

INFORMATION REPORT

March 15, 2001

SECY-01-0041

For: The Commissioners
From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: SECY-01-0041 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING MARCH 9, 2001

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*No input this week.

/RA/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
S. Morris, OEDO

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/RA/

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Contact:
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WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MARCH 9, 2001

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

Contact: S. Morris, OEDO by E-mail: sam1@nrc.gov.

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*No input this week

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2001

Oconee Nuclear Station

Evaluation and repair of crack indications found in welds that attach the control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) penetrations to the reactor vessel head on Oconee Unit 3 has continued since the plant was shutdown on February 19, 2001. Initially a small amount of boron residue was found surrounding six CRDM penetrations, but further examinations have increased the total number of CRDM penetrations with abnormal indications to nine. Ultrasonic, dye penetrant, and eddy-current test results are being evaluated and the appropriate repair techniques are being developed. More abnormal indications are possible as the number of CRDM examinations is expanded. Limiting the radiation dose to the inspection and repair personnel has been a significant problem. NRR, Region II, and the Resident Inspector are actively involved in monitoring the licensee's resolution of the abnormal indications and determining generic applicability. Requests for relief from the ASME Code will be submitted for the use of Alloy 690 weld filler material to repair the crack indications when all of the CRDMs needing repairs have been identified.

Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant

On March 1, 2001, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) issued a Memorandum and Order (LBP-01-09), "Denying Request for Evidentiary Hearing and Terminating Proceeding," in the Harris spent fuel pool case. In its ruling, the ASLB found that:

- (1) the intervenor (Board of Commissioners of Orange County, NC) had failed to demonstrate that there is any genuine and substantial dispute of fact or law related to the admitted environmental contention that could only be resolved in an evidentiary hearing; and
- (2) the NRC staff had established that the accident scenario upon which the environmental contention was based is remote and speculative so as not to warrant the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement related to the Harris spent fuel pool license amendment; and
- (3) because there are no remaining disputed issues of fact or law requiring resolution in an adjudicatory hearing and all issues in this proceeding have been resolved in favor of granting the December 1998 license amendment application, the staff is authorized to issue the license amendment and this proceeding is dismissed.

The ASLB ruling will constitute the final decision of the Commission forty days from the date of issuance, or on April 10, 2001, unless a petition for review is filed, or the Commission directs otherwise. Any party may file a petition for review with the Commission fifteen days after this decision.

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ENCLOSURE A

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station

On February 28, 2001, members of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, with staff of the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company (MYAPC) to discuss physical security for the future Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station (MYAPS) independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI).

The MYAPS spent nuclear fuel is currently being stored in the spent fuel pool, which is protected by a physical protection system meeting the requirements of 10 CFR 73.55, with exemptions as previously issued by the NRC. To complete the plant site decommissioning process, the spent fuel will be removed from the spent fuel pool and transferred to an on-site ISFSI for interim storage. MYAPC is currently constructing an ISFSI north of the reactor plant and is scheduled to begin fuel transfer to the ISFSI in June 2001. In order to meet the Commission's physical protection requirements to include the ISFSI, MYAPC must revise its physical protection plan. By letter dated January 4, 2001, MYAPC submitted an exemption request and request for license amendment to facilitate implementation of the revised security plan. The meeting was convened to allow the NRC staff to provide a status of its ongoing review of the proposed exemption and license amendment request and to enable MYAPC to discuss in detail the proposed revised MYAPS physical security plan. The majority of the meeting involved discussions related to safeguards information. Based on feedback provided by the NRC staff, MYAPC will revise portions of the proposed physical security plan and resubmit it for staff review.

Reactor Oversight Process

The Inspection Program Branch (IIPB) conducted another of a continuing series of public meetings on March 1-2, 2001, with industry's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) working group. Key issues discussed included: conduct of the external lessons learned workshop, reporting RCIC system in the safety system functional failure performance indicator (PI), unavailability PI focus group activities including the potential removal of T/2 fault exposure time for surveillance failure from the unavailability PI, piloting a new average daily power change PI in the June/July 2001 time frame, physical protection significance determination process (SDP) development status, and reviews of frequently asked questions. The next meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2001.

