

September 25, 1997

SECY 97-215

For: The Commissioners

From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of
the EDO

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER
19, 1997

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*No input this week.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 1997

Crystal River 3 Restart Progress

Florida Power Corporation (FPC) continues to maintain its target for completing the corrective actions and restarting the facility by December 1997. FPC continues to have 27 remaining licensing submittals that will require NRC approval prior to restart in December 1997. Six licensing submittals have been approved to date.

As part of the emergency diesel generator (EDG) upgrades, the licensee is replacing the radiator. The radiator replacement on the "A" EDG commenced on August 1, 1997, and is expected to be completed this week. The licensee is making a determination whether the radiator modification would be considered as a major modification such that a EDG load qualification test is required in accordance with IEEE 387 standard, before declaring the EDG operable. Thirty cold starts and associated loading are to be run to conform with the IEEE guidance.

The Crystal River Restart Panel meets monthly with FPC. The meetings are intended to monitor the licensee's corrective actions, and progress toward meeting the schedules for submittals. The next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 1997 at the Crystal River 3 site. Both the Project Manager and the Project Director plan to attend the meeting.

Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 and 2

On September 10, 1997, PECO Energy announced a joint venture with British Energy to pursue investment in U.S. nuclear plants. The name of the new entity is AmerGen Energy Company. The announcement was made by Dickinson M. Smith, president of PECO Nuclear and Robin Jeffrey, deputy chairman of British Energy, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. AmerGen intends to acquire nuclear assets that will yield superior economic returns. Mr. Smith said "[this will be accomplished by] significantly reducing plant operating costs through consolidation of station

support functions and achieving economies of scale, and also through training of plant personnel in process improvements and in PECO Energy/British Energy operating cultures and values." Further, Dr. Jeffrey stated "[that AmerGen will be in a] unique position to address the opportunities arising as the U.S. market is restructured and deregulated."

Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2

Salem Unit 2 reached 75% power on September 16, 1997. Problems have been resolved on the Steam Generator Feedwater Pump. The pressurizer level indication system has been repaired and was declared operable on September 17, 1997. The plant is expected to reach 90% power, which is the next and last hold point, on September 22, 1997. The Salem Assessment Panel will meet on September 22, 1997, to assess plant performance and make its recommendation to the Regional Administrator regarding operation above 90% power.

Observation of National Nuclear Accrediting Board Meeting

On September 17 - 18, 1997, Richard Pelton of the Human Factors Assessment Branch (HHFB), observed the September meeting of the National Nuclear Accrediting Board at the Institute of Nuclear Power Operation's (INPO's) offices in Atlanta, Georgia. During the meeting, the Board reviewed selected utilities' training programs for renewal of accreditation. Observation of these meetings is one of the ways in which the NRC monitors the industry's performance in implementing the NRC's training requirements in 10 CFR 55 and 10 CFR 50.120.

Farley Unit 1

The Southern Nuclear Operating Company, the licensee for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant - Unit 1 (Farley-1), recently submitted its 90-day steam generator (SG) tube eddy current inspection report in accordance with the guidance of Generic Letter (GL) 95-05, "Voltage-Based Repair Criteria for the Repair of Westinghouse Steam Generator Tubes Affected by Outside Diameter Stress Corrosion Cracking." The 90-day report provides

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ENCLOSURE A

a projection for conditional main steam line break (MSLB) leakage and probability of burst for tubes in service with outside diameter stress corrosion cracking (ODSCC) indications located at the tube support plates (TSPs). Using the currently approved methodology for such projections, the licensee estimated the conditional MSLB leakage to be 15.7 gpm at the end-of-cycle (EOC) 15. The site-allowable leakage limit at Farley-1 is 13.7 gpm. The licensee estimated the limit would be reached at approximately 305 effective full power days (EFPD).

At the EOC-14, the licensee pulled an SG tube with an ODSCC indication with a large bobbin coil voltage for subsequent burst and leakage testing. With the addition of the burst and leakage values for this particular tube into the current database licensees use in their projections discussed above, the Farley-1 projections for the conditional MSLB leakage at the EOC-15 change from 15.7 gpm to 20.4 gpm.

