INFORMATION REPORT

<u>June 10, 2005</u> <u>SECY-05-0103</u>

For: The Commissioners

From: William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /RA/

Subject: SECY-05-0103 - "WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK

ENDING MAY 27, 2005"

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^{*}No input this week.

/RA/

William M. Dean

Assistant for Operations, OEDO

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) Items of Interest Week Ending May 27, 2005

Visit to Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd. (AECL) Chalk River Laboratories

On May 19, 2005, NRR staff visited the AECL Chalk River National laboratory test facility in order to expand the staff's knowledge base for resolution of Generic Safety Issue (GSI) -191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on PWR [pressurized-water reactor] Sump Performance." The staff toured the AECL medium- and large-scale test facilities, including witnessing an inprogress full scale test of a thin bed of fiberglass and calcium silicate insulation debris being conducted for a Canadian Deuterium Uranium (CANDU) reactor sump flat plate strainer. The staff also visited the debris preparation facilities, and discussed AECL's tests and results. AECL's tests model a number of plant parameters including paint and coating debris, erosion, transport, and head loss. The staff reviewed numerous test reports and analyses during the visit. This testing was conducted for the CANDU Owners Group and is considered proprietary, however much of the testing was in areas directly related to the sump performance issue and in many cases expands the knowledge base available to the staff.

CRGR Briefing on Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Fire Protection Regulatory Guide

On May 24, 2005, NRR staff briefed the NRC's Committee to Review Generic Requirements (CRGR) regarding the staff's plan to issue a regulatory guide supporting the recently promulgated risk-informed, performance-based fire protection rule (10 CFR 50.48(c)). This rule incorporates by reference the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 805, "Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants, 2001 Edition" (NFPA 805), as an alternative to the existing, deterministic requirements specified in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R. The proposed regulatory guide endorses Nuclear Energy Institute Guidance 04-02, "Guidance for Implementing a Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Fire Protection Program under 10 CFR 50.48(c)." The staff had previously issued the draft regulatory guide for comment, and have addressed the comments received.

Residual Stress Improvement by Water Jet Peening and Laser Peening on Japanese Reactors

Division of Engineering and Division of Systems, Safety, and Analysis staff participated in a bilateral meeting with members of the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES) on May 13, 2005, where JNES discussed Japanese nuclear plant experience regarding residual stress improvement in Alloy 600 components using water jet peening and laser peening. Water jet peening has been used in the Japanese pressurized water reactors since 2001 on Alloy 600 bottom mounted instrumentation penetrations. In addition, laser jet peening was performed on the bottom mounted penetrations and reactor vessel nozzles (inlet nozzle and core deluge line nozzles) at Ikata Unit 1. Laboratory data produced in Japan suggests a reduction in stress corrosion cracking susceptibility in materials treated with the stress improvement process. JNES expects that these treatments will have to be repeated in the future at some interval to maintain the effectiveness of the treatment, because of the stress relaxation expected at operating temperatures over time.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) Items of Interest Week Ending May 27, 2005

Quarterly Management Meeting with Louisiana Energy Services

On May 18, 2005, staff from the Divisions of Waste Management and Environmental Protection and Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards met with management representatives from Louisiana Energy Services (LES), to discuss the status of the licensing review and Environmental Impact Statement preparation related to the uranium enrichment facility proposed to be located in Eunice, New Mexico. The Safety Evaluation Report and Environmental Impact Statement are scheduled to be issued in June 2005.

NRC Involvement at the Idaho National Laboratory (Waste Incidental-to-Reprocessing)

On May 19, 2005, staff from the Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection met with representatives of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and the Department of Energy (DOE) to discuss respective roles and responsibilities with regard to DOE waste determinations at the Idaho National Laboratory, under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2005. Topics discussed included agency processes, schedules, and possible future interactions with the State and DOE.

<u>Technical Exchange on Yucca Mountain Project Performance Indicators and Safety-Conscious</u> Work Environment

On May 19, 2005, staff from NRC and the Department of Energy (DOE) held a Technical Exchange in Las Vegas, Nevada. NRC Headquarters staff and Center for Nuclear Regulatory Analyses staff participated via video conference. The technical exchange was open to the public and allowed DOE to present its revised Performance Indicators for the Yucca Mountain Project and the results of its most recent Safety-Conscious Work Environment (SCWE) survey. DOE staff discussed the basis for the Project's new set of Performance Indicators including those for human performance. DOE also presented a summary and analysis of the results from its latest SCWE survey, taken in the fall of 2004.