On March 2, 2001, a backfit panel consisting of management and staff from Region IV, NRR (IIPB and plant support branches), OGC and OE met to discuss whether three white findings and an ALARA violation identified in the occupational radiation safety cornerstone at Callaway nuclear station constituted a new regulatory requirement and thus, a backfit.

NRC/FEMA Steering Committee Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the NRC/FEMA Steering Committee was held at NRC on March 1, 2001. IOLB/EPHP staff participated in the meeting representing NRC. FEMA was represented by Russ Salter, Director of the Chemical and Radiological Preparedness Division, Vanessa Quinn, Chief of the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Branch, and members of the FEMA REP staff. Items of discussion included the status of Indian Point emergency planning issues, emergency planning for decommissioning nuclear power plants, the NRC/FEMA Subcommittee

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ENCLOSURE A

on Potassium Iodide (KI), NRC requests for FEMA assistance in responding to allegations, an update on FEMA's new exercise evaluation methodology, the possible need for generic communication on the activation of the offsite Emergency Alert System during off-hours, and the procedure for getting FEMA reports into ADAMS.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2001

Meeting with the Arizona Public Service Company on Dry Spent Fuel Storage Plans

On March 7, 2001, the Spent Fuel Project Office met with representatives of the Arizona Public Service Company (APS) to discuss their plans for dry spent fuel storage at the Palo Verde Nuclear Plant. APS plans to use the general license provisions of 10 CFR Part 72 and will begin construction of the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) in the fall 2001. APS will use the NAC International UMS storage system and plans to fabricate the transportable storage canisters at Ionics, Inc. Ionics is currently fabricating NAC-UMS canisters for an ISFSI at the Maine Yankee site and the first canister for Palo Verde is expected to be delivered in January 2002. Palo Verde anticipates beginning to load Unit 2 spent fuel for dry cask storage in November 2002.

Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility Construction Application Submitted

On March 1, 2001, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards received from Duke Cogema Stone & Webster the application to authorize construction of a mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility. If approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, this facility will be part of a Department of Energy program to irreversibly convert approximately 26 metric tons of surplus plutonium from the weapons program to fuel use. The proposed facility would be located at the Savannah River Site.

Staff Participates in Waste Management '01 Conference

During February 25 through March 1, 2001, Division of Waste Management staff participated in the Waste Management '01 Conference in Tucson, Arizona. Staff efforts included representing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on a panel discussion on low-level waste disposal issues; presenting an invited lecture at a mixed waste short course held in conjunction with the meeting; presenting papers on the status of NRC's decommissioning program, on the license termination process for nuclear power plants, on regulatory analyses of incidental waste, and on the sensitivity of high-level waste repository performance to sub-system variability.

International Atomic Energy Agency Technical Committee Meeting to Review a Draft Safety Guide on Draft Radiological Criteria for Long-lived Radionuclides in Commodities

During the week of February 26 through March 2, 2001, a representative of the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety participated in an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Technical Committee meeting to review a draft Safety Guide which recommended draft radiological criteria for long-lived radionuclides in commodities. The purpose of the draft Safety Guide, developed in response to an IAEA General Conference Resolution, is to provide guidance to international and national authorities, including regulatory bodies, on internationally applicable activity concentration levels for commodities that contain long-lived radionuclides as a result of past accidents and activities that were not conducted within the requirements of the Basic Safety Standards. This guidance would define a level of radionuclide concentration in commodities below which commodities may be freely traded on the international market without

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ENCLOSURE B

any further consideration. The technical committee recommended that commodities circulating in international trade should not, in general, have an activity concentration such that they would be subject to regulatory control for other reasons. The radiological protection approach used was, in general, that the dose expected to be incurred by any member of the public should be of the order of 10 μ Sv per year or less with only a small likelihood of approaching 1 mSv per year from all commodities. In addition, the committee determined that it would not be possible to establish whether commodities, other than foodstuffs, in circulation in international trade are contaminated from practices or from other sources. Furthermore, the committee saw no reason to identify different levels of protection for different commodities (e.g., wood) by deriving different concentration levels for unrestricted trade.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2001

