

October 12, 2000

SECY-00-0206

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-00-0206 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING OCTOBER 6, 2000

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*No input this week.

/RA/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
J. Shea, OEDO

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*No input this week.

/RA/

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Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 6, 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 October 6, 2000

Staff Issues ANO-1 License Renewal Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement for Public Comment

On October 3, 2000, the staff issued the draft of Supplement 3 to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 3, Regarding Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1," for public comment. This supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) includes the staff's preliminary analysis that considers and weighs the environmental effects of the proposed action, the environmental impacts of alternatives to the proposed action, and mitigative measures available for reducing or avoiding adverse impacts. It also includes the staff's preliminary recommendation regarding the proposed action. A 75-day public comment period is scheduled to begin on or about October 20, 2000, with the Notice of Filing of the draft SEIS with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The staff has scheduled public meetings on November 14, 2000, in Russellville, Arkansas, to present its analyses and to accept public comments on the draft SEIS.

Public Meeting on Public and Occupational Radiation Safety Cornerstones

On September 27, 2000, members of the Emergency Preparedness and Health Physics Section, IOLB, participated in a public meeting with NEI to discuss issues in the Public and Occupational Radiation Safety Cornerstones of the Reactor Oversight Program (ROP). A bridge line was established to allow NRC regional personnel and industry representatives to participate. There was good, productive discussion on the following items; proposed changes to the Transportation/Part 61 significance determination process (SDP), development of additional guidance in the SDP for the Radioactive Material Control portion of Inspection Manual Chapter 0609, and building consensus on frequently asked questions in the Occupational area. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled for November to hear feedback from radiation protection managers on the ROP.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 6, 2000

NUREG/CR-6682

NUREG/CR-6682 has been published to document public input on issues associated with alternative courses of action for control of solid materials that have very low amounts of, or no, radioactivity at Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensed facilities. As part of this effort, the NRC conducted an enhanced participatory process to evaluate the possible alternative courses of action. In addition to written public comments, NRC held a series of public meetings during the Fall of 1999 in San Francisco, California; Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; and Rockville, Maryland. Extensive and wide-ranging comments were received at the four public meetings and in the written public comments. NUREG/CR-6682 provides a digest of the public comments received from individuals and organizations, as well as those from participants at the public workshops. Over 900 written comment letters were received, in addition to those summarized from the public meeting transcripts. Most of these comments focus on the specific technical approach or criteria that should be developed. No analysis or response to comments is included in this report.

Staff Participation in Organization of Agreement States Meeting

On October 2-4, 2000, staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) participated in the annual meeting of the Organization of Agreement States held in Charleston, South Carolina. NMSS staff gave presentations on a variety of topics, including decommissioning (finality, license termination standards, restricted release, guidance development, rubbleization), rulemakings in progress (entombment, clearance, 10 CFR Part 40 revisions, Part 34, Part 35 and the medical pilot, and Part 71), and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's current views on the regulation of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program.

Coordination Meeting with Department of Energy on Safeguards and Emergency Response

On October 4, 2000, the Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), met with the Director of the Office of Security and Emergency Operations, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The Director of NMSS was accompanied by other managers from NMSS and the Deputy Director of Incident Response Operations. The purpose of the visit was to discuss topics of mutual interest, including the design basis threat, agency commitments to ensure comparability of physical protection for strategic special nuclear material, and emergency response assets provided by DOE and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). Organizational changes are anticipated within DOE and NNSA as a result of Congressional direction in the Energy and Water Appropriations Act for FY 2001. Follow-up discussions are planned after the staff consults with the Commission on the process for developing the Adversary Characteristics Document in November 2000.

BWX Technologies, Inc.

On September 19, 2000, BWX Technologies, Inc. (BWXT), determined that a water leak exists in their Cask Handling Area Pool (CHAP) at their Lynchburg Technology Center in Lynchburg, Virginia. The CHAP contains approximately 56,000 gallons of water and the leak is estimated to be approximately 250 gallons per day. The CHAP is used to store irradiated commercial reactor hardware and fuel rods. The average concentrations of the key isotopes in the CHAP are 9E-05 microcuries per milliliter for cesium-137 (90 times the concentration allowed by 10 CFR Part 20 for liquid releases to an unrestricted area), and 7E-06 microcuries per milliliter for cobalt-60 (2.3 times the concentration allowed by Part 20 for liquid releases to an unrestricted area). Using conservative assumptions (no dilution before entering the James River which is about 0.3 miles away and the path for the water has no non-BWXT property in its path), the dose to a member of the public drinking James River water would be less than 1 millirem per year. Based on this calculated dose, the risk significance is very low. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) BWXT Senior Resident Inspector and other NRC staff continue to monitor the licensee's actions to stop the leak and assess the environmental impact. During the week of October 2, 2000, the licensee installed monitoring wells. Media attention has occurred.