Public Workshop on Draft Guidance on Minimum Margin of Subcriticality

On May 20, 2005, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, the Spent Fuel Project Office, and the Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety participated in a public workshop with the nuclear industry and interested stakeholders on draft Interim Staff Guidance (ISG) document ISG-10, "Justification for Minimum Margin of Subcriticality for Safety." Other stakeholders included representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute, the Department of Energy, Naval Reactors, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the American Nuclear Society Standards Committee, and the Japanese Nuclear Energy Safety Organization. The staff presented an overview of the purpose and intent of ISG-10, followed by an industry presentation on its key concerns. This was followed by a detailed discussion of the various technical topics presented in the ISG.

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Westinghouse Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility - Reportable Event

On May 21, 2005, Westinghouse Electric Company reported the occurrence of an event that was considered in the Integrated Safety Analysis and was deemed not credible. The event involved the unanticipated accumulation of special nuclear material (SNM) in a heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning-recirculation filter housing at the Westinghouse Electric Company's fuel fabrication facility in Columbia, South Carolina. The ventilation system was originally analyzed with the belief that it served hoods where only sintered pellets and encapsulated SNM were processed. However, one station that produces uranium oxide powder was found to be served by the same ventilation system, and this is believed to have led to the material accumulation. The licensee's immediate corrective actions included shutting down the affected ventilation system and performing a causal analysis. The results of the licensee's causal analysis and corrective actions to prevent recurrence will be reviewed by the staff during a future inspection.

Termination of Trojan Nuclear Power Plant License (Possession-only)

On May 23, 2005, NRC staff terminated the Trojan Nuclear Plant's (TNP's) 10 CFR Part 50 Facility Operating (Possession-Only) License, No. NPF-1. This action does not affect TNP's 10 CFR Part 72 Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation license. The TNP facility is located in Columbia County, Oregon, approximately 42 miles north of Portland, Oregon. TNP began commercial operation in May 1976 and was permanently shut down on November 9, 1992. The licensee, Portland General Electric, submitted an application for termination of the TNP Facility Operating (Possession-Only) License, No. NPF-1, on December 20, 2004, and conducted decommissioning activities at TNP in accordance with its NRC-approved License Termination Plan (LTP), from February 2001 to December 2004. In accordance with the approved LTP, the facility and site were decontaminated and decommissioned to meet the criteria for unrestricted release, in accordance with 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E. After reviewing the Final Status Survey Reports submitted by the licensee and after conducting inspections, the staff concluded that the facility and site have met the criteria for decommissioning.

NRC Staff Visits La Hague Spent Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Facility in France

On May 23-25, 2005, Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety staff met with members of Direction Générale de Sûreté Nucléaire et de la Radioprotection and visited the La Hague reprocessing facility in Cherbourg, France. The spent nuclear fuel- handling facilities at this site are anticipated to be similar to facilities that may be proposed for the potential geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. This visit allowed staff to obtain first-hand knowledge of the potential risks associated with the facilities.

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NRC Participation in FEDRAD 2005

On May 24-26, 2005, NRC staff participated in the 1st Annual Department of Energy (DOE)/Department of Defense (DOD) Waste Generators Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. The conference, which has been held annually for the past 15 years, was previously limited to DOD waste generators only, and was expanded to include DOE waste generators this year. NRC staff participated in a panel with the Government Accountability Office and Environmental Protection Agency on the status of low-level radioactive waste in the U.S. Staff provided an overview of NRC's activities in this area.

Meeting with Progress Energy to Discuss Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation Loading Plans

On May 25, 2005, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office met with representatives of Progress Energy, who gave an overview of the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) project at the H.B. Robinson (HBR) plant. HBR is planning to employ the Transnuclear NUHOMS-24PTH canister-based storage system under the general licensing provisions of 10 CFR Part 72. To support the ISFSI operation, Progress Energy has submitted separate Part 72 and 10 CFR Part 50 exemption requests, related to cask lift height restrictions and the 10 CFR 50.68 criticality-monitoring system requirements, respectively. Also, the HBR outage schedule necessitates fuel loading in late summer, and is dependent on issuance of the NUHOMS Amendment 8 final rulemaking.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) Items of Interest Week Ending May 27, 2005

13th International Conference on Nuclear Engineering

On May 16-20, 2005, RES staff attended the 13th International Conference on Nuclear Engineering held in Beijing, China. At this Conference, staff presented the results of the confirmatory integral testing sponsored by the NRC to support AP1000 design certification. In addition, staff attended sessions on two-phase flow fundamentals, light water reactor thermal-hydraulics, new reactor deployment, and gas-cooled reactor technologies. Staff will apply the information and insights gained during this conference to directly support ongoing activities related to the European Pressurized Reactor (EPR) and Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) pre-application discussions, TRACE thermal-hydraulics code development activities, and high temperature gas-cooled reactor (HTGR) knowledge management.