Workshop for Federal Agencies on Risk Information

On March 6 and 7, RES and the University of Maryland (UMd) Center for Technology Risk Studies co-hosted a workshop on the use of risk information by Federal agencies. The meeting was attended by over 30 managers and technical experts from the Center for Disease Control, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Aviation Administration, Food and Drug Administration, National Aeronautic and Space Administration, NRC (RES, NRR, and NMSS), Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Coast Guard, and the Department of Agriculture. The discussion topics included the definition and use of risk target levels, the role of risk in regulations, risk assessment methods and tools, and the formal use of risk results in decision making.

It was clear from the discussions that all the agencies participating used risk information in their regulatory decision making processes, and many of them had been using such information for several years. Consequently, many of the agencies have considerable experience with practical applications and associated issues (e.g., problem definition, interacting with stakeholders, treatment of uncertainties). It was also clear that all of the participants were interested in what other agencies were doing. Many stated that they had learned a great deal and expressed their gratitude to NRC and UMD for providing the opportunity to hold valuable discussions. The meeting participants generally agreed that mechanisms for increased cooperation among the agencies should be developed. Possibilities included the resurrection of an interagency working group on risk management (the Ad Hoc Working Group on Risk Assessment of the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering and Technology; Office of Science and Technology Policy) and the development of a risk web site.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2001

Operations Center "Virtual Tour"

A revised version of the Operations Center's "Virtual Tour" has been posted on the NRC's external and internal web site. It is located at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/AEOD/ER/webtour4/inex.html>

The tour can also be accessed via NRC's "Emergency Response" page.

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-IV-01-011, Delta Geotechnical Consultants, Inc., STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE.

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2001

Union of Concerned Scientists: Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-50-72)

A document announcing the receipt of a petition for rulemaking submitted by the Union of Concerned Scientists (PRM-50-72) was published in the Federal Register on March 5, 2001 (66 FR 13267). The petitioner requests that the NRC require nuclear power plant owners to submit the performance indicator information needed for the NRC's revised reactor oversight program. The comment period for this action closes May 21, 2001.

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: VSC-24 Revision (Part 72)

A direct final rule that revises the VSC-24 cask system listing within the list of approved spent fuel storage casks was published in the Federal Register on March 6, 2001(66 FR 13407). The amendment changes Technical Specifications to modify the fuel specifications for specified spent fuel. The direct final rule becomes effective May 21, 2001.

The companion proposed rule to this direct final rule was published in the Federal Register on March 6, 2001 (66 FR 13459). The comment period closes April 5, 2001.

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
March 2, 2001 through March 8, 2001:

Site assessment at 30 Technology Drive, Warren, NJ 07059. (FOIA/PA-2001-0160)

OI report 3-2000-008 and allegation RIII-00-A-0024, reports and supporting documents.
(FOIA/PA-2001-0161)

United States Enrichment Corp. (USEC), OI reports and supporting documents related to
allegations by named individuals, and case numbers 3-1999-012, 3-1999-033, and 3-1999-034.
(FOIA/PA-2001-0162)

NRC organizational information and telephone directory. (FOIA/PA-2001-0163)

Hartley & Hartley Landfill, State of Michigan (MI) owned portion, all correspondence from 1995
to present excluding technical documents submitted by state of MI to NRC.
(FOIA/PA-2001-0164)

Shpack Landfill Superfund & Fusrap site in Norton and Attleboro, Massachusetts, all documents
since 04/1991. (FOIA/PA-2001-0165)

Robert L. Thompson Hospital, Ft. Worth, TX, license no. 42-23539-01AF, Air Force permit no.
42-30128-1AFP, records related to nuclear medicine department. (FOIA/PA-2001-0166)

NRC contracting officers listing. (FOIA/PA-2001-0167)

Chief Financial Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2001

FY 2000 Financial Statements

On March 1, 2001, OCFO delivered to the Office of Management and Budget the FY 2000 Financial Statements. For the seventh consecutive year, the NRC has received an unqualified audit opinion on its principal statements. The preparation of audit financial statements is required by the Chief Financial Officers Act.