In response, the licensee for Farley-1 placed an administrative limit on the reactor coolant system dose equivalent iodine (DEI) level of 0.13 microcuries/gram (the current technical specification limit is 0.3 microcuries/gram). This new limit ensures the dose consequences due to leakage through SG tube ODSCC indications during an MSLB event will not exceed the licensing basis for the facility. Southern Nuclear submitted a Technical Specification (TS) amendment request on September 17 to formally modify the TS to the new lower limit.

The staff will pursue this issue generically with other plants that implement similar voltage-based SG tube repair criteria.

Peach Bottom NPSH

On Monday September 15, 1997, members of the Reactor Systems Branch and Containment Systems Branch met with representatives of Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station (PBAPS) to discuss the PBAPS, emergency core cooling system (ECCS), net positive suction head (NPSH) calculations. During the meeting, the staff stressed the importance of installing the new larger strainers in the Peach Bottom Unit 3 torus during the upcoming outage starting on October 4, 1997. While reviewing the licensee's new strainer

modification, the staff questioned the NPSH licensing basis. PBAPS believes that they have credit for approximately 9 psig of containment overpressure for the long term following a design-basis accident recirculation LOCA. This assumption is based on staff rerate SERs dated October 18, 1994, and July 18, 1995. The current NPSH calculations are based on the peak containment analysis response calculation without accounting for operator use of containment sprays. PBAPS has agreed to evaluate the feasibility of performing a minimum containment pressure calculation including a time dependant NPSH calculation, taking into account the effects of containment sprays. This information is required to determine the minimum containment pressure available, the containment pressure required for required NPSH, and the time post-LOCA that containment overpressure is required. Peach Bottom proposed to inform the staff of their completion schedule by September 26, 1997.

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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
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Renewal of License SMB-743 for Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation

Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) staff has completed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for renewal of license SMB-743 for the Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corporation (SMC) site in Newfield, New Jersey. On September 16, 1997, a Finding of No Significant Impact was signed and sent to the Federal Register for publication. This site processes pyrochlore, a concentrated ore containing columbium (also known as niobium), to produce specialty alloys, slag fluidizers and other products for the steel industry. The processing produces rock-like slag and baghouse dust, both of which contain uranium and thorium and are stored on-site. Past and current public doses as a result of operations are minimal, although there is some off-site contamination. Continued operation of the site would not significantly increase the doses or the off-site contamination. Therefore, the EA determined that there would be no significant environmental or public health impact from renewal of the license.

The SMC site is listed on NRC's Site Decommissioning Management Plan because of the large volumes of contaminated slag and baghouse dust on-site that have been difficult to dispose of in accordance with existing regulations. On July 1, 1997, NRC published an opportunity for a hearing on the proposed license renewal [62 FR 35531]. No requests were received, and the FCSS staff intends to issue the license renewal by the end of September.

Implementation of International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards in the U. S.

On September 15, 1997, the Subgroup on International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards in the U. S. met at Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters to discuss the current status of IAEA safeguards efforts at Department of Energy and NRC-

licensed facilities. Topics of particular interest included the IAEA decision to conduct a verification of the high-enriched uranium (HEU) downblending activities at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP), and the culmination of IAEA inspection activities on the Project Sapphire Phase I HEU downblending at the Babcock and Wilcox facility in Lynchburg, Virginia.

As part of the PGDP exercise, the IAEA will install measurement and containment/surveillance equipment to verify that the HEU introduced to the cascade is, in fact, downblended. The exercise will be funded by the U.S. and is projected to be completed by the last quarter of 1998. With respect to Project Sapphire, the IAEA will perform its final Phase I inspection in October 1997. This inspection will include verification of the residual low-enriched uranium (LEU) from system cleanout, reverification of LEU product on hand, and removal of IAEA equipment. There is currently no decision on whether the IAEA will apply safeguards to Phase II activities in 1999.

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant Emergency Drill

On September 12, 1997, the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant conducted a successful emergency response exercise. Participants included the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy, the U.S. Enrichment Corporation, Pike County, Ohio, and the State of Ohio. As part of the drill, the NRC Emergency Response Center and Region III were activated and fully staffed to execute NRC internal response procedures. Senior NRC management, including Commissioner Dicus and the Executive Director for Operations, participated in the exercise.