MELCOR Code Assessment and Analyses Supporting the Economic and Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR)

On May 24-25, 2005, RES staff held a two-day internal meeting to review the status and coordinate ongoing work related to MELCOR code assessment and analyses supporting the Economic and Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) design certification. Staff and contractors presented information on the assessment of the MELCOR code against test data relevant to ESBWR-unique safety system performance and interactions in a loss-of-coolant accident. The information presented indicates that the MELCOR code is robust/numerically stable and fast running. Strengths and limitations of the code were also identified. Staff discussed future, planned activities for using MELCOR for ESBWR applications, and how these activities would be coordinated with, and complement, the application of other thermal-hydraulics codes (e.g., TRACE) to the ESBWR review. The meeting was attended by RES and NRR staff, and contractors from Sandia National Laboratories and Purdue University.

Also on May 25, 2005, Sandia National Laboratories released a new version of the MELCOR computer code for severe accident analysis to RES. The major improvement of this version of MELCOR over the previous version is the modeling of convecting molten corium pool both within the core as well as in the lower head of the reactor pressure vessel (i.e., TMI-2 like behavior). These improvements will allow a more realistic prediction of the location of the failure in the lower head of the reactor pressure vessel.

International Collaborative Fire Modeling Project (ICFMP) Meeting

On May 18-20, 2005, the 9th meeting of the International Collaborative Fire Modeling Project (ICFMP) was hosted by Duke Energy at the McGuire Nuclear Power Plant. The ICFMP was started in 1999 as a joint collaborative effort between the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the NRC, and is supported by international partners. The meeting was attended by representatives from Germany, France, Finland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Discussions focused on completing calculations associated with cable tray fires, kerosene pool fires, and cable flame spread benchmark exercises. The international bench

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marking effort is intended to assist in verifying the applicability of various fire modeling methods. This information supports the development of guidance documents for risk-informed, performance-based fire protection programs. A final report on the bench marking effort is expected to be issued in 2006.

<u>Public Meeting Between NRC and NEI on Seismic Issues Associated with New Reactor Licensing</u>

On May 25, 2005, staff members from RES and the Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards held a public meeting at NRC Headquarters with representatives from Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) regarding the subject issue. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss industry's resolution plan for new plant seismic issues, approach for addressing high frequency issues, seismic hazard improvement tasks, revisions to Regulatory Guide 1.165, "Identification and Characterization of Seismic Sources and Determination of Safe Shutdown Earthquake Ground Motion," issued in March 1997, and industry/NRC interactions.

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Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) Items of Interest Week Ending May 27, 2005

Public Meeting on National Response Plan and National Incident Management System

On May 26, 2005, NSIR hosted a public meeting at NRC Headquarters on NRC's role in the National Response Plan (NRP) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Attendees represented the Nuclear Energy Institute, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Bechtel Corporation. This meeting was the last of a series of meetings hosted by NSIR on the NRP and NIMS. These outreach opportunities have spanned the past year and a half, and have served to describe NRC's role in the NRP and NIMS, as they were developed and implemented.

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Office of Administration (ADM) Items of Interest Week Ending May 27, 2005

<u>Direct Final Rule - List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Standardized NUHOMS -24P, -</u>52B, -61BT, -32PT, -24PHB, and -24PTH Revision (Amendment 8) (AH72- Part 72)

On May 25, 2005, the NRC published the subject rule in the Federal Register (70 FR 29931). This action modifies the cask design to add a new spent fuel storage and transfer system. The direct final rule becomes effective August 8, 2005. The NRC also published the companion proposed rule to this direct final rule in the Federal Register (70 FR 30015) on May 25, 2005. The comment period closes June 24, 2005.

Export and Import of Nuclear Equipment and Material; Exports to Syria Embargoed (AH67 - Part 110)

On May 25, 2005, the NRC published a final rule in the Federal Register (70 FR 29934) that removes Syria from the list of restricted destinations and adds it to the list of embargoed destinations. This action conforms the regulations to U.S. law and foreign policy. The final rule became effective May 25, 2005.

Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for FY 2005 (AH61 - Parts 170 and 171)

On May 26, 2005, a final rule that amends the licensing, inspection, and annual fees charged to the Commission's applicants and licensees was published in the Federal Register (70 FR 30526). The final rule ensures compliance with the Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act of 1990, as amended. The Act mandates that the NRC recover approximately 90 percent of its budget authority in Fiscal Year 2005 through fees, less amounts appropriated from the Nuclear Waste Fund. The amount to be recovered for FY 2005 is approximately \$540.7 million. The final rule becomes effective July 25, 2005.

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Office of Information Services (OIS) Items of Interest Week Ending May 27, 2005

<u>Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests Received During the Period of May 20 through May 26, 2005</u>:

Nuclear Power Reactor Safety in the Newly Independent States (NIS) (Referral by George Bush Library)	FOIA/PA-2005-0239
Queen's Hospital, Hawaii, docket No. 30-14520, document related to an Enforcement Conference, accession No. 9401250204, fiche address 77879, frames 173-211	FOIA/PA-2005-0240
Mailing list on CD ROM	FOIA/PA-2005-0241
Response Technical Manual, NUREG/BR-0150	FOIA/PA-2005-0242
Investigation on named individual, all records	FOIA/PA-2005-0243
Enforcement Action EA-96-116 & associated documents, how information was disseminated	FOIA/PA-2005-0244
Agency officials, HR employees re: complaint, dates of discussions, etc.	FOIA/PA-2005-0245

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Office of Human Resources (HR) Items of Interest Week Ending May 27, 2005

Arrivals		
Peter Appignani	Reliability & Risk Analyst	RES
Tison Campbell	Student Law Clerk (Summer)	OGC
John G. Cassidy	Radiation Specialist	R-III
La'Toya Cooper	Student Clerk (Summer)	NMSS
Jonathan Dykes	Student Engineer (Summer)	OIG
Candice Griffith	Student Engineer (Summer)	RES
Del Anthony Harrison	Reactor Inspector	NRR
Vanessa Hubbard	Student Management Analyst (Co-Op)	CFO
Wanda Martin	Human Resources Assistant	R-IV
Jason Paige	Student Engineer (Summer)	NRR
Nicole Pitts	Student Administrative (Summer)	OIG
Michael Polishak	Reactor Inspector	R-IV
Blake A. Purnell	General Scientist (NSPDP)	NMSS
Sujit Samaddar	Structural Engineer	NRR
Jeffrey Seifried	Student Engineer (Co-Op)	NMSS
Meghan Slattery	Student Administrative (Summer)	NSIR
Katherine Strong	Student Law Clerk (Summer)	OGC
Jennifer Tobin	Health Physicist(NSPDP)	STP
Brenett Warren	Secretary (OA)	NSIR
Stacey Mae Wilson	Student Engineer (Summer) NRR	
DeAnna Yu	Student Clerk (Summer) ADM	
Departures		
Joel J. Klein	General Engineer NMSS	
Amy Roma	Legal Intern	ASLBP

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Office of Public Affairs (OPA) Items of Interest Week Ending May 27, 2005

The Office of Public Affairs (OPA) received significant media inquiries on the following:

The termination of the NRC's Special Oversight Panel for Davis-Besse.

The degraded security fence system at Seabrook.

The NRC's Atomic Safety Licensing Board (ASLB) decision to reject Utah's appeal of the February decision on the proposed Private Fuel Storage facility.

Questions from Vermont news outlets about the ASLB decision and dry-cask storage at Vermont-Yankee.

Lack of regulatory requirement for back up power for emergency sirens.

Other Public Affairs Items:

OPA assisted at two Congressional Hearings.

A profile of Chairman Diaz appeared in Thursday's edition of <u>The Hill</u>, prior to the Chairman's testimony before the Senate.

Press Releases			
Headquarters:			
05-082	NRC Ends License for Trojan, Releases Site for Unrestricted Use (5/23)		
05-083	NRC Licensing Board Denies the State of Utah's Motion For Reconsideration of the Board's Final Partial Initial Decision Approving the PFS Application (5/24)		
05-084	NRC ACRS to Meet June 1-3 in Rockville (5/25)		
05-085	NRC Publishes Licensing Inspection and Annual Fees for Fiscal Year 2005 (5/26)		
Regions:			
III-05-029	NRC to Discuss Preliminary Results of an In-Depth Inspection at Perry Nuclear Power Plant (5/23)		
IV-05-023	NRC to Hold Conference with Arizona Public Service Co. for Palo Verde (5/26)		

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Office of the Secretary (SECY) Items of Interest Week Ending May 27, 2005

