract is \$753,271 for a five year period. The period of performance is March 3, 2000, to March 2, 2005. The contractor will provide qualified personnel, materials, and services to develop, present, and maintain the Pressurized Water Reactor Maintenance Training Overview Course. The following streamlining measures were used: commercial item contract, simplified evaluation criteria, electronic transmittal of SOW, and award without discussions.

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Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 10, 2000

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of
March 3, 2000 through March 9, 2000:

Individual, participation in Atmospheric Nuclear Test at Yucca Flats, NV in May 1952.
(FOIA/PA 2000-0154)

The Clark Thread Co., or Coats & Clark, Inc., all licenses to operate a facility in Bloomfield, NJ.
(FOIA/PA 2000-0155)

Millstone Unit 2, Waterford, CT, unscheduled shutdowns 11/1/99 to present, and Y2K problem
on New Year's weekend 1999-2000. (FOIA/PA 2000-0156)

Atlas Corp., Moab, UT, mill tailings, license transferring license #SUA-917 to Moab Mill
Reclamation Trust, and 12/1/99 court order confirming reorganization of Atlas Corp.
(FOIA/PA 2000-0157)

Senator John McCain, all correspondence, 1/88 to 3/2/00. (FOIA/PA 2000-0158)

Cabot Performance Materials Plant, Revere, PA, and the Tulpehocken Street Site in Reading,
PA, a/k/a Kawecki Chemical Co. (FOIA/PA 2000-0159)

NUREGs and NUREG/CRs, various issues. (FOIA/PA 2000-0160)

OIG report regarding "Misleading NRC Response to a Congressional Request for Information
Concerning Circumstances Surrounding the Release of Draft SECY 99-143."
(FOIA/PA 2000-0161)

FY 2001 Information Technology budget submission in response to OMB Circular A-11, Exhibit
53. (FOIA/PA 2000-0162)

Comanche Peak, NRR response to Region IV Task Interface Agreement 97-19 regarding a
backfit claim related to a 10 CFR 50.59 evaluation. (FOIA/PA 2000-0163)

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 10, 2000

Arrivals		
BURNETTE, Danielle	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NRR
MALEY, Michael	REACTOR OPERATING SPECIALIST	NRR
SMIROLDO, Elizabeth	PROGRAM ANALYST	OCFO
Departures		
GARRETT, Norman	RESIDENT INSPECTOR (RIVER BEND)	RIV

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Office of Public Affairs
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Media Interest

Chairman Meserve held a press conference at Calvert Cliffs.

The Sacramento Bee is preparing an article on the decommissioned Rancho Seco plant.

The Omaha Herald is planning a story on Ft. Calhoun and license renewal.

There was press interest in the license renewal application for Arkansas Nuclear One.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
00-39	NRC Announces Opportunity for Evidentiary Hearing on Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1, License Renewal
00-40	NRC Amends Regulations to Add NAC International Multi-Purpose Canister Design to Approved List
00-41	Note to Editors: ACRS Meeting Rescheduled
Regions:	
I-00-20	NRC Chairman Richard A. Meserve to Hold News Briefing Following Visit to Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant on March 10
I-00-21	NRC to Meet With Public March 14 to Discuss IP2 Steam Generator Tube Failure
III-00-13	NRC Staff to Discuss Clinton Inspection Findings

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 10, 2000

Interagency Steering Committee Meeting on the Joint Convention on Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management

The Interagency Steering Committee met on Thursday, March 9, 2000 for the purpose of discussing a time table for beginning preparation of the U.S. National Report and reviewing ratification status. The State Department reported U.S. Convention ratification documents are pending Secretary Albright's signature for transmission to the President and the U.S. Senate. The Department of State expects the Convention to be before the Senate sometime in March. The Department noted the Convention is on its priority short list of 5 for ratification and is arranging to brief Senate staff.

Visit of Kazakh Atomic Energy Committee

Representatives from the Kazakh Atomic Energy Committee participated in an OIP-sponsored workshop on decommissioning practices at NRC headquarters March 6-10. The Kazakh specialists were given presentations on NRC's decommissioning regulations, practices and experience. This information will assist the Kazakh Atomic Energy Committee develop its regulations governing the shutdown and decommissioning of the BN-350 fast breeder reactor near Aktau, Kazakhstan.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-00-0047	2/23/00	Draft Regulatory Guide Providing Guidance and Examples for Identifying 10 CFR 50.2 Design Bases
2. SRM on SECY-99-259	3/9/00	Exemption in 10 CFR Part 40 for Materials Less Than 0.05 Percent Source Material - Options and Other Issues Concerning the Control of Source Material
Commission Voting Record on 99-259	3/9/00	(same)
3. COMJSM-00-0001	2/1/00	Commission Interaction with Tribal Governments
SRM on 00-0001	3/9/00	(same)
Chmn. Meserve comments on -0001	2/8/00	(same)
Comm. Dicus comments on -0001	2/22/00	(same)
Comm. Diaz comments on -0001	2/8/00	(same)
Comm. McGaffigan comments on -0001	2/4/00	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-00-0045	2/22/2000	Acceptance of NEI 99-04, "Guidelines for Managing NRC Commitments"
2. SECY-00-0048	2/24/00	Nuclear Byproduct Material Risk Review
Memoranda		
1. M000223A (Revised)	3/3/00	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Status of Spent Fuel Projects
2. M000229	3/8/00	Staff Requirements - Briefing on Draft 10 CFR 50.59 Regulatory Guidance