Meeting with U.S. Enrichment Corporation on Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Higher Assay Operations

On October 3, 2000, management and staff from the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and Region III met with representatives from the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC) to discuss licensing issues associated with an upcoming certificate amendment request. USEC plans to submit an amendment request to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to revise the Paducah certificate to increase its enrichment from 2.75% to 5.5%. The objectives of the meeting were to: (1) discuss the status and schedule for the review; (2) emphasize previous commitments of both parties to support an accelerated schedule; and (3) discuss any issues which have arisen to date. Both parties agreed to continue to have similar meetings throughout the amendment review process to support the accelerated review schedule.

Nuclear Energy Institute

On September 30, 2000, the Nuclear Energy Institute submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission a revision to Appendix B of NEI 96-07. This appendix provides guidance to licensees and vendors for implementation of the amended 10 CFR Part 72.48, "Changes, Tests, and Experiments." The revision to Appendix B was prepared in response to Spent Fuel Project Office (SFPO) staff comments on a June 15, 2000, version of the document and also included changes based on applicable updated sections of the final guidance document for implementation of Part 50.59. SFPO staff is reviewing the submittal and will begin preparation of a regulatory guide which will endorse the final version of the guidance document.

Meeting with Packaging Technology

On October 4, 2000, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with Packaging Technology, Inc., to discuss the design of the mixed oxide (MOX) fresh fuel package. The package will be used by the Department of Energy (DOE) to transport MOX fresh fuel from a planned MOX fuel

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fabrication facility to certain commercial power plants. The use of MOX fuel is part of DOE's plutonium disposition program in the United States. Packaging Technology plans to begin full-scale prototype testing of the package in September 2001 and submit a license application in 2002. Additional meetings are anticipated to further discuss issues regarding the package design.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff Issued Safety Evaluation Report on Proposed Spent Fuel Storage Facility in Utah

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff issued its safety evaluation report (SER) on Private Fuel Storage's (PFS's) application to build a spent fuel storage facility on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians near Tooele County, Utah. In its June 20, 1997, application, PFS proposed to store spent fuel generated from commercial nuclear power plants in the U.S. for a twenty-year period above ground in large casks. The review found that the facility and the casks that would store the spent fuel would be safe and meet regulatory requirements.

The SER also concludes that the application demonstrates the proposed facility would satisfy applicable Commission safety requirements during normal, unusual, and accident conditions. Among the hazards analyzed by PFS were a cask drop, flood, fire, lightning, earthquake, and tornadoes. In addition, hazards from nearby activities also were considered, including explosions and aircraft crashes. Issuance of the safety evaluation report marks another step in the safety and environmental review in the on-going licensing process required by the NRC.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 6, 2000

Meeting on Educational Infrastructure for Nuclear Technology

On September 18, Margaret Federline, Deputy Director, Office of Research, attended a meeting of the nation's engineering deans hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology. This meeting discussed the national need for a viable educational infrastructure for nuclear technology and specifically focused on the results of a "Blue Ribbon Panel" Report on the Future of Nuclear Engineering. In a discussion session with Undersecretary Moniz of DOE, participants emphasized the need for a national vision for nuclear technology and the need for innovative approaches to sustain the educational infrastructure.

The report points out that the number of independent nuclear engineering programs and the number of operating university nuclear reactors have both fallen by about half since the mid-80s. In contrast, the demand for nuclear-trained personnel is again on the rise with the aging of the workforce and the potential for license renewal at a majority of U.S. plants. The Blue Ribbon Panel was established by the Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee to address the future of nuclear engineering programs, establish a process to support university research and training reactors, and identify appropriate collaborations between DOE national laboratories and university programs. Among the report's recommendations are that DOE increase the graduate student pipeline through increased scholarship support, assist universities in recruiting new faculty by establishing a junior faculty grant program, institute a competitive peer-reviewed university reactors research award program, and increase personnel exchanges between national laboratories and universities.

