May 29, 1996

For: The Commissioners
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING MAY 24, 1996


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*No input this week

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415-1733

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ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 1996

**Northeast Utilities Service Company**

On May 20, 1996, Bernard M. Fox, President and CEO of Northeast Utilities, issued a letter to NU employees which stated:

"Fred Dacimo, Vice President of Nuclear Operations, is no longer employed by NU. It is inappropriate to provide you with any details at this time. His no-nonsense approach to safety helped set the course for our reorganized nuclear group, and that will continue unabated while we conduct a search for Fred's replacement. In the meantime, Ted Feigenbaum will assume Fred's duties in addition to his Chief Nuclear Officer responsibilities."

**Seabrook**

During a periodic (92 day) surveillance run of the steam-driven emergency feedwater pump, the throttle bushing on the outboard end of the pump rubbed against the pump shaft producing sparks from metal to metal contact. The licensee estimates repairs will take from 10 to 48 hours to complete. The LCO allows up to 72 hours for one emergency feedwater pump to be inoperable.

On November 28, 1995, near the end of the fourth refueling outage and after the reactor had been refueled and the vessel head replaced, the licensee initiated a containment purge. The power supply to the wide-range gas monitor on the vent stack failed during the release. The monitoring of other release pathways to the vent were unaffected. The licensee took appropriate compensatory actions in accordance with the plant technical specifications and continued the purge, but for a period of 28 minutes there was no plant vent monitoring or sampling. The containment purge pathway was unmonitored because of the power failure but vent sampling was established and local monitoring was available. No technical specifications or plant procedures were violated.

On January 25, 1996, the resident inspector received a request from C-10, a citizen organization which operates a network of radiation monitors, for meteorological information and information relating to the nature of the release during the period of time the monitor was out of service. The resident inspector obtained the requested information and provided it to C-10. C-10 subsequently claimed their monitoring network detected substantially elevated radiation readings on November 28, 1995. The resident inspector's review of the provided information concluded, however, that plant actions could not account for the measurements claimed by C-10. C-10 issued a press release on March 13, 1996, claiming that Seabrook was responsible for the elevated readings.

There has been subsequent interest by media and the Massachusetts Assistant Attorney General's office. Because of the continued interest in the matter, an independent inspection by Region I based inspectors has been scheduled for May

29-31, 1996. Officials from New Hampshire and Massachusetts have been invited to observe the inspection activities and the offer has been accepted. The results of the inspection will be documented in a future inspection report.

**Oconee Nuclear Station - Fuel Assembly Grid Straps**

Duke Power Company was informed by Framatome Technologies that a preliminary safety concern has been discovered that appears to affect all B&W plants. Specifically, it has been discovered that the Mark B fuel assembly grid strap failure potential is greater than originally considered in the ECCS design analysis. The original LOCA analysis assumed that grid strap plastic deformation would occur on the peripheral fuel assemblies due to dynamic loading, but the grid straps on the inner assemblies would not fail. The technical basis for this assumption could not be found. A reanalysis has shown that all grid straps are subject to deformation. As a result, the initial assumptions used in the ECCS analysis my be invalid and the peak clad temperature limit may be exceeded for a large break LOCA, even though a coolable geometry would be maintained - limits imposed by 10 CFR 50.46. Framatome is investigating the effects on the leak-before-break analysis LOCA entry conditions on an expedited basis and will submit the results to the NRC.

**Point Beach, Units 1 and 2 - Dry Cask Storage and Steam Generator Replacement**

On Monday, May 20, 1996, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) issued orders based on rulings made on two issues related to Point Beach, Units 1 and 2. These orders authorize Wisconsin Electric Power Company, the licensee for Point Beach, to continue loading dry casks and to continue with the steam generator replacement project (new generators are to be installed this fall).

Point Beach loaded the first cask in December 1995. Just after the cask was loaded, a Wisconsin court ruled on intervenor petitions, remanding both the cask and the steam generator decisions back to the PSCW for further research and documentation. Since then, because of the pending action from the PSCW, the licensee has voluntarily halted cask loading while awaiting the formal order from the PSCW. Now that the orders are official, the loading of the second cask has begun. The steam generator project schedule was not impacted by the PSCW and intervenor actions.

Additional intervention is anticipated.

**Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1 (ANO-1) Reactor Trip with Steam Generator Dryout**

On May 19, 1996, ANO-1 tripped from 100 percent power on high reactor coolant system (RCS) pressure. The event was initiated by malfunction of the speed controls to the main feedwater pumps. The transient caused main steam safety valves (MSSV) actuation and one MSSV on main steam line B stuck open. This resulted in dryout of steam generator (S/G) B and excess cooldown of the RCS. In response, plant operators isolated S/G B and used S/G A to maintain decay heat removal and manually started a high pressure injection pump. After the plant was stabilized, operators gagged closed the stuck open MSSV and used the emergency feed water system to feed the dry steam generator. This trickle feed process was successful. The S/G dryout resulted in the differential temperature between the tubes and shell exceeding a limit of 60F when the tubes are hotter than the shell. An engineering evaluation was performed by the vendor, which concluded that the stresses imposed on the tubes as a result of the transient were acceptable for continued operation. The licensee is currently assessing the cause of the malfunction of the control system for the main feedwater pumps. The plant is scheduled for restart on May 23 or 24, 1996, if the feedwater pump issue can be resolved. The failed MSSV will be gagged closed during plant restart. There are a total of eight MSSVs on each of the two main steam lines. Plant technical specification allows plant operation at rated power with one inoperable MSSV.

**1996 Operator Licensing Examiner Conference**

The 1996 Operator Licensing Examiner Conference was held the week of May 13, 1996, in Irving, Texas. This conference is normally held on an annual basis to bring all the NRC examiners together to conduct training, discuss new examination methodologies, and interface with examiner counterparts from other regions as well as those from the Operator Licensing Branch (HOLB). A total of 53 participants attended the conference.

The Keynote speaker for the conference was Sam Collins, Deputy Regional Administrator for Region IV. His speech, "Inspecting Operational Safety," discussed the broad aspects of the NRC interface with facilities. Additional presentations were made in main conference sessions on the status of the operator licensing program, industry and NRC perspectives on the recently completed pilot process of licensing examinations, enforcement and appeals, and examiner professionalism.

An important part of the conference is the breakout sessions used to improve the skills of the examiners. Four sessions were conducted on such important topics as facility simulators, conducting the operating tests, assuring the validity of the written examinations, and a discussion of new approaches for improving the examination process. Extensive training was conducted in each of these sessions.

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ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 1996

**Meeting with Applied Radiant Energy Corporation**

On May 22, 1996, representatives of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and Region II met with the President and Executive Vice President of Applied Radiant Energy Corporation (ARECO) regarding the removal of Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility (WESF) capsules from the licensee's facility.

The NRC reiterated its 1991 position that the license authorizing the possession and use of the WESF sources will not be renewed and that the sources should be removed as expeditiously as possible. ARECO representatives were asked to provide the NRC with a commitment and current plan for removal of the sources. The plan is to include: a reassessment and reaffirmation of ARECO's procedures to monitor the safe use of the sources until their removal, a clarification of any barriers and related solutions which ARECO anticipates in achieving removal of the sources, and proposed financial assurance to address cleanup of any contamination event resulting from a source failure. ARECO agreed to provide all of the cited information.

ARECO met with an Assistant Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE EXIT) on May 23, 1996, in order to continue

their negotiations and attempt to achieve a coordinated response from the operations and contracting components of DOE. ARECO has contacted Congressmen Payne and Goodlatte to assist them in their negotiations with DOE.

**Northern States Power Meeting**

On May 21, 1996, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office met with representatives of Northern States Power (NSP) and their contractors to discuss NSP's application for an off-site Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) associated with the Prairie Island Power Station. Representatives of the State of Minnesota; Florence Township, Minnesota; the Prairie Island Dakotas and their contractors; and DOE were observers at the meeting. Among the items discussed were the schedule for submittal of a complete application, Minnesota State requirements associated with ISFSI siting and licensing, and NRC requirements for Special Nuclear Material.

**Spent Fuel Transportation and Storage Workshop**

On May 17, 1996, the Spent Fuel Project Office conducted a Spent Fuel Transportation and Storage Workshop in the NRC Auditorium. Approximately 300 people attended the workshop or watched it on closed circuit television. Representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, DOE, Department of Transportation, and Environmental Protection Agency were in attendance. Also in attendance were representatives of several national laboratories, State and local governments, utilities, vendors, and environmental groups, along with representatives of the trade press. The focus of the workshop was spent fuel storage. Panels from the NRC and industry discussed experience with the development of, and licensing processes for, dry-cask storage of spent nuclear fuel.

**Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Columbia, South Carolina**

On May 15, 1996, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards met with a representative of Westinghouse Electric Corporation to discuss changes in the ammonium diuranate operations which are used to convert uranium hexafluoride to uranium dioxide powder. Westinghouse will be submitting an amendment to revise its license to reflect these changes.

**Meeting on Forms for Highly Enriched Uranium Transparency**

On May 16, 1996, staff from the Regulatory and International Safeguards Branch attended a meeting to discuss reporting forms for transparency monitoring activities at U.S. facilities. The meeting was a follow-on to the U.S.-Russian Transparency Review Committee meeting of April 1-5, 1996, in Vienna, Austria, at which all transparency annexes to the protocol were signed. The purpose of the follow-on meeting was to discuss how forms used for tracking Russian material will be prepared and distributed by the Nuclear Materials Management Safeguards System (NMMSS), to DOE, U.S. Enrichment Corporation, and U.S. fuel fabricators. It is intended that NMMSS will provide all forms required of U.S. fuel fabricators.

**International Safeguards**

On May 22, 1996, staff from the Regulatory and International Safeguards Branch participated in the Nuclear Materials Management Safeguards System Steering Committee Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. These meetings are held periodically to discuss issues related to nuclear material reporting to the International Atomic Energy Agency. Currently, the focus of discussions is reporting of excess U.S. weapons materials being stored at DOE sites and materials being imported from the former Soviet Union.

**Meeting Between the NRC and Australian Scientists**

On May 16, 1996, staff from the Division of Waste Management (DWM) met with members of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization (ANSTO) to discuss NRC regulations regarding high-level waste (HLW) forms as they would apply to Synroc. Synroc is a crystalline ceramic waste form comprised of thermodynamically stable synthetic mineral phases in which various radioactive elements can be stabilized. This waste form has been under development since 1978, primarily in Australia, for immobilization of HLW from the reprocessing of commercial spent fuel. The DWM staff provided the ANSTO participants with copies of the relevant portions of 10 CFR Part 60, and discussed the methodology that will be used to evaluate the engineered barrier contribution to the prospective HLW repository. Synroc is a candidate waste form for repository or borehole disposition of excess weapons plutonium. It is also possible that Synroc may be used to solidify very small amounts of Hanford tank waste which cannot be vitrified.

**15th Annual International Conference on Incineration**

On May 6-10, 1996, staff from DWM attended the 15th Annual International Conference on Incineration and Thermal Treatment Technologies in Savannah, Georgia. The conference was presented by the University of California at Irvine and intended to provide a forum for the exchange of technical information among professionals working in the waste incineration and thermal treatment industry. The conference consisted of a series of technical sessions focusing on various aspects of thermal waste treatment and disposal, including emissions monitoring, the behavior of metals and organics during thermal treatment, regulatory issues and compliance, emerging and innovative thermal treatment technologies, and radioactive and mixed waste treatment and management. The staff's primary goal in participating in the conference was to gain insights into emerging mixed and radioactive waste treatment technologies, and to inform the conference participants of any new or important NRC actions or initiatives that could affect thermal treatment of radioactive or mixed waste.

**Visit To Atlas Uranium Mill Site and Environs**

On May 13-15, 1996, DWM technical staff visited the Atlas mill site in Moab, Utah. The staff was accompanied by representatives of the licensee and its consultant, Smith Environmental, Inc. Members of the public observed portions of the site visit, and the news media provided coverage. The purpose of the visit was to observe potential geologic and geomorphic conditions related to open Technical Evaluation Report issues from the staff's review of Atlas' plan for long-term stabilization of the mill tailings embankment at the reclaimed mill site. The staff's observations and discussions addressed the potential for the Colorado River to migrate, for the valley to subside due to salt dissolution, for rockfalls and slope instability to encroach on the tailings, and related scenarios. The site visit provided valuable information to assist the staff in the review of several open issues in these technical areas.

**Inspections at Exxon and Power Resources, Inc., Uranium Recovery Sites**

During the week of May 13-17, 1996, staff from the DWM observed a routine inspection of the Exxon Highlands Uranium Reclamation Project conducted by Region IV. Staff also participated in the routine inspection of the Power Resources, Inc. (PRI), Highlands In Situ Leach Uranium Project, located adjacent to the Exxon facility in

Converse County, Wyoming. The Exxon facility is in the latter stages of reclamation and has a cover over 85 percent of the tailings basin. DWM staff were particularly interested in observing the extent of erosion on the face of the tailings embankment. The PRI Highlands facility is the only uranium recovery licensee facility currently under a performance-based license (PBL), using a Safety Evaluation and Review Panel to make certain regulatory-related decisions regarding its operations. The inspection was the first for the facility since the license was converted to a PBL in August 1995, and focused heavily on a review of the licensee's standard operating procedures. The DWM staff also met with staff from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality on issues of mutual concern regarding the regulation of in-situ uranium facilities.