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Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2001

Arrivals		
CHOU DHURY, A. Roy	COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST	OCIO
LIU, Leslie	ACCOUNTANT	OCFO
PICON-COLON, Reinaldo	HR SPECIALIST(INTERN)	HR
SAMUEL, Olive	OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANT	NMSS
WYATT, Melissa	SECRETARY	NMSS
Departures		
BROWN, Shanika	SECRETARY	HR/SPAC

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Enforcement
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2001

Revision to the Enforcement Policy

The Office of Enforcement (OE) posted a notice on its website on March 7, 2001, indicating that the NRC is currently seeking stakeholder feedback on a proposed revision to the Enforcement Policy that addresses enforcement actions involving individuals. The proposed revision clarifies the guidance in Section VIII, "Enforcement Actions Involving Individuals." The intent of the revision is to more clearly identify the thresholds and outcomes for taking enforcement actions that involve individuals. The proposed policy revision will be available for review until April 22, 2001, and will be addressed in one of the breakout sessions at the upcoming RIC. The online comment form is also included in the agency's complete collection of comment forms available from the "Public Involvement" icon. OE will consider the comments and propose an Enforcement Policy revision to the Commission for approval.

OE posted a notice on its website on March 8, 2001, indicating that the NRC is currently seeking stakeholder feedback on proposed guidance for NRC inspectors for enforcement of 10 CFR 50.65, "Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants" (Maintenance Rule). The proposed guidance incorporates knowledge and experience gained since the Maintenance Rule became effective in July, 1996, and includes guidance for the new section in the rule, (a)(4), pertaining to the assessment and management of risk associated with maintenance activities. This guidance reflects current approaches utilized by the NRC to determine when violations of the Maintenance Rule may have occurred. The proposed guidance will be available for review until April 23, 2001. The final guidance will be incorporated into the NRC Enforcement Manual. The Maintenance Rule will be addressed in one of the breakout sessions at the upcoming RIC. The online comment form is also included in the agency's complete collection of comment forms available from the "Public Involvement" icon.

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2001

Media Interest

A German news service is working on a story about nuclear power worldwide.

NRC Chairman Richard A. Meserve held a news briefing following his tour of Indian Point 2.

The Birmingham (AL) News is working on a report about TVA's plans to restart Browns Ferry 1 and convert the unfinished Bellafonte plant to burn fossil fuels.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-024	NRC Announces Environmental Review, Public Meetings on Proposed Mixed Oxide Fuel Facility
01-025	NRC's ACRS Plant License Renewal Subcommittee Meets March 27-28; Revises Agenda For March 16 Joint Subcommittee Meeting
01-026	NRC Approves Transfer of Operating Licenses for Millstone 1,2,3
Regions:	
I-01-012	NRC Postpones Meeting With Washington, D.C. Hospital
I-01-013	Oral Hearing to be Held March 13 on Fitzpatrick/Indian Point 3 Petition
I-01-014	Note to Editors: New Time For NRC Chairman's Press Briefing At Indian Point 2
I-01-015	Note To Editors: NRC Reschedules Meeting With Washington, D.C. Hospital
II-01-007	NRC Staff to Hold Public Meeting March 16 At Plant Hatch to Discuss Inspection of Plant's License Renewal Program
III-01-10	NRC Staff Completes Review of Safety Significance of Issues At Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant
IV-01-008	NRC To Discuss Results of ANO Unit-1 License Renewal Inspection March 9
IV-01-009	NRC Staff Proposes \$5,500 Fine for Global X-Ray & Testing Corp.

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Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
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Meeting of IAEA Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

The Nuclear Safety Subcommittee of the (U.S. Interagency) IAEA Steering Committee, met in Rockville on March 7. The meeting was chaired by the Director, Office of International Programs and attended by staff contacts in NRC, the Departments of State and Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Subcommittee discussed nuclear safety-related programs and activities, including issues and which will arise at the March meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors. Agenda items included the implications to IAEA nuclear safety programs of the nearly \$3M shortfall in the IAEA budget for next year; selection of candidates for high-level posts and U.S. cost-free experts; proposed uses for the 2001 U.S. voluntary contribution to IAEA nuclear safety programs; the IAEA Steering Committee (U.S. interagency) structure; and IAEA research reactor safety interests.