Release of SCDAP/RELAP5 MOD 3.3

On September 29, 2000, RES released the newest version of the SCDAP/RELAP5 severe accident analysis code, MOD 3.3. The SCDAP/RELAP5 code has been developed for best-estimate transient simulation of light water reactor coolant systems during a severe accident. New models in MOD 3.3 include (1) an integral diffusion model for oxidation of fuel rod cladding, (2) a stress-based model for failure of oxide layer containing melted metallic cladding, (3) a model for re-slumping of previously slumped and frozen cladding, (4) a model for cracking of cladding oxide layer during reflood conditions and the effect of cracking on oxygen transport, (5) models for flow losses and heat transfer in porous debris, (6) a model for heat transfer in a molten pool that has stratified into oxidic and metallic parts, and (7) a model for break-up of jets of molten material slumping into a pool of water.

This new version of the SCDAP/RELAP5 was assessed using data from a wide range of fuel damage experiments and the TMI-2 accident. The assessment showed that calculations of the axial distribution in oxidation and meltdown of fuel assemblies and the behavior of fuel assemblies under reflood conditions were improved by the new models in MOD 3.3. The assessment showed that MOD 3.3 calculates a more rapid onset of severe fuel damage under severe accident conditions than that calculated by the previous version of the code. The assessment also showed that MOD 3.3 can analyze severe fuel damage experiments, as well

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as nuclear power plant response to severe accidents, with a single set of models for the phenomena causing damage to fuel assemblies.

Public Meeting on Concrete Coatings Research

A public meeting was held on September 26, 2000, at NRC Headquarters to present recent research results for a Service Level I concrete coating system applied in PWRs when the coating had been subjected to simulated conditions that would be expected after a design basis accident. Attendees included NEI, EPRI, BWROG, ASTM, WOG, and other stakeholders. The RES contractor presented research results on the potential for coating failure that could result in the formation of debris that could impact the operation of PWR emergency core cooling systems. The Industry Coatings PIRT Panel (industry coatings specialists) presented their views on the significance of coating degradation phenomena that had not previously been observed.

Research showed that non-irradiation-aged specimens do not fail and produce debris. However, when coating specimens were irradiated to a total dose of 10^9 RAD and subjected to a plant-specific temperature/pressure environment (representative of that after a loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA)) or water immersion at 200°F, failure occurred within a 0.002" depth in the topcoat (Phenoline 305) material.

This meeting provided an open forum for reporting new phenomena and resulted in discussion regarding (1) the application of results to operational PWRs, (2) the need to re-visit previous qualification testing and acceptance of results, (3) the need to review the ASTM Standards that these research results may affect, and (4) research needed to better understand the synergistic environmental effects. Attendees were encouraged to submit additional views and research recommendations by e-mail to facilitate development of a path forward plan.

High-Temperature Oxidation Testing on High-Burnup Fuel

High-burnup BWR fuel from the Limerick plant arrived at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) in May and, after preliminary characterization, oxidation kinetics measurements are now under way and giving good results. Oxidation kinetics and other measurements are made on high-burnup fuel at ANL to provide data for confirming or modifying fuel damage criteria in 10 CFR 50.46 and evaluation models in Appendix K for the loss-of-coolant accidents (LOCA). Issues related to the behavior of high-burnup fuel during a LOCA were identified in an agency program plan (EDO to Commissioners 7/6/98) and were the subject of a later information notice (IN 98-29). Other measurements planned at ANL include quench resistance and post-quench ductility under LOCA conditions, along with general mechanical properties of high-burnup cladding, creep rates under dry storage conditions, and radionuclide inventories for burnup credit analysis. However, it will take several years to generate a useful database for Zircaloy-clad fuel currently in use in PWRs and BWRs, and additional data will be required for the newer cladding alloys, ZIRLO and M5. As a separate note, there are still delays in receiving high-burnup PWR fuel rods from the H. B. Robinson plant.