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ENCLOSURE C

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 1996

**PIRT Panel on BWR Strainer Blockage**

The second meeting of the PIRT (Phenomenon Identification Ranking Table) Panel on BWR Drywell Debris Transport was held on May 15-17, 1996, in Albuquerque, NM. The purpose of the panel meeting was to elicit from a group of experts, their ranking of specific phenomena that affect the transport of LOCA-induced debris through a BWR containment to the suppression pool. This ranking will permit NRC to more sharply focus research work intended to refine the estimate of how much debris actually gets to the suppression pool and the strainer screens and establish a framework for evaluation of licensee responses to Bulletin 96-03 "Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling-Water Reactors." Presentations were made to the Panel by NRC staff and contractors as well as by two PIRT panel members. In addition to the specific phenomena ranking, the panel recommended certain sensitivity studies be conducted prior to embarking on extensive code calculations but that no formal uncertainty study be attempted because applicable data is lacking to determine modeling uncertainty and possible biases.

**IEEE Meeting on Environmental Qualification (EQ)**

Members of the RES and NRR staff participated in the IEEE working group meeting, held on May 10, 1996, at Penn State University, on environmental qualification (EQ) of electric equipment used in nuclear power plants. The working group plans to rewrite IEEE Std. 323-1983 so as to provide practical, common sense, and technically accurate sets of requirements to demonstrate that the EQ equipment is capable of performing its safety function under postulated design basis event. The working group concluded that significant experience exists on EQ and that the lessons learned from past experience should be factored into the proposed revision of the standard. Staff will continue to participate in the development of this important IEEE standard.

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ENCLOSURE D

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 1996

**Incident Response Division (IRD)**

***Emergency Response Branch (ERB)***

**Open House for OST Members**

As previously reported, an Open House program to recruit new Operations Support Team (OST) members was conducted in the Operations Center on March 27, 1996. The program was conducted by Richard Barrett, Karen Jackson, and Ame Enright. As a result of the Open House, 12 new members have been or will be added to the OST roster after more training is conducted. This will achieve the goal of having 3 or more qualified individuals assigned to each team position. Some of the new team members will be participating in or observing the Maine Yankee exercise on June 19, 1996.

**Safety Programs Division (SPD)**

***Reliability and Risk Assessment Branch (RRAB)***

**Paper Accepted on Bayesian Risk Estimation From Precursors**

The paper entitled "The U.S. NRC's Accident Sequence Precursor Program: An Overview and Development of a Bayesian Approach to Estimate Core Damage Frequency Using Precursor Information," authored by James W. Johnson (Office of the Chairman) and Dale M. Rasmuson (AEOD), was accepted for publication in the journal System Safety and Reliability Engineering. This paper presents the objectives of the Accident Sequence Precursor Program and some problems regarding use of conditional core damage probabilities directly to estimate core damage frequency. It then presents an alternative method for estimating core damage frequency using accident sequence precursor information involving initiators. This is one potential technique for estimating industry-wide risk.

**Special Study: Fire Events - Feedback of Operating Experience - Draft**

A draft special study on fire events, covering operating experience from 1965 through 1994 was distributed within the NRC and to INPO, EPRI, and Sandia for review. This special study provides a comprehensive compilation of information on fire events, their frequencies and severity, and the impact this updated information would have on fire risk assessments. The report incorporated data from the initial SANDIA fire events database (1965-mid 1985), Licensee Event Reports, Nuclear Plant Reliability Data System, selected plant Probabilistic Risk Assessment reports, and information from the proprietary Electric Power Research Institute fire events database. Contact: Jim Houghton (JRH2, 415-6353)