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ENCLOSURE N

Office of the Secretary
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Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
1. SECY-01-0026	02/15/01	Alternatives for Rulemaking: Domestic Licensing of Uranium and Thorium Recovery Facilities
Negative Consent Documents		
1. SECY-01-0010	1/23/01	Coordination with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Certain Decommissioning Sites
SRM on 01-0010	2/21/01	(same)
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0032	3/1/01	SECY-01-0032 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending February 23, 2001
2. SECY-01-0037	3/8/01	SECY-01-0037 Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 2, 2001
Memoranda		
1. M010306	3/6/01	Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session: I. SECY-01-0031 - Consolidated Edison Co. of New York & Entergy Companies. Transfer of Licenses for Indian Point 1 & 2 Nuclear Plants. Petitions to Intervene; Request for Suspension of Proceeding; Requests for Access to Confidential Documents and for Additional Time to Submit Issues

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Congress and Department Heads dated February 28, 2001 concerns the energy policy issues.
2. Letter to George E. Pataki, Governor of New York, dated February 26, 2001, concerns the NRC's State Liaison Officer program.

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3. Letter to Ralph E. Beedle, Nuclear Energy Institute, dated February 27, 2001, concerns the staff's proposal to endorse National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 805, "Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Electric Generating Plants."

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. ACRS Joint Meeting of the Subcommittees on Materials and Metallurgy, Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, and Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment; Revised.
2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting Notice.
3. ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on Reactor Fuels; Notice of Meeting

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Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2001

Seabrook Station

On March 5, 2001, at 11:24 p.m., Seabrook Station declared an unusual event (UE). The UE was declared in response to an automatic reactor trip from 100 percent power, due to a loss of offsite power and electrical grid instability. The grid instability was associated with an ongoing severe winter snow storm with winds of approximately 40 miles per hour. The site remained in the UE until the reliability of the offsite power lines was assured and normal alignment of the plant electrical systems (both offsite and onsite) were restored. On March 7, 2001, at approximately 10:40 a.m., the Seabrook Station exited the UE after having restored two sources of offsite power and an offsite power source to both vital ac buses. The unit is currently in hot shutdown (mode 4) and root cause teams are reviewing equipment performance problems that occurred during the event.

In response to this event, the NRC has scheduled a special team inspection which will evaluate the licensee's root cause determinations and corrective actions for the loss of offsite power and associated equipment failures, including: an apparent overspeed trip of the turbine driven axillary feedwater pump and the failure of one main steam isolation valve to respond to a manual close signal. In addition to these activities, the inspection team will evaluate the licensee's assessment of risk associated with the event and perform an independent risk assessment.

Indian Point 2

The NRC Chairman, the Executive Director for Operations, and the Region I Regional Administrator, accompanied by Senator Charles Schumer, visited Indian Point 2 on March 9, 2001. The site visit involved a plant tour, discussions with ConEd management about the plant's performance improvement program and other recent issues, and a press conference by the Chairman. Senator Schumer and Congresswoman Sue Kelly also participated in the press conference.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2001

Virginia Electric and Power Company - North Anna Power Station

On March 5, 2001, the Regional Administrator was at the North Anna Power Station to tour the facility and visit with licensee managers and the NRC resident inspectors. He also presented a talk and NRC operator licensing certificates to graduates of the Operator Licensing Class.

Southern Nuclear Operating Company - Hatch Nuclear Plant

On March 5-8, 2001, the NRC conducted an Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation (OSRE) at the Plant Hatch facility. On March 6-7, the Director, Office of Public Affairs, accompanied by the Deputy Regional Administrator observed the OSRE.

Training Manager's Conference

On March 8-9, 2001, Region II hosted a Training Managers' Conference. The purpose of this conference was to hold a discussion between NRC and licensee training and operations staff on issues and policies that affect the licensing of reactor plant operators.