Draft Guides on Occupational Health at Uranium Recovery Facilities

RES has issued proposed revisions to two regulatory guides. Draft Regulatory Guide DG-8026, "Health Physics Surveys in Uranium Recovery Facilities," is being developed as a proposed Revision 1 of Regulatory Guide 8.30 to describe health physics surveys that are acceptable to the NRC staff for protecting workers at uranium recovery facilities from radiation and from the chemical toxicity of uranium while on the job. Draft Regulatory Guide DG-8027, "Information Relevant to Ensuring that Occupational Radiation Exposures at Uranium Recovery Facilities Will Be As Low As Is Reasonably Achievable," is being developed as a proposed Revision 1 to Regulatory Guide 8.31 to provide guidance on design criteria and administrative practices acceptable to the NRC staff for maintaining occupational exposures as low as is reasonably achievable in uranium recovery facilities.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 6, 2000

State Outreach in Florida

On September 27, 2000, IRO organized and conducted State and Federal Outreach training in Dade County, Florida. This Outreach training was arranged in response to a request from the Dade County Director of Emergency Services. Issues discussed included Federal resources in support of State and local organizations for a radiological emergency. Presenters included the NRC, FEMA (Region IV), DOE, USDA, the State of Florida Radiation Health and Emergency Services, Dade County, and a representative from Turkey Point. Requesting officials in Dade County were satisfied that information presented was consistent with their desire for additional information generated by Federal involvement in a post-plume tabletop exercise, in which the NRC and other Federal agencies participated in June.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-00-031, Sibley Memorial Hospital, TWO APPARENT MISADMINISTRATIONS.
2. PNO-I-00-032, Wills Eye Hospital, GAMMA STEREOTACTIC RADIOSURGERY (GAMMAKNIFE) MISADMINISTRATION DUE TO TREATMENT OF WRONG SITE.
3. PNO-II-00-040, Tennessee Valley Authority (Sequoyah 1 & 2), UNIT 1 REACTOR TRIP FOLLOWING LOSS OF A MAIN FEEDWATER PUMP.
4. PNO-II-00-041, Law Engineering and Environmental Services, STOLEN PORTABLE MOISTURE-DENSITY GAUGE.
5. PNO-II-00-043, Schnabel Engineering Associates, STOLEN PORTABLE MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE.
6. PNO-II-00-044, BWX Technologies, Inc., MEDIA INTEREST IN WATER LEAK IN CASK HANDLING AREA POOL AT THE LYNCHBURG TECHNOLOGY CENTER (LTC).
7. PNO-IV-00-026, Arias and Kezan, Inc., STOLEN NUCLEAR GAUGE.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 6, 2000

Acquisition Certification and Training Program

“Preparing Statements of Work,” a mandatory, all-day training module, was presented on October 4, 2000. This module provides project managers with practical exercises in developing succinct and complete SOWs that ensure contractors and DOE laboratories fully understand project scope, achieve work objectives, and deliver useful products in a timely manner and at reasonable cost.

“Closing Out the Contract” was presented on October 5, 2000. This module addresses policies and procedures required for closing out contracts and agreements with DOE laboratories. Specifically, the workshop addresses procedures for deobligating excess funds from the contract or DOE project; closing out cost reimbursement and firm fixed price, indefinite quantity, time and materials and labor-hour contracts, interagency agreements, grants, and cooperative agreements.

“Property Management” was presented on October 5, 2000. This module provides NRC project managers with necessary guidance for purchase and use of government property and explains how NRC accounts for Government-furnished property and contractor-acquired property under contracts and DOE lab projects.

Adjustment of Civil Penalties for Inflation; Miscellaneous Administrative Changes (Parts 1, 2, and 13)

A final rule that amends the Commission’s regulations to adjust the amount of the maximum Civil Monetary Penalties it can assess under statutes within the jurisdiction of the NRC was published in the Federal Register on October 4, 2000 (65 FR 59270). These amendments, mandated by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, meet the requirement that Federal agencies adjust civil monetary penalties to reflect inflation. The final rule also amends the term “reviewing official” for the purposes of the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act to reflect a reorganization in the Office of the General Counsel and makes other minor amendments. The final rule becomes effective November 3, 2000.