Magnitude 4.0 Earthquake Felt at Yucca Mountain Field Office

At 6:36 a.m., September 12, 1997, a magnitude 4.0 earthquake occurred at the Nevada Test Site, about 8 km NNE of the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Yucca Mountain Field Office in Nevada. DOE personnel on duty felt the event, but no damage was reported there, or at the site of the Exploratory Studies Facility in Yucca Mountain. The focus of the earthquake was at a depth of about 10 km, in the Calico Hills, NE of Yucca Mountain. An earthquake of this magnitude is not unexpected at the site. A

Nuclear Regulatory Commission On-site Representative, notified by DOE, in turn notified NRC Headquarters staff of the event.

The event was recorded by most stations in the continuously-monitoring seismic network. The network director indicated that the aftershocks, the largest being magnitude 3, were unusual in that they occurred as a short-lived swarm, as compared to previous events of similar size in the region. This event is within the boundaries of seismic models under consideration by DOE's Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis expert elicitation program, and is well below the proposed design basis seismic event. Based on the response to this event, DOE's notification process, seismic monitoring and supporting technical activities continue to be adequate.

Licensing of Uranium Mill Tailings Disposal Sites

On September 12 and 16, 1997, respectively, staff of the Division of Waste Management accepted the Department of Energy (DOE) Long-Term Surveillance Plans (LTSPs) for the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 (UMTRCA) Title I sites at Gunnison, Colorado, and Mexican Hat, Utah. In doing so, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff determined that each final LTSP satisfied the requirements set forth in UMTRCA for long-term surveillance of a disposal site, as well as all requirements in 10 CFR Part 40.27 for an LTSP. This action places the Gunnison and Mexican Hat sites under general license in 10 CFR 40.27. With this action, 11 of the 18 Title I sites to be licensed by the October 1998 statutory end of the Title I surface program have been licensed. In accordance with DOE's guidance document for long-term surveillance, all further NRC/DOE interaction on the long-term care of the Gunnison and Mexican Hat sites will be conducted through DOE's Grand Junction, Colorado, Office.

Briefing by Department of Energy on Satellite Tracking of Spent Fuel Shipments

On September 16, 1997, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Office of the General Counsel and Office of State Program staff were briefed by the Department of Energy (DOE) on TRANSCOM, a satellite tracking system developed to track DOE

radioactive material shipments. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff requested the briefing, because an NRC-licensed research reactor recently requested use of TRANSCOM to track its spent fuel shipments. The licensee made the request to use TRANSCOM in order to comply with specific State requirements.

The main purpose of the meeting was for NRC staff to gather information needed to determine whether mandatory use of TRANSCOM is compatible with NRC safeguards information protection requirements in 10 CFR Part 73, and with Department of Transportation (DOT) shipping requirements in 49 CFR. Currently, satellite tracking is not required by NRC or DOT regulations.

Meeting with Sandia on NUREG-0170

On September 17, 1997, Spent Fuel Project Office staff met with Sandia National Laboratory's Revalidation of NUREG-0170 Spent Fuel Transportation Risks Project Team to review progress and plans for the upcoming fiscal year. Sandia staff summarized their efforts in gathering spent fuel route, package and shipment data; described the latest version of their RADTRAN transportation risk assessment model, and explained the data sampling methodology to be used in their analysis plan. The Department of Transportation's Volpe Research Center is collaborating on this project, and their representative at the meeting described progress in providing route segment accident data for the nation's Class I rail network.

Consolidated Guidance about Materials Licenses

On September 17, 1997, a notice of availability of Draft NUREG-1556, Vol. 2 "Consolidated Guidance about Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance about Industrial Radiography Licenses," dated August 1997, was published in the Federal Register (62 FR 48904). There is a 90-day public comment period associated with the draft NUREG. This is the second program-specific guidance document developed as part of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's efforts to consolidate and update numerous guidance documents. The guidance was developed following procedures established in the redesigned materials

licensing process. The draft NUREG reflects the revision of 10 CFR Part 34 published in May 1997, and is intended for use by applicants, licensees, and NRC staff.

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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 1997

Meeting with EPRI on Cooperative Research

On September 18, 1997, members of the RES staff met with Robin Jones, VP - Nuclear Power, EPRI, to discuss a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cooperative research between NRC and EPRI. Such an MOU would benefit both organizations by leveraging funds, eliminating duplication, and having all the research data available to both organizations. Approximately 10 areas have been identified for cooperative research under this MOU, with efforts under way to initiate two of these (steam generator tube integrity and high burnup fuel).

Development of this MOU was started approximately 1 year ago and will support and be included in the response to the SRM on DSI-22 on cooperative research with industry.