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3. M000211	3/9/00	Briefing on Status of NMSS Programs, Performance, and Plans
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Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated March 2, 2000, provides summary of actions taken in response to recommendations concerning the NRC which were in reports issued by the General Accounting Office.
2. Letter to Congressman Gejdenson dated February 29, 2000, concerns the recent policy change regarding the number of resident inspectors required to staff multiple unit nuclear power plants sites.
3. Letter to Congressman Delahunt dated February 29, 2000, concerns stockpiling potassium iodide in communities near nuclear power plants.
4. Letter to Congresswoman Thurman dated February 29, 2000, concerns proposed rulemaking concerning the use of potassium iodide in emergency plans.
5. Letter to Senator Kennedy dated February 29, 2000, concerns proposed rulemaking concerning the use of potassium iodide in emergency plans.
6. Letter to Congress dated February 29, 2000, provides "Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences Fiscal Year 1999" for events at nuclear facilities.
7. Letter to Congress dated February 29, 2000, provides Annual Report of the Administration of the Government in the Sunshine Act for Calendar Year 1999.
8. Letter to Gilbert F Casellas, Chairman, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, dated February 29, 2000, provides "Annual Affirmative Employment Program Accomplishment Report" for Fiscal Year 1999.
9. Letter to Congress dated February 28, 2000, provides proposed legislation which authorizes appropriations for fiscal year 2001.
10. Letter to David A Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists, dated February 28, 2000, concerns adoption of a management effectiveness evaluation process in which employees would assess their supervisors in selected areas.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures; Notice of Meeting.

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Region I
Items of Interest
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March Meeting of Maine Yankee Community Advisory Panel

On the evening of March 9, 2000, the Ronald Bellamy, Chief, Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch, DNMS, met in Wiscasset, Maine with the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) on the decommissioning of Maine Yankee (MY). Dr. Bellamy provided the quarterly update to the CAP on NRC licensing and inspection activities at the MY facility. Maine Yankee and Stone & Webster representatives addressed the CAP on the status of large component removal and on site re-powering (i.e., converting the facility to a fossil fueled generating station). Stone & Webster indicated that site re-powering was not a viable option. Approximately 35 members of the public and news media were in attendance.

Laboratory Meeting in Region III

On March 7, 2000, a RI Senior Health Physicist supported RIII DNMS laboratory staff in a discussion of liquid scintillation counting techniques. The discussion focused on liquid scintillation analysis of samples that may contain several radionuclides. Specific techniques covered included dual label counting and efficiency tracing.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 10, 2000

Revised Reactor Oversight Process Workshop

On March 6-8, 2000, a Public Workshop on the Revised Reactor Oversight Process was held at the Georgia International Convention Center in College Park, Georgia. The Deputy Executive Director for Management Services, the Region II Regional Administrator, and the NRR Associate Director for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis, other NRC managers and staff, and over sixty industry representatives participated in the workshop.

Navy Radiation Safety Committee Meeting

On March 10, 2000, the Regional Administrator and selected staff attended the Quarterly Navy Radiation Safety Committee Meeting in Crystal City, Virginia. The Regional Administrator met the new Chairman of the Radiation Safety Committee, Rear Admiral Baucom and discussed current issues associated with the Navy Master Material License.

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Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 10, 2000

Clinton Operational Safety Team Inspection Exit and News Conference

The Regional Administrator and members of the regional staff met March 10, 2000, at the Clinton Nuclear Power Station with representatives of Amergen Corporation to discuss the preliminary findings of an Operational Safety Team Inspection at the site. The team concluded that the plant was operating safely and that its performance was consistent with that observed when the plant returned to operation in May 1999 following a lengthy outage. The plant has operated continuously since that startup.

The Regional Administrator held a news conference in conjunction with the meeting to discuss the team's findings and the status of plant activities. Eight reporters representing three daily newspapers, three television stations, and two radio stations participated.

Meeting with D. C. Cook Officials to Discuss Transition to New Inspection Program

The Region III staff met March 10, 2000, in the regional office with representatives of American Electric Power to discuss the transition to the new NRC inspection and assessment program at the D. C. Cook Nuclear Power Station. Because the plant remains in an extended outage, the new program will be implemented after the initial unit returns to service for a sufficient period to generate meaningful performance indicators.

Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation at Davis-Besse

The NRC staff, assisted by contractors, performed an Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation (OSRE) at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station beginning March 6, 2000. The OSRE was observed by Congressional staff members and the Director of Civil Nuclear Safety from the United Kingdom.

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 10, 2000

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 7

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Portner	03/16/00 2362 RHOB	10:00	Office of Nuclear Energy/DOE	FY01 Budget	Reps. Packard/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	03/21/00 2362 RHOB	10:00	OCRWM/DOE	FY01 Budget	Reps. Packard/Visclosky Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Combs	03/22/00 SD-342	10:00	TBA	DOE's Management of Health & Safety Issues at GDP's	Senators Thompson/Lieberman Governmental Affairs
Madden	03/22/00 TBA	TBA	NRC	External Regulation of DOE	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Power Commerce
Gerke	03/23/00 TBA	TBA	TBA	GAO Report Comparing Role of Fedl CIO's with those in Private Sector	Reps. Horn/Turner Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform
Gerke	03/29/00 SD-342	10:00	David Walker, Comptroller General	Structuring the Government to Meet Challenges of the Millennium	Senators Thompson/Lieberman Governmental Affairs
Gerke	03/31/00 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Accuracy of Federal Financial Audits	Reps. Horn/Turner Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform

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Gerke	04/4/00 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Effectiveness of GPRA	Reps. Horn/Turner Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform
Gerke	04/11 & 04/13 SD-366	10:00 9:30	TBA	Electricity Deregulation	Senators Murkowski/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	04/12/00 TBA	TBA	NRC, Corps of Engineers, DOE	FUSRAP	Senators Smith/Baucus Environment and Public Works
Gerke	05/03/00 2154 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Financial Management Act	Reps. Horn/Turner Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform

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