Revision of the NRC Enforcement Policy

A document that amends the NRC Enforcement Policy was published in the Federal Register on October 4, 2000 (65 FR 59274). These amendments also reflect the requirement of the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, to adjust civil monetary penalties to reflect inflation. The amendment to the Enforcement Policy becomes effective November 3, 2000. The NRC will accept comments on this change until November 3, 2000.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 6, 2000

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the 5-Day Period of
September 29, 2000 through October 5, 2000:

Vacancy announcement, No 0050035, Senior-Reactor Analyst, rating factor submittals of named individuals. (FOIA/PA-2001-0001)

Vacancy announcement, No. 0050035, rating factor submittals of named individuals and notes taken during panel session. (FOIA/PA-2001-0002)

D.C. Cook Unit 2, Differing Professional View (DPV), referenced in 9/22/00 Weekly Information Report. (FOIA/PA-2001-0003)

DC Cook, 5/31/74 "Staff Evaluation of Structural Tests of Elements of the Ice Condenser System" as referenced in the 10/25/74 Safety Evaluation Report (SER). (FOIA/PA-2001-0004)

D.C. Cook, American Electric Power, OI report re reactor operator allegedly sleeping on duty. (FOIA/PA-2001-0005)

Chief Financial Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 6, 2000

Financial Management Service

The OCFO has been advised by the Financial Management Service (FMS), Department of the Treasury, of its intent to terminate their accounting cross-servicing business arrangements on September 30, 2002. The NRC currently cross-services its core accounting function with FMS. The OCFO is currently investigating options for replacing the core accounting service provided by FMS. Due to the time constraint, the mostly likely option is to enter into another cross-service agreement with another agency. OCFO has previously determined that it will not consider the purchase of another core accounting system until after FY 2002. This unbudgeted conversion to another core accounting system would occur in FY2001 and FY 2002.

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Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
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Arrivals		
FLYNN, Mark	BRANCH CHIEF	ADM
HOLMAN, David	PHYSICAL SECURITY INSPECTOR	RII
KARAS, Rebecca	PROJECT ENGINEER	NMSS
LANGAN, Scott	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	RIII
MINER, Lloyd	CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR	OIG
SIMONS, Jean	ATTORNEY	OCAA
Retirements		
CASTANEIRA, Rocio	PHYSICAL SECURITY SPECIALIST	NMSS
SKOV, David	HEALTH PHYSICIST	RIV
Departures		
GASKINS, Lillie	SECRETARY (OA)	ACRS/ACNW

Office of Public Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending October 6, 2000

Media Interest

There was local press interest in the leaking pool at the BWXT fuel facility in Lynchburg, VA.

Demonstrators disrupted a news conference given by Region II Administrator Luis Reyes about environmental sampling in Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, prompting officials to move the reporters to another location at the hotel.

Syracuse, NY, newspapers are planning an article on Entergy's initiatives in acquiring and managing nuclear power plants.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
00-147	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet in Rockville, Maryland, on October 16-17
00-148	NRC to Survey Individuals Who Raise Safety Concerns to the Agency
00-149	28 th Annual Water Reactor Safety Information Meeting October 23-25 in Bethesda, Maryland
00-150	NRC Extends Ad Hoc Session of Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
00-151	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet in Rockville, MD, on October 19-20 to Discuss License Renewal
00-152	NRC Advisory Subcommittee to Meet in Rockville, MD, on Oct. 18 to Discuss Spent Fuel Pool Safety
00-153	NRC Staff Issues Safety Evaluation Report on Proposed Spent Fuel Storage Facility in Utah
00-154	NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste to Meet in Rockville, Maryland, October 17-19
00-155	NRC to Host Open House at New Public Document Room in Rockville, Maryland, on October 11
Regions:	
I-00-68	NRC to Hold Public Meeting on Changes in Reactor Oversight Program at Indian Point Plants
I-00-69	NRC Cites Mallinckrodt, Inc., for Violations at Harrisburg, PA, Facility, Proposes \$2,750 Fine

II-00-57	NRC Official to Hold News Conference in San Juan to Discuss Results of Environmental Sampling of Vieques Island Communities
III-00-54	NRC Names New Resident Inspector at Braidwood Nuclear Power Plant
III-00-55	NRC to Hold Public Meeting October 11 in Clinton, Illinois on Reactor Oversight Changes

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Office of International Programs
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Joint Coordinating Committee on Radiation Effects Research

As a member of the Joint Coordinating Committee on Radiation Effects Research (JCCRER), Commissioner Dicus (accompanied by NRC staff) participated in its fourth meeting, in St. Petersburg, Russia on September, 13-14, 2000. The JCCRER reaffirmed a statement of principles for research studies; and approved future work on populations and workers exposed to radiation as a result of nuclear weapons development in the Ural Mountains. The JCCRER was briefed on progress on emergency preparedness and response, and on public involvement efforts. It was agreed that the next JCCRER meeting would be in September 2002. During the trip, the NRC delegation visited the EMERCOM Medical Center and Leningrad Nuclear Power Plant.