Meeting with NEI on Risk-Informed Pilot Program

On September 17, 1997, members of the RES and NRR staff met with representatives of NEI, South Texas Project, Southern California Edison, and Arkansas Nuclear One to discuss a proposal for a risk-informed pilot program sent in by NEI in an August 21, 1997 letter to Ashok Thadani. This pilot would involve the three utilities mentioned above doing a full scope, Level 3 PRA and comparing the results to plant operating costs and regulatory requirements with the objective of identifying mismatches of risk versus requirements. Changes in requirements would then be requested.

The meeting focused on the initial steps of this program, which involve developing the process and criteria for identifying risk versus regulatory requirement mismatches and working on three plant-specific applications for changes to the current licensing basis as examples of the types of proposed changes that would result from the program.

In concept, the program looks worthwhile since, being the only full-scope integrated risk-informed look at a plant, it has the potential to identify broader areas for improvement than piecemeal application for plant-specific changes. We are currently assessing the resource implications and will respond in writing to NEI.

Draft Regulatory Guide Issued

Draft Regulatory Guide, "Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Standards for Decommissioning Cost Accounting," was issued on September 15, 1997.

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 1997

Protective Measures Team Meeting

On Tuesday, September 16, 1997, a meeting of the Protective Measures Team for Reactor Events (PMF-R) Directors, Deputy Directors, and Coordinators was held. The NRR and AEOD attendees discussed team staffing and areas in the procedures that need improvement. A revised PMF briefing format for the Executive Team was initiated and will be tested during the Nine Mile Exercise on September 24, 1997.

Portsmouth GDP Emergency Response Exercise

NRC Headquarters, Region III, EPA, and other Federal agencies participated in a full-scale exercise with the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (GDP) on September 12, 1997. Commission Dicus headed the Executive Team and Roy Caniano, Deputy Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety Region III, led the Base Team. A small Site Team composed of Region III, AEOD and EPA personnel led by Gary Shear, Chief Fuel Cycle Branch Region III was dispatched to the site. The Site Team demonstrated the initial Federal response. In addition, the Site Team conducted a brief table-top at the site to illustrate the first few days of the Federal response. Portsmouth GDP participated fully in the exercise and there was limited participation by State and local governments. Several very important milestones were passed during this exercise. This was the first full-scale exercise for this facility with the NRC as the Lead Federal Agency (LFA) under the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP). This was the first full-scale exercise using the newly expanded Fuel Cycle teams. This was the first time that NRC and EPA simulated the coordination of the Federal assistance to cope with the chemical aspects of the event under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or "Superfund"). This exercise will provide the basis for the development of NRC response structure for fuel cycle events and enhanced cooperation and coordination with EPA for events involving a chemical release.

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATIONS (PNs)

1. PNO-I-97-057, Baltimore Gas & Elec. Co. (Calvert Cliffs 1),
PLANNED OUTAGE EXCEEDING 72 HOURS
2. PNO-II-97-052, Tri-State Testing & Drilling Co.. STOLEN
MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE
3. PNO-III-97-070A, Rivervalley Local School District, BURIED
SOURCE OF RADIATION FOUND ON SCHOOL CAMPUS (UPDATE)
4. PNO-III-97-075A, Indiana Michigan Electric Co. (Cook 1 2),
DUAL UNIT SHUTDOWN TO ANALYZE POST-ACCIDENT WATER FLOW IN
RECIRCULATION COOLING MODE (UPDATE)
5. PNO-III-97-076, Mqs Inspection, Inc., INDUSTRIAL RADIOGRAPHY
EVENT
6. PNO-III-97-077, Iowa Electric Light & Power Co. (Duane
Arnold 1), PLANT SHUTDOWN TO REPAIR LEAK IN DRAIN LINE OFF
"A" MAIN STEAM LINE
7. PNO-IV-97-050, Pacific Gas & Electric Co. REACTOR CAISSON
LEAK REPAIRED
8. PNO-IV-97-051, Syncor International, RECEIPT OF CONTAMINATED
PACKAGES

**Office of Administration
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Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
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FOIA/PA Requests Received during the 5-Day Period of September 12-18, 1997:

Maine Yankee, OI reports 1-96-125 and 1-96-040. (FOIA/PA-97-348)

Office of Enforcement, first annual report. (FOIA/PA-97-349)