**Preliminary Notifications**

1. PNO-I-96-034, Peco Energy Company (Limerick 2), TURBINE TRIP AND REACTOR SCRAM DUE TO ELECTRICAL GRID DISTURBANCE.
2. PNO-I-96-035, Mallinckrodt Medical, Inc., CONTAMINATED PACKAGE RECEIVED BY HOSPITAL (Pinebrook, NJ).
3. PNO-I-96-036, Abington Memorial Hospital, IDENTIFICATION OF AN UNCONTROLLED CESIUM-137 BRACHYTHERAPY SOURCE WITHIN A RADIOACTIVE WASTE STORAGE ROOM.
4. PNO-I-96-037, Bayley-Ellard High School, FOLLOWUP ON TERMINATED IRRADIATOR LICENSES.
5. PNO-I-96-038, Mallinckrodt Medical, Inc., CONTAMINATED PACKAGE RECEIVED BY HOSPITAL (West Haven, CT).
6. PNO-I-96-039, Permagrain, HOT CELL FAN MALFUNCTION.
7. PNO-I-96-040, Westinghouse Electric Company, TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL WITH CONGRESSIONAL STAFF CONCERNING WASTE STORAGE AT THE WESTINGHOUSE WALTZ MILL FACILITY.
8. PNO-III-96-030, Commonwealth Edison Company (Dresden 3), AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM TO REVIEW UNIT 3 REACTOR SCRAM.
9. PNO-IV-96-022B, Arkansas Agreement State, RADIOACTIVE CONTAINER DISCOVERED IN SCRAP METAL SHIPMENT.
10. PNO-IV-96-024, Cogema Mining, Inc., PIPE RUPTURE RESULTS IN RELEASE OF WELL INJECTION FLUID.
11. PNO-IV-96-025, Entergy Operations, Inc., REACTOR TRIP WITH COMPLICATIONS RESULTING IN NOTIFICATION OF UNUSUAL EVENT.
12. PNO-IV-96-026, Texas Agreement State, RELEASE OF MINE RESTORATION WATER.
13. PNO-IV-96-027, Entergy Operations, Inc. (Arkansas Nuclear 1), AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM ARRIVE AT ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE.

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ENCLOSURE F

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 1996

**ADP Personnel Security Processing**

The Division of Security (SEC) has received a final response from DOE on NRC's proposal to revise existing NRC work orders at the laboratories to include ADP screening requirements. On April 3, 1996, SEC and a representative of IRM attended a meeting with DOE staff to discuss this matter. On April 17, 1996, SEC provided DOE with a listing of current work orders at DOE that may require modification for the ADP screening requirements.

**Procurement Reform**

On May 21, 1996, Hugh L. Thompson and Patricia G. Norry held an awards ceremony to recognize seven NRC employees for their extraordinary efforts to implement procurement reforms to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the NRC contracting process. Two representatives from RES, David D. Ebert and Michael G. Vassilaros, were recognized for their teamwork and dedication in working with DC staff to apply innovative procurement techniques which streamlined the process significantly for thirteen recent contract awards. Joanna Lilley, Sharon Mearse, Michael Mills, Deborah Neff, and Stephen Pool, of the Division of Contracts (DC), also received awards for outstanding service to their clients and for their success in applying new and creative approaches to meet client needs.

On May 22, 1996, DC conducted a "Procurement Update Meeting" for NRC regional purchasing personnel to discuss recent procurement reforms. Specific topics included NRC streamlining initiatives, the Bankcard program, new "Simplified Acquisition Procedures", and procedures for purchasing "Commercial Items." In addition, a "roundtable discussion" was held to discuss other procurement issues affecting the regional offices.

A purchase order was awarded on May 17, 1996, to acquire training for NRC staff on the new rules and procedures for acquisition of commercial items and services. These procedures represent a major change in the procurement process and will further streamline many acquisitions. Although this training, which is being schedules for mid-June, is intended primarily for procurement staff, all interested NRC employees are welcome to participate. The purchase order was awarded in one month, using the new procedures for acquisition of commercial items.

**Contract Awards**

On May 10, 1996, an 8(a) contract for "NRC Data Bank" was awarded to Garcia Consulting, Inc., in the amount of $146,010. The contractor will use NRC's high-performance computing system to transfer and store data from the INEL data bank and will implement a central, readily-accessible repository of the data. The period of performance is June 17, 1996, through June 16, 1997. The following streamlining methods were used: the SOW was transmitted electronically and the proposal preparation time was reduced, which resulted in lead time savings of two weeks on this procurement.