A meeting was held from September 12-14, 2000, in Moscow, Russia, between RES/DRAA staff, led by Tom King, and Russian team members to discuss the Kalinin VVER 1000 nuclear plant Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) project. The purpose of the project is to familiarize relevant Russian institutes with PRA techniques by developing a PRA for an existing reactor. This effort has been underway for several years as a part of the NRC assistance program with Russia. NRC staff is reviewing the Level 1 PRA and arranging for its limited publication. At the meeting, new scopes of work (SOWs) were tentatively agreed to for the period ending June 30, 2001. These follow-on activities are related to extending the PRA to containment performance and providing assistance in developing a regulatory framework for licensing PRAs and applying them to improve plant safety. A memorandum is being forwarded to EDO to obtain official approval of the addenda containing these SOWs. RES will pursue future activities beyond June 2001 on the basis of success in the current endeavors and adequacy of follow-on funding from the AID.

Jon Johnson, Associate Director of NRR, and Gordon Fowler, OIP, visited the nuclear regulators of Russia (Gosatomnadzor) and of Ukraine (the Nuclear Regulatory Department of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources) September 18-27. The purposes of the visits were to introduce NRR top management to these agencies (inasmuch as NRR provides significant support through the AID assistance program), to discuss ideas for future work, and in Ukraine, to receive briefings on several significant projects recently started. The discussion of the project on Safety Analysis Reports was held at the South Ukraine, Unit 1 nuclear power plant which will be the first to receive a long-term license. Ukraine hopes to complete licensing in time for the next meeting of the Nuclear Safety Convention in 2002.

Daniel Westall, Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) visited NRC on Thursday, October 5, for a series of meetings. Mr. Westall met with: the Division of Waste Management to discuss the regulation of low level waste repositories and licensing criteria, NRR to discuss Australia's new research reactor project at the Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation (ANSTO), and qualification of fuel using a uranium-molybdenum alloy, OIP to brief the NRC on ARPANSA, Australia's new regulatory agency, and OPA and NRR to discuss communications with the public on regulation and procedures for

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public meetings. Mr. Westall expressed appreciation for the time and effort devoted to his visit and for the information provided to him.

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Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-00-0201	9/25/00	Proposed Rule - 10 CFR Part 40 Amendments to Require NRC Approval for Transfers from Licensees to Exempt Persons
Memoranda		
1. M001006A	10/6/00	Staff Requirements-Affirmation Session, SECY-00-0193-Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. & Amergen Vermont, LLC, Docket No. 50-271-LT. Petitions to Intervene and Motions for Hearing from Citizens Awareness Network ("CAN") and Vermont Department of Public Service ("Vermont"); also Various Motions by CAN

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress dated September 29, 2000, transmits the NRC's Fiscal Year 2000-2005 Strategic Plan, prepared in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993.
2. Letter to Congresswoman Lowey dated September 28, 2000, concerns status of Indian Point 2 nuclear power facility .
3. Letter to Congressman Hinchey dated September 28, 2000, concerns operation of the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2.
4. Letter to Congresswoman Sue W. Kelly dated September 27, 2000, discussing concerns raised by officials at the Federal Emergency Management Agency with regard to the Emergency Preparedness plan for communities surrounding Indian Point Unit 2.
5. Letter to Walter A. Simon, Senior Vice President, General Atomics, dated September 27, 2000, provides an explanation regarding the NRC's possible participation in the safety and licensing evaluation of the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor.
6. Letter to Senators Robert F. Bennett and Orrin G. Hatch dated September 27, 2000, concerns request for a 120-day extension to the public comment period (and additional public meetings) on NUREG-1714, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation on the

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Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians and the Related Transportation Facility in Tooele County, Utah.”

7. Letter to Congressman Sam Gejdenson dated September 26, 2000, concerns Connecticut Yankee's Haddam Neck Plant.
8. Letter to Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey dated September 26, 2000, concerns emergency planning for Indian Point.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Procedures for Meetings.
3. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Procedures for Meetings.
4. State of Oklahoma: Discontinuance of Certain Commission Regulatory Authority Within the State; Notice of Agreement Between the NRC and the State of Oklahoma.

