

April 15, 1998

SECY 98-082

For: The Commissioners  
From: James L. Blaha, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO /s/  
Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING APRIL 10, 1998

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Enclosure

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\*No input this week.

James L. Blaha  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 10, 1998

Oconee Unit 2

During the performance of steam generator tube inservice inspections at Oconee, Unit 2, the licensee identified several tubes that were incorrectly installed in the "A" steam generator. The upper and lower tubesheet positions for five tubes did not correspond for the individual tubes. Apparently, during the original fabrication of the once-through steam generator, each of these tubes were installed in the correct position in one end of the generator. As each of the tubes were inserted into the steam generator, at some point between the two tubesheets each of the five tubes crossed over to an adjacent tube location. The tubes then entered the opposite tubesheet and were permanently installed in adjacent tube locations. All five tubes were located in close proximity to one another. Two of the misaligned tubes had been plugged in the previous outage because of tube defect indications. However, the misalignment of these tubes resulted in plugging at only one end of the steam generator. Although the two defective tubes were not functional during the previous cycle of operation (i.e., no heat transfer capability), they continued to be exposed to reactor coolant system pressures. The licensee will plug both ends of the five misaligned tubes in the current refueling outage.

The licensee and its vendors have evaluated the potential consequences of leaving the defective, misaligned tubes in service. The licensee stated during a recent phone call between NRR and Region II staff, that the results of this assessment indicate acceptable conditional tube burst probability and accident induced primary-to-secondary leakage. Framatome concluded that the misalignment of a tube will not adversely affect the structure integrity of the tube, and the likelihood of a rolled plug becoming a loose part was low and bounded by the analysis of a tube with both ends plugged. The licensee has completed operability assessments for Units 1 and 3 steam generators. The results of these assessments indicate acceptable tube structural and leakage integrity per guidance provided in NRC Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1074 for the remainder of their respective operating cycles (14 and 5 months). Duke Power has notified other utilities with similar steam generators of the findings at Oconee, Unit 2. The Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch will continue to monitor the inspections at Oconee, Unit 2, and evaluate the need to address this problem at other plants with once-through steam generators.

Calvert Cliffs Unit 1

At 12:50 p.m. on April 4, 1998, a diver was pulled from the Unit 1 intake channel after dive tenders identified that communications between the diver and the dive support team were lost. BG&E's first aid team responded to the scene and administered cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. The individual was transported to a hospital where he was declared dead-on-arrival. An autopsy is being performed to determine the cause of death. The individual was between the ages of 55 and 60 years of age and was an experienced diver. It is believed that the cause of death could be a heart attack. The type of dive equipment was a full suit diving gear with external air being pumped into the suit. The purpose of the dive was to observe the installation of a barrier to an intake cavity. This was at a depth of approximately 15 feet of water. There was no indication of any problems with the planning or conduct of the dive. The dive crew had a full complement of support personnel and supervisors on the job. BG&E is conducting an investigation of the event.

Unit 1 had started a refueling outage on April 3, 1998, and the plant was shutdown at the time of the event.

#### Salem Nuclear Generating Station Units 1 and 2

Operational Status - Salem Unit 1 was restarted on April 7, 1998, and is currently in Mode 2 ( $1 \times 10^{-8}$  amps) with zero-power physics testing in progress. The NRC resident staff with support from regional personnel are providing augmented coverage of the restart ascension activities.

Salem Unit 2 began a Technical Specifications (TS)-required shutdown because 2 of the 3 service water loops became inoperable after their associated strainers tripped on high differential pressure. The station has been in an abnormal operating procedure for high river grass loading level that requires increased monitoring of heat exchanger differential pressures for bio-fouling. Although the traveling screens have been in continuous operation, carry-over has occurred from the high grass loading and general waterborne trash levels. At about 6:00 a.m. on April 8, 1998, the unit was at 90 percent power, and the licensee was reducing power at 10 percent per hour. The licensee is working to restore one of the strainers back to service and exit the TS action statement before the unit comes off line. The Salem Unit 1 service water system is operating normally along with the circulating water systems.