**Significant FOIA Requests Received During Period of May 17 - 23, 1996**:

Request for records between Gilbert Associates, Inc. and the AEC re: a proposed nuclear reactor near Manila, Philippines in mid-1950's (David DeKok; FOIA-96-208)

Request for copies of licenses in 1972 for the disposal of radioactive wastes at six named facilities (Imelda Mulholland; Holme Roberts & Owen; FOIA-96-209)

Request for a listing of IMPAC credit card holders and addresses (Joan Lex; HLA Connecting Point; FOIA-96-212)

Request for sixteen categories of records related to Kaiser Permanente for January 1, 1995 to present (Frank Saibert; Matkov, Salzman, Madoff & Gunn; FOIA-96-213)

Request for records related to TMI-2 (David DeKok; FOIA-96-214)

Request for a listing of all IMPAC credit card holders and addresses (Steven Robinson; Knoll, Inc.; FOIA-96-215)

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ENCLOSURE I

Office of Personnel
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 1996

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| **Arrivals** | | |
| CATALDO, Paul | REACTOR ENGINEER (PFT) | RIII |
| FINN, Kacey | OFFICE CLERK (OPFT)* | RIII |
| GREEN-BATES, Katherine | REACTOR INSPECTOR (PFT) | RIII |
| KOCK, Andrea | RADIATION SPECIALIST (PFT) | RIII |
| KRSEK, Robert | FUEL FACILITIES INSPECTOR (PFT) | RIII |
| VINSON, Dennis | GENERAL ENGINEER (PFT) | NMSS |
| WATERS, Michael | GENERAL ENGINEER (PFT) | NMSS |
| **Departures** | | |
| HOLLAND, Samuel | SR. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR (PFT) | OIG |
| MAYE, Roland | SR. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR (PFT) | OIG |

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ENCLOSURE K

Office of Enforcement
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 1996

**Significant Enforcement Actions**

An Order Imposing Civil Monetary Penalty in the amount of $2,500 was issued on May 23, 1996, to Bemis Construction, Inc., Great Bend, Kansas. This action was based on a Severity Level III violation involving use of a moisture density gauge in Oklahoma, a non-Agreement State, and storing the gauge in Oklahoma, all without obtaining an NRC license or filing NRC Form 241. The licensee responded to the Notice in a letter dated April 17, 1996, and requested mitigation of the proposed civil penalty. After careful consideration of the licensee's response, the staff has concluded that the licensee did not provide an adequate basis for reduction of the Severity Level or mitigation of the civil penalty. (EN 96-017A)

An Order Imposing Civil Monetary Penalty in the amount of $8,000 was issued on May 20, 1996, to the Department of the Army, Madigan Army Medical Center (MAMC). This action was based on several violations that were grouped into one Severity Level II problem involving MAMC's failure to (1) provide adequate Quality Management Program (QMP) training to employees involved in the brachytherapy program; and (2) maintain and implement its QMP in a manner that assured that patients implanted with brachytherapy sources received the doses intended by the prescribing physicians. The violations, which resulted in five misadministrations, were indicative of a substantial programmatic failure by the licensee to implement its QMP. In addition, a Severity Level III problem was identified involving a deliberate failure by the licensee's former medical physicist to perform surveys of incoming packages containing brachytherapy sources and to maintain accurate records. The licensee responded to the Notice in two letters, both dated March 21, 1996. After careful consideration of the licensee's responses, the staff has concluded that the licensee did not provide an adequate basis for mitigation of the civil penalty. The NRC staff also concluded that the imposed civil penalty of $8,000 was appropriate. (EN 96-010A)

A Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of $50,000 was issued on May 22, 1996, to the Detroit Edison Company (Fermi). The action was based on a Severity Level III violation involving the failure to promptly identify and correct a potential for common mode failure of the ultimate heat sink service water pumps. The violation was considered significant due to the potential loss of the cooling water source for all four emergency diesel generators, the residual heat removal system, and the emergency equipment cooling water system. These systems are essential for mitigating the consequences of an accident and safe shutdown of the facility. In accordance with the Enforcement Policy, a base civil penalty in the amount of $50,000 is considered for a Severity Level III. Although application of the civil penalty assessment process would not result in a civil penalty in this case, the staff is exercising discretion in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy and is proposing a civil penalty of $50,000 for the Severity Level III violation. Discretion is being exercised because of the nonconservative operating philosophy exhibited during the event resulted in the increased duration of the problem and associated risks; and because the failure to promptly address a common cause failure mode for the ultimate heat sink service water pumps represents particularly poor licensee performance. (EN 96-029)