Senior Management Meeting, data file regarding plant discussions. (FOIA/PA-97-350)

OI report, violations alleged by named individual. (FOIA/PA-97-351)

PECO Energy Co., violations of NRC codes and regulations, same records responsive to FOIA/PA 97-321. (FOIA/PA-97-352)

North Korea, nuclear weapons violations since 7/27/53. (FOIA/PA-97-353)

Anadarko Dozer Services, license registration. (FOIA/PA-97-354)

Maine Yankee, OI reports 1-96-025 and 1-96-040. (FOIA/PA-97-355)

Record referral from Department of the Navy. (FOIA/PA-97-356)

Idaho State University non-power reactor. (FOIA/PA-97-357)

10 CFR Part 35, Medical Use of Byproduct Material, actual or proposed changes. (FOIA/PA-97-358)

American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, correspondence since 1994 between NRC and the society. (FOIA/PA-97-359)

OI report 3-96-054. (FOIA/PA-97-360)

Salem power plant, OI interview transcript. (FOIA/PA-97-361)

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**Chief Financial Officer
Items of Interest
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**Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
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Arrivals		
ERWIN, Kenneth	GENERAL ENGINEER (PFT)	NMSS
LAVIE, Stephen	HEALTH PHYSICIST (PFT)	NRR
WILLIAMS, Loretta	SECRETARY (0A) (OPFT)	RI I
Retirements		
None.		
Departures		
KANELLOS, Athamandis	SUMMER ADMIN INTERN (OPFT)	NMSS

Office of Small Business & Civil Rights
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**Office of Enforcement
Items of Interest
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**SEPTEMBER 19, 1997
ENCLOSURE K**

**Office of State Programs
Items of Interest
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**SEPTEMBER 19, 1997
ENCLOSURE L**

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 1997

Media Interest

The Christian Science Monitor will be publishing an article on decommissioning and deregulation of the nuclear industry.

Region I received a significant amount of press interest on the contamination at Haddam Neck.

School Volunteers Program

Jesse Arildsen, NRR, participated as a tutor/mentor in the College Bound program in Washington, D.C. He will be meeting with students each Monday for the entire school year.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
97-133	NRC Amends Operating License of Watts Bar to Permit Limited Production of Tritium for Department of Energy
97-134	Note to Editors: ACRS Meeting October 1
97-135	NRC Considers Changes to Regulations on Watches and Clocks Containing Radioactive Tritium
97-136	NRC Web Site Gets Face Lift; New Features Added
97-137	Note To Editor: ACRS Meeting on October 9
97-138	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet October 2-3
97-139	NRC Withdraws Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Contaminated Site in Pennsylvania

97-140	NRC Responds to Requests for Enforcement Action Against NIH for Contamination Event
Regions:	
I-97-122	NRC Staff, N. J. Hospital to Discuss Four Apparent Violations
I-97-123	NRC Commissioner Diaz Postpones Salem/Hope Creek Press Briefing
I-97-124	Note To Editors: Five Millstone Meetings Scheduled
II-97-66	NRC Officials to Meet With FP&L Managers in Atlanta to Discuss St. Lucie Plant Performance, Steam Generator Replacement and Employee Concerns Program
II-97-67	NRC Staff Issues Assessment of Regulatory Performance at Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant Near Augusta
II-97-68	NRC Staff to Hold Public Meetings with FPC Officials September 25 to Discuss Progress on Crystal River Restart
II-97-69	NRC Names New Resident Inspector at Hatch Nuclear Power Plant
III-97-85	NRC Special Evaluation Team to Meet Sept. 24 With Illinois Power to Begin Review at Clinton Nuclear Power Station
IV-97-54	NRC, PG&E Officials to Discuss Apparent Violations at Diablo Canyon

**Office of International Programs
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Office of the Secretary
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Decision Documents Released to the Public		
Document	Date	Subject
1. SECY-97-147	July 14, 1997	Re-Evaluation of SECY-96-199 - Issues: Plan to Better Focus Resources on High Priority Discrimination Cases
SRM on 97-147	Sept. 10, 1997	(same)
Commission Voting Record on 97-147	Sept. 10, 1997	(same)
2. SECY-97-149	July 15, 1997	Nuclear Safety Research Review Committee (NSRRC)
SRM on 97-149	Sept. 9, 1997	(same)
Voting Record on 97-149	Sept. 9, 1997	(same)
Negative Consent Documents Released to the Public		
1. SECY-97-127	June 19, 1997	Development of a Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Regulation for Fire Protection at Nuclear Power Plants
SRM on 97-127	Sept. 11, 1997	(same)
2. SECY-97-169	July 30, 1997	Proposed Change to the Independent Radiation Monitoring Program Under Which the NRC Contracts with States to Monitor the Environment Around NRC-Licensed Facilities