Salem Assessment Panel (SAP) - The next SAP meeting will be scheduled after the licensee completes its first hold-point at 25 percent power for flux mapping. The licensee is also required to provide the results of its self-assessment of unit performance within 30 days after returning to full-power operation.

ACRS Briefing - The ACRS has requested a briefing from the licensee on September 2, 1998, regarding the lessons-learned from the extended dual-unit shutdown.

#### Quad Cities Units 1 and 2

Quad Cities, Units 1 and 2, have been shutdown since September 1997 and December 1997, respectively, because of Appendix R safe shutdown concerns. In January 1998, a CAL was issued confirming that the licensee would complete the revised safe shutdown analysis (SSA), revised safe shutdown procedures and identify Appendix R discrepancies along with the compensatory measures that will be put in place to compensate for these discrepancies. The staff has also requested that the licensee respond to several questions before restart in a letter issued March 31, 1998.

#### Management Changes

Effective April 3, 1998, Ted Sullivan was promoted to Station Director, Pilgrim Station. L.J. Olivier had held both positions of Vice President Nuclear and Station Director. This is the first step in realignment of the nuclear leadership. Over the next several months, Pilgrim will transform its work practices from the current and more traditional functional organization to one that incorporates master processes and the Asset Management Model. The Station Director will be responsible for the core master processes and resources necessary for plant operations. The GM Technical (V. Oheim) position will be redefined to be responsible for the core master processes and resources necessary for oversight and regulatory relations, managing the plant

asset, and general services. This new organization will establish clear accountability for design basis, quality assurance, plant investment, and transition to the new business arrangements. The new organization will be re-aligned around the master processes by September 1998.

Mr. Dwight C. Mims, Director, Nuclear Safety at Arkansas Nuclear One, has been selected to become the General Manager, Plant Operations at the River Bend Station. Mr. Mims is expected at the site beginning on April 8, 1998.

April 10, 1998

ENCLOSURE A

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 10, 1998

Subgroup for the Safeguards Technical Support

On April 7, 1998, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards participated in the Interagency Safeguards Technical Support Subgroup monthly meeting at the Department of Defense Nuclear Treaty Programs Office in Rosslyn, Virginia. The half-day meeting addressed issues related to the upcoming May meeting at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, on U.S. activities in support of international safeguards.

Physical Protection Workshop Presentation

During the week of April 6-10, 1998, a member of the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, with contractor assistance, presented a Nuclear Regulatory Commission physical protection licensing workshop in Obninsk, Russia. The workshop was attended by representatives of the Russian regulatory agency GOSATOMNADZOR.

Meeting with Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc

On April 8, 1998, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with representatives of Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) to discuss the status of various ongoing licensing reviews, including renewal and decommissioning the North Site Area of NFS' site in Erwin, Tennessee. NRC is progressing with its reviews in the areas of environmental and radiation protection. Resolution of issues, NFS responses to requests for additional information, and additional information needs in other program areas were discussed.

Conference on Food Irradiation

On April 7, 1998, a management representative from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety attended a conference, "Food Irradiation: The Next Step in Food Safety," conducted at the George Washington University by The Science and Public Policy Institute. The conference was sponsored by three of the nation's leading food and agriculture associations who have joined together to develop a nationwide awareness program on irradiation and food safety. The collaboration includes the Grocery Manufacturers of America, the Food Marketing Institute, and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The conference was prompted in part by the recent approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of irradiation of beef food products. The conference included a keynote presentation by Dr. Michael Osterholm of the Minnesota Department of Health and panels addressing current and future applications of food irradiation, policy issues, consumer perceptions, and communicating food technologies. The keynote speaker for the luncheon session was Dr. David A. Kessler, Dean, School of Medicine, Yale University (former FDA Commissioner). Dr Kessler's presentation was entitled "In the Absence of Irradiation," and focused on growing consumer confidence in irradiated food products and the opportunity to enhance food safety through its use.