Earthquake in Tennessee

At 12:12 p.m. EST, on March 7, 2001, a magnitude 3.2. earthquake occurred approximately 7 miles SSW of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (15 miles WNW of Athens, Tennessee). The NRC resident inspectors were on-site at the time of the event and reported that the earthquake was not felt on the site and that no licensee seismic instrumentation or alarms actuated.

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2001

Follow-up Inspection on Palisades Misloading Event

On March 7-8, 2001, a Region III inspector, the regional Decommissioning Branch Chief, and an inspector from the Spent Fuel Project Office conducted a follow-up inspection at the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant in Michigan to look at compliance and safety issues, and review the licensee's root cause determination related to a November 2000 spent fuel misloading event. Plant workers mistakenly loaded 11 spent fuel assemblies into VSC-24 casks at Palisades before the fuel had undergone the required five years minimum cooling outside the core.

Mallinckrodt Management Meeting

On March 7, 2001, NRC staff members including Region III Deputy Director Jim Caldwell met with officials from Mallinckrodt, Inc., in Maryland Heights, Missouri, to discuss the licensee's corrective actions related to an independent assessment of its radiation protection program.

Regional Administrator Attends IMPEP Exit

On March 9, 2001, the Region III Regional Administrator and the Chief of the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety attended an IMPEP exit meeting in Springfield, Illinois. The exit concluded a week-long evaluation of the Illinois state program by a six-member team as part of the agency's Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program. The team included regional and headquarters representatives as well as an agreement state representative from the State of Maine. An IMPEP evaluation is conducted about every four years on agreement state programs.

Region IV
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Cooper Nuclear Station

On March 6, 2001, the Region IV, Division of Reactor Safety, Director with members of the DRS staff, held a meeting with the licensee to discuss the process used to revise its overall protective strategy and to introduce the new security manager.

Callaway/Wackenhut

On March 7, 2001, the Region IV Regional Administrator, and other members of the Region IV staff conducted a closed predecisional enforcement conference with Union Electric representatives, and its contractor, The Wackenhut Corporation, to discuss an apparent violation of the NRC's Employee Protection requirements, 10 CFR 50.7.

Office of the Executive Director for Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 9, 2001

Differing Professional Opinion on Steam Generator Tube Integrity Issues Dispositioned

On March 5, 2001, the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) issued a memorandum that dispositioned a Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) regarding steam generator tube integrity issues. On July 20, 2000, the EDO requested that the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) function as a DPO Ad Hoc Panel to review the technical concerns in this DPO. The ACRS Ad Hoc Panel completed its review and its findings were documented in NUREG-1740, "Voltage-Based Alternative Repair Criteria," dated February 2001. The EDO reviewed the report and determined that the report provides a concise summary of the key issues and concerns and identifies those issues that have been satisfactorily resolved as well as areas where additional staff action is recommended. The EDO issued a tasking memorandum, on March 5, 2001, to the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, directing the staff to develop a joint action plan to address the conclusions and recommendations in the report and to provide this plan to the EDO within two months from the date of the memorandum.

Based on the following: (1) the ACRS Ad Hoc Subcommittee's finding that the alternative repair criteria and condition monitoring program can adequately protect public health and safety, (2) the ACRS Ad Hoc Subcommittee's conclusion that no immediate regulatory actions were necessary, and (3) the EDO's direction to staff to develop an action plan to address the conclusions and recommendations in the summary report, the EDO found that the concerns raised in the DPO have been dispositioned and the DPO is closed.

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Office of Congressional Affairs
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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 6

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	03/13/01 SD-124	9:30	NNSA Administrator and James Schlesinger	National Nuclear Security Administration--FY02 Appropriations	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Gerke	03/21/01 SD-106	9:30	TBA	U.S. Energy Trends	Senators Murkowski/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	03/27/01 SD-124	10:30	DOE	Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Storage Facility--FY02 Appropriations	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Gerke	03/27p/01 2123 RHOB	1:00	TBA	How Nuclear Energy Fits into U.S. National Energy Policy	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce

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