SRM on 97-169	Sept. 8, 1997	(same)
3. SECY-97-177	Aug. 1, 1997	Final Rulemaking Plan: Revision of Dose Limit for Members of the Public Exposed to Hospitalized Patients (10 CFR Part 20 and 35)
SRM on 97-177	Sept. 9, 1997	(same)
Information Papers Released to the Public		
1. SECY-97-202	Sept. 10, 1997	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending September 5, 1997
2. SECY-97-206	Sept. 12, 1997	Status Report of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Task Force on Oversight of the Department of Energy, in Response to COMSECY-96-053 - DSI 2
3. SECY-97-200	Sept. 4, 1997	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending August 29, 1997

Commission Correspondence Released to the Public

1. Letter to Connecticut Governor John Rowland dtd 9/8/97 concerns continued participation in the State Liaison Officer program
2. Letter to New Hampshire Governor Jeanne Shaheen dtd 9/9/97 concerns continued participation in the State Liaison Officer program
3. Letter to Congress, OMB, DOE, EPA, CEQ and the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology dtd 9/10/97 provides a copy of NRC's decommissioning rule

4. Letter to Joe Colvin, Nuclear Energy Institute, dtd 9/11/97 concerns the proposed rulemaking package for shutdown and fuel storage pool operation
5. Letter to Representative Thomas Bliley dtd 9/11/97 concerns H. R. 1270, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1997

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting Notice for October 2-3, 1997
2. Aharon Ben-Haim, PhD.; Docket No. IA 97-068; Notice of Hearing
3. Private Fuel Storage, LLC; Docket No. 72-22-ISFSI; Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (Bollwerk/Kline/Murphy)
4. 10 CFR Part 32; License Applications for Certain Items Containing Byproduct Material; Proposed Rule
5. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Subcommittee Meeting on Reactor Fuels, Onsite Fuel Storage, and Decommissioning; Notice of Meeting on Oct. 9, 1997
6. Barnett Industrial X-ray, Inc.; Docket No. 030-30691-CivP; Notice of Hearing on November 5, 1997, in Stillwater, Oklahoma

Region I
Items of Interest
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Visit to Pesses/Metcoa SDMP Site

On September 16, 1997, a representative from the Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch of the Region I Division of Nuclear Materials Safety visited the Pesses/Metcoa SDMP (Site Decommissioning Management Plan) site in western Pennsylvania. The site is listed on the SDMP due to the presence of residual thorium contamination in soil and the presence of over one hundred drums of mixed waste. USEPA Region III, with assistance from NRC Region I, is coordinating the remediation of hazardous, mixed, and radioactive wastes at the abandoned site. A contractor may commence removal of the waste drums as early as this October, with soil remediation unlikely to start until the spring of 1998. A local township representative stated that there have not been any reports of vandalism at the site.

Inspection of MDS Nordion

During the week of September 15, 1997, NRC Region I with a representative of the NMSS Sealed Source and Device Section performed an inspection of MDS Nordion, Inc. and Theratronics International, Inc. in Kanata, Canada. The inspection was focused on evaluating the devices distributed by these licensees to ensure that they meet the specifications in their device approvals. The inspection included observations of these devices as well as a review of the records associated with their distribution.

Region II
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Southern Nuclear Operating Company - Hatch

On September 15, 1997, Hatch Unit 2 was taken off-line and placed in a "hot" shutdown condition to adjust as necessary 11 of 16 Main Steam Isolation Valve limit switches. The limit switches had exhibited problems during surveillances performed in July and on September 14, 1997. While the unit was in this condition, the licensee also identified a leak on a Low Pressure Coolant Injection check valve hinge pin.

Repairs were completed to the limit switches and the check valve and the reactor was started up on September 18.

Florida Power Corporation - Crystal River

On September 16, 1997, the licensee issued a news release, which announced the testing of the Crystal River, Unit 3's non-nuclear systems. The testing was initiated on September 13, when the licensee admitted steam into the secondary side of the plant and drew a vacuum on the main condenser. The testing is part of the licensee's plan for testing systems, which have been out-of-service since the reactor unit shutdown on September 2, 1996.