The conference is important to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) because there may be an increase in applications for irradiation facilities within NRC jurisdiction or within Agreement States. Discussions with management representatives from several companies currently involved in food irradiation indicated they may be seeking authorization for more of such facilities, but that it would ultimately depend upon the whether the food processors preferred "in-line" irradiation during the production/shipping process or use of off-site commercial services. Either of these irradiation pathways has the potential to increase the number of irradiator licensees.

#### Workshop at the National Institute of Standards and Technology

On April 6-7, 1998, a staff member from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety (IMNS) attended a two-day workshop at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) entitled "Measurements and Standards for Intravascular Brachytherapy." This workshop was sponsored by the Medical Applications Subcommittee of the Council on Ionizing Radiation and Standards. Of greatest interest to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission was the discussions about key measurements and standards issues of concern to regulatory agencies and related efforts to develop a plan of action for NIST, the Accredited Dosimetry Calibration Laboratories, and manufacturers of sources and measurement instruments. On the second day of the workshop, the IMNS representative participated in a discussion of regulatory issues along with three representatives of the Food and Drug Administration.

#### Denial of Motion for Stay Regarding Licensing of Hydro Resources, Inc. Uranium Recovery Site

On January 5, 1998, the Division of Waste Management staff issued Source Materials License SUA-1508 to Hydro Resources, Inc. (HRI) to conduct in situ leach mining at its Crownpoint, New Mexico, site. Subsequently, the petitioners, Eastern Navajo Dine Against Uranium Mining and Southwest Research and Information Center, moved the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) Presiding Officer to stay the effectiveness of HRI's license, to rule that a hearing is required prior to the issuance of the license, and to grant a temporary stay to preserve the status quo. On April 2, 1998, the Presiding Officer of the ASLB issued a Memorandum and Order denying the petitioners' motion for stay and request for prior hearing, lifting the temporary stay, and denying motions to strike and for leave to reply in the ongoing Subpart L proceeding (10 CFR 2.1263) regarding the matter of HRI.

#### Department of Energy Begins Excavation of the Cross-Drift at Yucca Mountain, Nevada

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's on-site licensing representatives have reported that the Department of Energy (DOE) has commenced with the construction of a second, smaller exploratory tunnel at Yucca Mountain. The so-called "east-west" or "cross-drift" is an extension of the existing exploratory studies facility (ESF). Like the ESF, the cross-drift will also contain instrumentation for scientific tests and is intended to provide additional information on the sub-surface geology of Yucca Mountain to the west of the ESF. The cross-drift will be approximately 16 feet in diameter and about 1.7 miles long. DOE's plans call for the cross-drift to run perpendicular to the existing ESF tunnel, beginning to the west of the Bow Ridge fault, overlapping the proposed repository emplacement area, and intersecting the Solitario Canyon fault. Excavation of the cross-drift tunnel will be achieved using a refurbished tunnel boring

machine purchased from the Super Collider project in Texas. Tunneling is expected to be completed sometime in the Fall of 1998.

April 10, 1998

ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 10, 1998

CSNI Working Group Meetings

On March 17-20, 1998, Dr. James Costello, Division of Engineering Technology (DET), attended meetings of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI), Principal Working Group-3 (PWG-3), in Paris, France. Topic areas discussed were the aging of concrete structures and the seismic behavior of structures.

In the topic area pertaining to the aging of concrete structures, reports on 1997 Workshops on Prestress Losses in Concrete Containments and NDE Examination on Concrete Structures were made. Two Items are of interest to the NRC. First, experience from eleven countries suggests that the use of ungrouted tendons that permit retensioning, if necessary during the plant life, is beneficial. In general, the U.S. practice is to use ungrouted tendons and perform in-service inspections per Regulatory Guides 1.35 and 1.35.1. Retensioning of grouted tendons to obtain the required prestressing forces is extremely difficult. The second item of interest is that innovative NDE techniques have the potential for improving inspection; however, the developmental costs are large and close attention to progress in other industries is appropriate. Progress in this area is being pursued in conjunction with DET programs on degradation of containments and civil structures and passive components.