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Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 6, 2000

Permagrain Products, Inc.

On October 3, 2000 a DNMS Branch Chief and staff member attended a public meeting in Frenchville, PA, regarding the relocation of the Permagrain Products, Inc. cobalt-60 irradiator from the Quehanna Wild Area to a location in Frenchville. Since the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is financing the relocation to facilitate the decommissioning of the current facility, which is on the Site Decommissioning Management Plan list because of pre-Permagrain activities, both the Commonwealth and the licensee made presentations and responded to questions regarding the new location. NRC representatives also responded to questions regarding the Commission's regulations and the materials licensing process. The meeting was attended by about 160 individuals.

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Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 6, 2000

Office of the Inspector General (OIG) visits Region II

On October 4, 2000, the Inspector General, the Deputy Inspector General, the Assistant Inspector General for Audits, and the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations visited the Region II Office and met with the Regional Staff. Discussions included the OIG and Region II liaison program, Region II challenges for Fiscal Year 2001, OIG lessons learned from past audits and investigations, and OIG plans for audits for Fiscal Year 2001.

NRC Environmental Survey Report for Vieques Island - Meetings and Press Conference

On September 28, Region II issued a report of the results of environmental surveys for Vieques Island. The surveys were conducted to determine the amount of depleted uranium contained in the sample areas. The report indicated no levels of depleted uranium detected in areas outside the Naval firing range on the Island. The morning of October 3, the Regional Administrator met with the Mayor of Vieques Island. In the afternoon of October 3, the Administrator met with the Puerto Rico Secretary of Health in San Juan. These meetings were to discuss the results of NRC environmental surveys on Vieques Island.

On October 4, 2000, the Regional Administrator held a Press Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, to discuss the results of NRC environmental surveys on Vieques Island. The Conference was attended by media, Puerto Rico officials in the Department of Health, and members of the public, including individuals who demonstrated against the Navy's use of a firing range on the Island. The Press Conference resulted in substantial press reports on the NRC's finding that there was no depleted uranium detected in public areas of Vieques Island.

Recruiting Trip - University of Puerto Rico

On October 5-7, 2000, the Deputy Director, Office of Human Resources, the Associate Director for Inspection and Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and the Regional Administrator participated in a recruitment workshop at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus.

Tennessee Valley Authority - Sequoyah Full Scale Exercise

On October 3, 2000, the Regional State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Regional Assistance Committee for evaluating the Sequoyah full scale exercise. The exercise involved officials of the State of Tennessee and the applicable local governments. The licensee's performance was also evaluated by NRC, Region II.

Manual Chapter 1245 Task Force Meeting

On October 3-4, 2000, members of the Manual Chapter 1245 "Inspector Qualifications" Task Force met in the Region II Office to continue their work on developing a proposed change to the

Manual Chapter. Several Region II managers also met with the Task Force members and provided their perspective on the effort.

Southern Nuclear Operating Company - Hatch Nuclear Plant

On October 5, 2000, Region II conducted an exit meeting open to the public to present the results of the first Hatch license renewal inspection. This inspection examined the scoping and screening process used to determine what plant equipment needs to be in scope for license renewal. The inspection results were presented by the Director, Division of Reactor Safety and the Inspection Team Leader.

October 6, 2000

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Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 6, 2000

Utility-NRC Workshop Held in Region III

NRC Chairman Richard Meserve gave a keynote presentation on October 3, 2000, to kick off the two-day American Nuclear Society's Utility-NRC Interface Workshop in Lisle, Illinois. The workshop drew about 115 people who participated in working group sessions that focused on a number of different subject areas, most of which concerned the agency's new reactor oversight program.

Region III Holds Internal Discrimination Workshop and the Fourth Public Discrimination Workshop

Region III on October 5, 2000, held an internal workshop and that evening hosted a public workshop in its Lisle, Illinois, office to review the agency's handling of complaints by nuclear industry workers who allege their employer discriminated against them after they raised safety concerns. The public workshop drew 12 people including industry representatives and members of the public.

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending October 6, 2000

Regional Administrator Visits Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station

The Regional Administrator visited the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station on October 5, 2000. He met with NRC staff and licensee management, and toured the facility.

October 6, 2000

ENCLOSURE P