Region II Management Retreat

The Regional Administrator and other Region II managers met on September 17 and 18, 1997, to discuss planning for Regional Operations during Fiscal Year 1998 and 1999. Topics included organizational changes, recruiting strategies and generation of an Operating Plan to support the Agency's Strategic and 1999 Performance Plans.

Region III
Items of Interest
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Special Inspection Team Dispatched to Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant

On September 18, 1997, an empty 10-ton cylinder used to transport uranium hexafluoride was dropped by a mechanical cylinder hauler. Various types of cylinder haulers (front-end loaders with hydraulically operated clamshell arms for grasping cylinders) are used onsite to transport cylinders containing either solid uranium hexafluoride or heel material (the 50 pounds or less of uranium-bearing material remaining in a cylinder after it is fed into the cascade).

The resident inspectors responded to the scene and observed that the linchpin which connects the clamshell arms to the boom of the cylinder hauler had sheared, causing the cylinder to drop approximately 2 feet. The resident inspectors noted that the cylinder did not appear to be breached and there were no indications that any of the heel material in the cylinder was released to the environment.

Region III dispatched a Special Inspection Team to the plant to assess the cylinder hauler failure.

Confirmatory Action Letter Issued to American Electric Power Company - D.C. Cook

In August of this year, an NRC Architect and Engineering (AE) team began inspection activities at the D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Station. During this inspection, the AE team identified issues which resulted in concerns with the operability of safety related systems and components. In response to these inspection findings, the utility began evaluating these issues and also identified operability concerns with some components. In response to one of these issues, the utility elected to shutdown both units until the issue could be resolved.

On September 19, 1997, Region III issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) to American Electric Power Company to document the actions the utility intended to take prior to start up of either unit. The actions include: performing an analyses to demonstrate that the recirculation sump level is adequate to prevent vortexing; installing venting in the recirculation sump cover; performing an analyses to demonstrate the capability to cool down the units consistent with design basis requirements; making changes to the emergency procedure used for switchover of the emergency core cooling and containment spray pumps to the recirculation sump; providing overpressure protection downstream of the 20 psig, 50 psig, and 85 psig control air regulators to mitigate the effects of a postulated failed regulator; removing fibrous material from containment that could clog the recirculation sump; justifying that the mini-flow recirculation line valves have leakage verification tests; and reviewing emergency procedures and other important-to-safety procedures, calculations, or analyses to account for instrument uncertainties.

The CAL also documents that the utility will meet with the NRC to discuss resolution of all of the issues prior to restarting the units.

Management Meeting with Commonwealth Edison Company - Zion Nuclear Power Station

On September 15, 1997, a management meeting was conducted in the Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between management representative from Commonwealth Edison Company and members of the NRC staff to discuss the status of Zion issues and the effectiveness of plant performance improvement actions.

**Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 1997**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 1997
ENCLOSURE P**

**Office of the Executive Director for Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending September 19, 1997**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 1997
ENCLOSURE Q**

Office of Congressional Affairs
 Items of Interest
 Week Ending September 19, 1997

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, <u>No. 32</u>					
OCA CONTACT	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	TBA 406 DSOB	TBA	Markup	S. 8, Superfund Reauthorization	Sen. Chafee/Baucus Environment & Public Works
Keeling	09/24 2322 RHOB	10:30	NH, AZ, VA, NM, OK, CA, ID, EIA, NTU	Role of Fedl & State Gov't in Fostering Electricity Competition	Reps. Schaefer/Hall Energy & Power Commerce
Gerke	09/25 2154 RHOB	9:00	TBA	Employment Discrimination in the Federal Workplace	Reps. Mi ca/Cummi ngs Civil Service Government Reform & Oversight
Gerke	09/25 2141 RHOB	10:00	TBA	Congressional Role in Administrative Rul emaking	Reps. Gekas/Nadler Commercial & Admin Law Judi ciary

SEPTEMBER 19, 1997
 ENCLOSURE R

Keeling	10/06 342 DSOB	TBA	TBA	Nuclear Stockpile Safety	Sen. Cochran/Levin Intl Security, Proliferation & Federal Services Governmental Affairs
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**SEPTEMBER 19, 1997
ENCLOSURE R**