In the topic area pertaining to seismic behavior of structures two upcoming Workshops were discussed. A Workshop on Finite Element Analyses of Degraded Concrete Structures, to assess the effectiveness of current methods, will be held at Brookhaven National Laboratory on October 29-30, 1998. A Workshop on Seismic Risk with the objective of understanding differences in approach, will be held in Japan during the spring of 1999.

Fuel Behavior

Steady-state fuel rod behavior computer codes are used by vendors and licensees to calculate initial conditions for accident analysis (most notably, LOCA stored energy) and for other purposes in safety assessment. NRC uses the FRAPCON-3 code to do audit calculations of this type when reviewing licensing submittals and to perform other related analyses. FRAPCON-3 was recently upgraded for high-burnup applications, and a web site for the code has just been installed at [www.nrc.gov/RES/FRAPCON3](http://www.nrc.gov/RES/FRAPCON3). The web site contains the 3-volume NUREG/CR code manual in its entirety, a form letter that can be used to request a copy of the code itself, a link to our contractor's site where user support is available, and E-mail links to the RES staff responsible for the code. This site allowed a large reduction in the number of paper copies of the code manual that was distributed, and it simplifies the process of approving code dissemination and obtaining user support. RES web sites are also available for thermal-hydraulic and severe accident codes RELAP5, SCDAP/RELAP5, MELCOR, and IFCI.

Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 10, 1998

Acquisition Training

On April 2, 1998, the Division of Contracts and Property Management conducted its Acquisition for Project Managers module, "Preparing Statements of Work," for 11 project managers. This module provides project managers with practical exercises in developing succinct and complete SOWs that ensure contractors and DOE laboratories fully understand project scope, achieve work objectives, and deliver useful products in a timely manner and at a reasonable cost.

Contract Awards

On April 7, 1998, a cost-plus fixed-fee contract was awarded to Beckman and Associates, Inc., for "Technical Assistance in Support of NRC Inspections at Nuclear Power Plants and Engineering Service Organizations." The period of performance is 12 months and the contract has two option years. The total contract value is \$16M inclusive of option years. This competitive procurement was completed within 3 months following receipt of project approval. The following streamlining measures were applied: electronic transmittal of SOW; waive CBD Notice; reduce proposal preparation time; less than three SEP technical members; simplified evaluation criteria/past performance; limit competition to known sources; and oral presentations.

U.S. Enrichment Corporation

ADM staff attended a meeting with NMSS and USEC personnel on April 8, 1998, to field questions regarding NRC's regulatory requirements from one of the bidding entities seeking to purchase the U.S Enrichment Corporation (USEC) through a merger & acquisition (M&A). Also on April 8, 1998 ADM staff participated in a conference call with DOE and another of the bidding entities to discuss questions regarding the foreign ownership, control or influence data provided by the bidding entity.

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 10, 1998

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests Received during the 5-Day Period of April 3, 1998 - April 9, 1998:

IMPAC list on diskette. (FOIA/PA-98-139)

Named individual, radiation exposure record. (FOIA/PA-98-140)

Schlumberger Inc./Schlumberger Logging in Prudhoe, AK, 1990 inspection and radiation reports. (FOIA/PA-98-141)

OI Annual Report, 1997. (FOIA/PA-98-142)

Nuclear weapons licensing, inspection and enforcement. (FOIA/PA-98-143)

Allegation report, 4-97-A-0264. (FOIA/PA-98-144)

Atlas Corp., uranium tailings, Moab, UT, 1996 to present regarding environmental impacts. (FOIA/PA-98-145)

Hope Creek and Salem sites, Allegation Mgt System Database information, 1996 to present. (FOIA/PA-98-146)

Strategic Reassessment Project. (FOIA/PA-98-147)

Connecticut Yankee, off-site locations analyzed or to be analyzed for contamination. (FOIA/PA-98-148)

Atlas Corp, uranium milling, Moab, UT, Supplemental Modeling & Analysis Rpt dated 2/5/98. (FOIA/PA-98-149)

Office of Human Resources  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 10, 1998

American Society for Training and Development (ASTD) Special Interest Group (SIG) Meeting Held at NRC

On April 7, 1998, August Spector hosted a meeting of the ASTD SIG: Senior Human Resources Developers. He gave a presentation describing the NRC management and organizational development programs. In attendance were training managers from various organizations including the Chief of the Metropolitan Police Training Academy. The ASTD SIG is a group of HRD managers who meet four times each year to discuss current and future plans related to improving training activities in the private and public sectors.