**Civil Penalty Paid**

Nebraska Public Power District (Cooper) paid the civil penalty in the amount of $50,000. This action was based on a change to the facility, which constituted an unreviewed safety question. Specifically, in 1985, the licensee modified the steam tunnel blowout panels, which operate to relieve pressure in the steam tunnel in the event of a main steam line break. The modification significantly altered the material characteristics of the blowout panels resulting in an unreviewed safety question. The violation is also based on the existence of this condition from 1985 until its discovery in November 1995. In determining the penalty, the licensee was not given credit for identification since the violations were discovered following questions raised by an NRC resident inspector. However, the licensee was given credit for its corrective actions once the problem was raised by the NRC. One other Severity Level III violation was identified. That violation involved a failure to electrically isolate the control circuitry for Diesel Generator 2 from the effects of a fire-induced cable fault created by a postulated fire in the control room. No civil penalty was assessed for this violation based on the fact that the licensee identified it and took appropriate corrective actions. (EA 96-062)

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ENCLOSURE M

Office of Public Affairs

Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 1996

**Media Interest**

Two reporters attended opening sessions of the ASLB hearing of the license renewal for the Georgia Tech reactor in Atlanta.

Five media representatives attended the regional administrator's press conference at WNP-2.

**School Volunteers Program**

Jessie Barnes, ADM, is hosting four students at NRC as part of Metro Mania, a work readiness program funded by the U. S. Congress. The students are from Anacostia's Public Service and Law, Justice, and Security Academies and Cardozo's TransTech Academy.

**Press Releases**

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| **Headquarters:** | |
| 96-72 | NRC Amends Regulations on Recordkeeping Requirements |
| 96-73 | Note to Editors: Letters to Northeast Utilities re: Millstone and Haddam Neck requesting information |
| 96-74 | NRC Staff Completes Survey of Refueling Practices at Nation's Nuclear Power Plants |
| **Regions:** | |
| I-96-34 | NRC Staff Rates Pilgrim "Good" in Operations, Maintenance and Plant Support and "Excellent" in Engineering |
| III-96-19 | NRC Special Inspection Team to Present Findings of Review of May 15 Shutdown at Dresden Nuclear Plant |
| III-96-20 | NRC Staff Proposes $50,000 Fine Against Detroit Edison Co. for Violation of NRC Requirements at Fermi 2 Nuclear Plant |
| IV-96-33 | NRC Sends Augmented Inspection Team to Arkansas Nuclear Following Reactor Trip |
| IV-96-34 | NRC Augmented Inspection Team Continues Work During ANO Unit 1 Restart |

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ENCLOSURE P

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 1996

**Connecticut Request for Meeting to Seek an Agreement with the NRC**

Region I was contacted by the Director, Radiation and Monitoring Division, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), requesting a second meeting with NRC to discuss Agreement State status. The first meeting was held in August 1995, for the Director and radiation control program staff, in which Region I and Office of State Programs members presented information to the State about the Agreement State program and the NRC process for Agreement State negotiation. The follow-up meeting was requested for upper-level State officials (DEP Commissioner staff, State legislators, and Governor's staff) who have expressed further interest in pursuing an Agreement with the NRC.

**New York City (NYC) budget proposal to eliminate Bureau of Radiological Health**

A presentation at the May 17, 1996, NYC Council budget hearing by the NYC Department of Health proposed to eliminate the Department's Bureau of Radiological Health. A decision on the proposal must be reached prior to the City's new fiscal year which begins July 1, 1996. If approved, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) would assume regulation of radiation control activities under the Bureau's jurisdiction. State representatives reported to NRC that plans were being discussed among NYSDOH officials to take over Bureau activities should the City budget be approved.

**Visit to Region I by Visitor from Slovakia**

Peter Vrabcek from Slovakia will be visiting Region I from May 27-May 31. Mr. Vrabcek is a specialist with the Nuclear Regulatory Authority in Bratislava, Slovakia. In this position, he is working with licensing of radioactive sources. During his visit to Region I, he will meet with regional management and staff and accompany regional inspectors during inspections of byproduct materials licensees.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 1996

**Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech)**

During the week of May 20-24, 1996, the Georgia Tech license renewal hearings were held at the Federal Trade Commission Building in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Virginia Electric and Power Company - Surry**

On May 21, 1996, representatives of the Virginia Electric and Power Company were in the Region II Office to present a self-assessment of the operation of their Surry facility.

**Carolina Power and Light Company - Brunswick**

On May 21, 1996, the Regional State Liaison Officer participated as a member of the Regional Assistance Committee in

the full scale Brunswick nuclear exercise which involved officials of the State of North Carolina and applicable local governments.

**Alabama Power Company - Farley**

On May 22, 1996, representatives of the Alabama Power Company were in the Region II Office to attend an Open Enforcement Conference regarding their Farley facility.