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Decision Documents		
Commission Voting Record on SECY-05-0061	5/25/05	Final Rule to Amend 10 CFR Part 9, Subpart A, "Freedom of Information Act Regulations," and Subpart B, "Privacy Act Regulations"
Information Papers		
1. SECY-05-0095	5/26/05	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending May 13, 2005
Memoranda		
1. M050525A	5/25/05	Staff Requirements-Affirmation Session: I. SECY-05-0061 - Final Rule to Amend 10 CFR Part 9, Subpart A, "Freedom of Information Act Regulations," and Subpart B, "Privacy Act Regulations"

Commission Correspondence

- Letter to Congressman Edward J. Markey, dated May 18, 2005, provides follow-up on the March 17, 2005, letter concerning the two radioactive sources imported from Russia by Halliburton Energy Services.
- 2. Letter to Congressman Edward J. Markey, dated May 19, 2005, responds to concerns about an application by Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company (CYAPCO) to NRC on disposal of radioactive demolition debris from the decommissioning of CYAPCO's Haddam Neck plant.
- 3. Letter to Congress (Sen. Jeffords, Sen. Leahy, Rep. Sanders, and Rep. Olver), dated May 19, 2005, responds to letter urging the NRC to implement recommendations of GAO report "NRC Needs to Do More to Ensure that Power Plants are Effectively Controlling Spent Nuclear Fuel."
- 4. Letter to Ambassador Linton F. Brooks, DOE, dated May 24, 2005, concerns U.S. Government position on international safety and security of radioactive material within the context of the IAEA Code of Conduct for the Safety and Security of Radioactive Materials.

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Federal Register Notices Issued

- 1. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board ORDER, In the Matter of U.S. Department of Energy (High Level Waste Repository: Pre-Application Matters), Docket No. PAPO-00, ASLBP No. 04-829-01-PAPO, May 23, 2005.
- 2. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Meeting of the Subcommittee on Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems, notice of meeting (6/14-15/05).
- 3. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Joint Meeting of the Subcommittees on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment and on Plant Operations, notice of meeting (6/15/05).
- 4. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, Meeting on Planning and Procedures, notice of meeting (6/16/05).
- 5. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, notice of 160th meeting (6/15-17/05).

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Region II (RII) Items of Interest Week Ending May 27, 2005

Emergency Exercise - Honeywell International Fuel Production/Conversion Facility

On May 24, 2005, the agency participated in an emergency exercise involving a fuel production/conversion facility located in Metropolis, Illinois. NRC's headquarters and Region II participated with Commissioner Jaczko as the NRC's Executive Team Director and the Regional Administrator as the Region II Site Team Director.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Operational Safety Assessment Review Team (OSART) Exit Meeting

On May 25, the Deputy Regional Administrator attended the IAEA's OSART exit meeting held at the Brunswick Nuclear Plant in North Carolina.

On May 26, 2005, the Director, Division of Nuclear Installation Safety for the IAEA, Chief, Operational Safety Section (and a previous Chairman of the Slovakian Regulatory Authority) and Team Leader for the Brunswick OSART gave a presentation to the regional staff on the IAEA's OSART process.

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Region IV (RIV) Items of Interest Week Ending May 27, 2005

Resident Inspector Counterpart Meeting

On May 24-26, 2005, Region IV held its semiannual Resident Inspector Counterpart meeting in the Region IV offices. In addition to resident inspectors and regional personnel, attendees included representatives from the nuclear regulatory agencies in Mexico (CNSNS) and Sweden (SKI). The CNSNS participation in this meeting is part of the NRC-CNSNS continued cooperation in nuclear safety and reactor oversight.

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Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA) Items of Interest Week Ending May 27, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 21					
OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Shane	06/08/05 SD-406	ТВА	Markup	S. 858, Nuclear Fees Reauthorization, S. 865, Price Anderson Amendments Act, S. 864, Nuclear Safety and Security Act	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works
Madden	06/23/05 or 06/30/05 SD-406 Tentative	ТВА	NRC	NRC Budget	Senators Voinovich/Carper Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Environment and Public Works
Madden	TBA SD-562	ТВА	OMB, GAO	Accountability and Results in Federal Budgeting	Senators Coburn/Carper Federal Financial Management, Government Information and International Security Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Combs	TBA SD-366	ТВА	DOE, NRC	Status of Yucca Mountain	Senators Domenici/Bingaman Energy and Natural Resources
Combs	April 13 2247 RHOB Postponed	10:00	ТВА	Yucca Mountain Project: Digging for the Truth	Reps Porter/Davis Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Government Reform

The Senate and House of Representatives are in the Memorial Day recess. The Senate reconvenes on June 6 and House reconvenes on June 7.

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