Public Service Recognition Week Planning Meeting Attended

On April 8, 1998, Henry Rubin attended a Public Service Recognition Week Mall Event Planning Meeting at the Aerospace Center in Washington, D.C. Details of the upcoming 11th Annual Mall Celebration were discussed. Nearly 100 government agencies, including the NRC, will set up exhibits on the Mall from May 7-10, 1998, to demonstrate the innovation and quality of the work performed by public employees.

How to Talk to Your Kids About Drugs

On April 9, 1998, 31 employees attended a lunchtime workshop on "How to Talk to Your Kids About Drugs," sponsored by the Employee Assistance Program. Gregory Burnette, a health educator and certified substance abuse counselor, discussed what approaches parents can take to better communicate with their children about drugs and drug use. He stressed the importance of communication and parents' involvement in their children's activities. A follow-up program is being planned to educate participants about various drugs and their physical effects.

Coping with Difficult People

During March 1998, the Employee Assistance Program conducted three workshops on "Coping With Difficult People." The presenter was Carolyn Jensen, the HQ contract counselor, who discussed the seven behavior patterns of people that many find difficult to understand and work with effectively. The goal of the workshop was to help participants evaluate the effect people with these characteristics have on them and develop a coping plan for dealing with them. Approximately 60 employees attended the sessions.

Osteoporosis Education and Screening Program

During March 1998, the Employee Health Center conducted an osteoporosis education and screening program. Participants learned about the causes, effects, and most effective treatments for this disease. They were offered a quiz to determine if they are at risk for developing osteoporosis and an opportunity to participate in an on-site osteoporosis screening program. Screening was done using a relatively new method which measures the bone density of the heel. Approximately 50 employees participated in this program.

HRD Staff Member Attends Symposium

On April 8, 1998, as a follow-up to the Government Learning Technology Symposium, Carolyn Bassin attended a technology update meeting on technology-enhanced training and learning. The session, attended by other government training and information technology staff, focused on the need for self-study training and other distance learning options. The participants shared ideas and issues common to the private and public sectors. The meeting was held at Digital Equipment Corporation in Beltsville, Maryland.

| <b>Arrivals</b>    |                          |         |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| CUSHING, John      | Project Manager          | NRR     |
| KIM, Sun Hoo       | Secretary                | HR/SPAC |
| <b>Retirements</b> |                          |         |
| None               |                          |         |
| <b>Departures</b>  |                          |         |
| HRABAL, Craig      | Nuclear Process Engineer | NMSS    |

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 10, 1998

Media Interest

OPA:HQ hosted a two-day media workshop for 16 reporters to learn about NRC issues they will be covering at their newspapers. Participating as speakers were: Rick Hasselberg, AEOD, Frank Miraglia, Mike Webb, Bob Wood, Chris Grimes, and Bill Borchardt, NRR, John Hickey, Charlie Haughney and Joe DiCicco, NMSS, and Jan Strasma, Region III.

School Volunteers Program

Peter Tam, NRR, and Mitzi Young, OGC, spoke at Harmony Hills E.S. about how technology is used in their careers.

Louis Numkin, CIO, spoke about computer ethics at Thomas Edison H.S.

| <b>Press Releases</b> |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Headquarters:</b>  |   |
| 98-49                 | Note to Editors: ACRS Meeting Postponement  |
| 98-50                 | Note to Editors: ACRS Meeting April 23-24   |
| 98-51                 | Note to Editors: ACRS Meeting April 29  |
| <b>Regions:</b>       |   |
| I-98-38               | NRC Staff, Washington Hospital Center Officials to Discuss Apparent Violations                              |
| II-98-29              | NRC Staff Plans Performance Review Meeting at Westinghouse Commercial Nuclear Fuel Division in Columbia, SC |