**Tennessee Valley Authority - Watts Bar**

On May 14, 1996, the shutdown from outside the main control room test was completed and the plant went into a four day outage following the shutdown.

Critical operation was resumed on May 19, 1996. Reactor power is currently at the 100% level and will remain at this level for the 300 hour warranty run. The main steam moisture carryover test is planned for next week.

**Tennessee Valley Authority - Browns Ferry**

On May 23, 1996, at 2:25 a.m., CDT, a fire was identified in the No. 3 condenser circulating water cooling tower at Browns Ferry. Browns Ferry fire protection personnel and local fire departments responded. The entire wooden structure, except for a small portion at the west end was destroyed. No personnel were injured. The towers are non-safety related and are located outside the protected area fence a short distance from the plant. None of the cooling towers were in service at the time and plant operation was not affected.

The senior resident inspector responded to the site, and to media interest due to the fire. The licensee conducted a press conference, and issued a press release. The licensee is investigating the cause of the fire.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region III
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 1996

**AIT Completes Onsite Review at Dresden 3**

An Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) completed its onsite review of the Dresden, Unit 3 reactor scram which occurred May 15, 1996. The scram was caused by the failure of a feedwater regulator valve, which closed and shut off the flow of feedwater to the reactor. A second feedwater regulator valve had been closed since April 28, 1996, because of leakage. The AIT concluded that the station's backlog of corrective maintenance and equipment modifications was a contributing cause to the event. The plant staff responded well to the event, although weaknesses were identified in plant procedures. The AIT met with Commonwealth Edison Co. management on May 23, 1996, to review the preliminary inspection findings. The Regional Administrator and others Region III staff members also attended the meeting.

**Fermi 2 SALP Meeting**

The Regional Administrator and other members of the regional and headquarters staffs met May 21, 1996, in Monroe, Michigan, with representatives of Detroit Edison Co. to discuss the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) report for the Fermi, Unit 2 Nuclear Power Station.

**Meeting with Prairie Island Dakota Tribal Council**

On May 23, 1996, staff members from Region III and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards participated in a meeting with the Prairie Island Dakota Tribal Council. The tribal council continues to seek signatures from federal agencies on a Memorandum of Understanding related to health and environmental concerns of the Prairie Island Dakota Community. The NRC representatives discussed dry cask storage issues for the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Station, the offsite spent fuel storage facility licensing process, and NRC regulations and standards. Also attending the meeting were representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U. S. Geologic Survey, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Indian Health Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Corps of Engineers.

**Loss of Offsite Power at Byron, Unit 1 and Manual Reactor Trip at Byron, Unit 2**

On May 23, 1996, a station auxiliary transformer failed at Unit 1 of the Byron Nuclear Power Station, causing the loss of all offsite power. The transformer failure may have been caused by a nearby lightning strike. Unit 1 was shut down for refueling at the time. The emergency diesel generators started and supplied power to plant safety systems until offsite power was restored on May 24, 1996. The power loss also affected Unit 2, which was operating at 100 percent power. The Unit 1 transformer was supplying power to the Unit 2 nonessential service water system which provides cooling water for the turbine and other Unit 2 equipment. With the loss of the service water system, reactor operators manually tripped the reactor, according to procedures. All plant safety systems functioned properly during the shutdown.

**Predecisional Enforcement Conference with Toledo Edison Co.**

On May 23, 1996, the Region III staff met with representatives of Toledo Edison Co. for a predecisional enforcement conference on inspection findings related to a High Pressure Injection System operability issue at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station.

**Meeting with Licensee on Point Beach FSAR Update**

On May 24, 1996 members of the Region III staff met in the regional office with representatives of Wisconsin Electric Power Co. to discuss the updated Final Safety Analysis Report for the Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant.

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ENCLOSURE P

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending May 24, 1996

**Arkansas Nuclear One Integrated Performance Assessment Process Exit Meeting**

An exit meeting for the Integrated Performance Assessment Process (IPAP) inspection at Arkansas Nuclear One was conducted on Wednesday, May 22, 1996. Although the meeting was open to the public, there was no public attendance at this exit meeting. In addition to licensee attendees, the meeting was attended by the Region IV Director, Division of Reactor Projects and the Chief, Engineering Branch, Division of Reactor Safety. The IPAP team recommended a reduced inspection effort in the Self Assessment/Corrective Action, Operations, Engineering, Maintenance, and Plant Support (which was limited to radiation protection as directed by the program office) areas.