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 10, 1998

| Document   | Date     | Subject   |
|--|----------|---|
| <b>Decision Documents Released to the Public</b>         |          |   |
| 1. SECY-98-045   | 3/9/98   | Status of the Integrated Review of the NRC Assessment Process for Operating Commercial Nuclear Reactors (SRM 9700238)   |
| 2. SECY-98-024   | 2/13/98  | Final Amendments to 10 CFR Parts 60, 72, 73, 74, and 75, "Physical Protection for Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste"  |
| - Commission Voting Record on 98-024                     | 4/3/98   | (same)  |
| <b>Negative Consent Documents Released to the Public</b> |          |   |
| 1. SECY-97-295   | 12/22/97 | Two-Year Review of the Enforcement Policy, Proposed Revision to the Enforcement Policy, NUREG-1600, Rev.1   |
| <b>Information Papers Released to the Public</b>         |          |   |
| 1. SECY-98-053   | 3/19/98  | Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 13, 1998  |
| 2. SECY-98-064   | 4/3/98   | Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 27, 1998  |
| <b>Memoranda Released to the Public</b>                  |          |   |
| 1. M980403B  | 4/3/98   | Staff Requirements - Affirmation Session, Friday, April 3, 1998 - I. SECY-98-024-Final Amendments to 10 CFR Parts 60, 72, 73, 74, and 75, 'Physical Protection for Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste; II. SECY-98-021-Louisiana Energy Services-- Review of LBP-96-25 (NEPA Issues); Review of LBP-97-8 (Environmental Justice) |
| 2. Staff Requirements Memo - Secy-97-295                 | 4/10/98  | Two-Year Review of the Enforcement Policy, Proposed Revision to the Enforcement Policy, NUREG-1600, Rev.1   |

|    |   |         |   |
|----|---|---------|---|
| 3. | Memo to J.Hoyle, SECY<br>fm J.Larkins, ACRS | 3/26/98 | ACRS Meeting with the NRC Commissioners,<br>April 2, 1998-Schedule/ Background<br>Information               |
| 4. | M980330                                     | 4/9/98  | Staff Requirements - Briefing by Nuclear<br>Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB),<br>Monday, March 30, 1998 |

Commission Correspondence Released to the Public

1. Letter to Morley Winograd, Senior Policy Advisor to the Vice President, dated March 27, 1998 concerns review of DOE Secretary Peña's proposed Performance Agreement with the President for fiscal year 1998 (incoming of March 12, 1998, also released).
2. Letter to Congress dated March 31, 1998 provides NRC's fiscal year 1997 Accountability Report.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Subcommittee Meeting on Human Factors; Cancellation of Meeting on April 17, 1998.
2. State of Oregon Relinquishment of Sealed Source and Device Evaluation and Approval Authority and Reassumption by the Commission.
3. Hydro Resources, Inc.; Docket No. 40-8968-ML; Notice of Reconstitution (substitutes Peter B. Bloch for B. Paul Cotter, Jr., as Presiding Officer).
4. Aharon Ben-Haim, Ph.D.; Docket No. IA 97-068; Appointment of Special Assistant (Administrative Judge Harry Rein).
5. Magdy Elamir, M.D.; Docket No. IA 97-070; Appointment of Special Assistant (Administrative Judge Harry Rein).
6. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting Notice for April 30-May 2, 1998.
7. Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures; Notice of Meeting on April 29, 1998.
8. Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Revised Meeting Notice for April 23, 1998.

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 10, 1998

Maine Yankee Community Advisory Panel Meeting

On April 7, 1998 Region I staff from the Decommissioning and Laboratory Branch attended a meeting of the Maine Yankee Community Advisory Panel. The NRC staff presented analysis results for water samples taken from monitoring wells at the Wiscasset Sanitary Landfill. The results revealed the presence of naturally occurring radioactive materials, but no plant related isotopes were identified. The samples had been split with the State of Maine and the licensee, and their results were consistent with the Region I results. The NRC staff also answered questions regarding the sample analysis results and other NRC inspection activities. The meeting attendees included licensee personnel, State and local government representatives, local news media, and individual citizens.

Routine Safety Inspection at National Institutes of Health

Region I conducted a routine safety inspection at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD, March 30 to April 3, 1998. During the latter part of the inspection, the inspection team was accompanied by the Branch Chief, and the Deputy Regional Administrator. The inspection focused on the security of radioactive materials (RAM), package receipt and distribution of RAM, storage and disposal of radioactive waste, research involving RAM for human subjects, and research involving RAM for non-human use. The routine clinical use of RAM for both diagnostic and therapy procedures was also included in the inspection. Within the scope of this inspection 2 apparent violations were identified and are under NRC review.

In addition, the Region also issued a license amendment to NIH which granted an exemption from 10 CFR 20.2003. The exemption allows release of quantities of licensed material which exceed the limits for sewage disposal in Part 20. This exemption was granted following an extensive review by Region I and Headquarters personnel.

Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 10, 1998

Florida Power Corporation

On April 8, 1998, representatives from the Crystal River Nuclear Station were in the Region II Office for a discussion of the security improvement plan. The meeting provided details on the Crystal River Improvement Plan and included discussions on procedure upgrades and security force manning and training.

April 10, 1998

ENCLOSURE P

Region III  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 10, 1998

Management Meeting with Commonwealth Edison Company - Quad Cities Nuclear Station

On April 10, 1998, a meeting was conducted in the Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between management representatives from Commonwealth Edison Company and members of the NRC staff. The meeting discussion focused on plans to restart Units 1 and 2 of the Quad Cities Station and actions taken by the company to address restart issues previously discussed at a March 27, 1998, meeting. NRC Region III Regional Administrator A. Bill Beach participated in the meeting.

Management Meeting with Commonwealth Edison Company - LaSalle Nuclear Station

On April 8, 1998, a meeting was conducted in the Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between management representatives from Commonwealth Edison Company and members of the NRC staff. The company provided an update on the restart plans for the LaSalle station. NRC staff also discussed the station's outage scope, planning and scheduling. NRC Region III Regional Administrator A. Bill Beach participated in the meeting.

Regional Administrator Visit to Fermi Nuclear Power Plant

On April 7, 1998, Regional Administrator A. Bill Beach visited the Fermi Nuclear Power Plant and observed an operator licensing examination. He also met with NRC resident inspectors and toured the site.

Region IV  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending April 10, 1998

TU Electric Company

Mr. C. L. Terry, Group Vice President, Nuclear Production, and Mr. R. D. Walker, Regulatory Affairs Manager, met with the Regional Administrator and members of his staff on April 7, 1998, to discuss the status of the licensee's actions in response to Generic Letter 96-01 and recent events at the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station. This meeting was open to public observation.

Public Exit Meeting at Washington Nuclear Project, Unit 2

On April 8, 1998, an inspection exit meeting, open to public observation, was conducted with representatives of Washington Public Power Services for the special inspection conducted during the period March 13-18. The special inspection reviewed the events of March 11 that resulted from a main steam isolation valve closure and reactor scram. A number of issues involving operator performance were identified during the inspection. The licensee was requested to attend a management with Region IV on April 30, 1998, to provide for further assessment of licensee plans to address performance issues identified during this inspection.

Office of Congressional Affairs  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending April 10, 1998

| CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, <u>NO. 11</u> |                    |       |         |                                   |   |
|---|--------------------|-------|---------|-----------------------------------|---|
| OCA Contact                                   | DATE & PLACE       | TIME  | WITNESS | SUBJECT                           | COMMITTEE   |
| Gerke   | 04/28<br>SR-253    | 9:30  | TBA     | Year 2000 Computer Problem        | Sen. McCain/Hollings<br>Commerce, Science & Transportation                                  |
| Gerke   | 04/30<br>2154 RHOB | 10:00 | TBA     | Splitting up OMB into Two Offices | Reps. Horn/Kucinich<br>Gov't Management, Info & Technology<br>Government Reform & Oversight |

The Senate returns from spring recess on April 20th, and the House returns on April 21st.