

October 2, 1997

SECY 97-222

For: The Commissioners

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

Subject: WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER  
26, 1997

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	
C	
Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data	D
General Counsel	E*
Administration	F
Chief Information Officer	G
Chief Financial Officer	
H	
Human Resources	
I	
Small Business & Civil Rights	
J*	
Enforcement	
K*	
State Programs	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N
Office of the Secretary	O
Region I	P

Region II	P
Region III	P
Region IV	P
Executive Director for Operations	
Q*	
Congressional Affairs	R

\*No input this week.

James L. Blaha  
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:  
T. Hiltz, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 26, 1997

Meeting With Representatives of Nuclear Information Resource Service (NIRS) and Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) Concerning Silicone Foam Fire Barrier Penetration Seals

On September 10, 1997, the staff of the Division of Systems Safety and Analysis (DSSA) staff and the Division of Reactor Projects (DRP), Project Directorate I-2, met with representatives of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) and the Nuclear Information Resource Service (NIRS) to answer questions regarding fire barrier penetration seals. UCS and NIRS requested the meeting. UCS and NIRS made a presentation which outlined their questions about silicone foam fire barrier penetration seals. The staff responded to the questions and agreed to follow-up on several additional items. The meeting was transcribed and the transcript will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room with the meeting summary.

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station Risk Informed Inservice Inspection Submittal

The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation, the licensee for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station recently submitted a request to use probabilistic safety assessment approach in selecting ASME Code Class 1 pipe welds to be examined under the provisions of ASME Code Case N560. The NRC staff had a meeting with Vermont Yankee (VY) personnel to discuss the submittal. The VY personnel made a presentation on their program and also addressed certain specific items that the NRC staff had put on the agenda. VY appears to have done a significant amount of work already and at the meeting it was stated that the submittal conforms to the draft NRC Regulatory Guide 1061 (General RG).

Of a total population of 407 welds, the current ISI program examines 122 welds whereas, the new program (Code Case N560) proposes to examine 41 welds.

River Bend Station Unplanned Mode Change

SEPTEMBER 26, 1997  
ENCLOSURE A

On September 13, 1997, while initiating a post modification test during shutdown of the new alternate decay heat removal (ADHR) system, the licensee for the River Bend Station allowed the reactor to change modes and the core to begin boiling without shutdown cooling in service. The reactor water cleanup system (RWCU) was in operation and control rod drive (CRD) bypass flow was being admitted to the vessel. The RWCU system and CRD bypass flow were designated as alternate decay heat systems and although their heat removal capacity was insufficient to remove all decay heat, the licensee planned to prevent a mode change (and boiling) by keeping the RWCU inlet temperature below 160 degrees. The reactor core bulk temperature likely exceeded 212 degrees and the licensee later calculated the temperature of about 240 degrees inside the shroud. Boiling did occur and steam was released into the containment from an open 4 inch flange. The drywell (primary containment) was open, and secondary containment isolation was not assured due to the status of some isolation valves and use of the airlocks. However, there were no off-site releases and air borne monitors inside containment did not alarm. ADHR cooling was initiated and the temperatures promptly dropped.

The relevant test procedure did not require the operators to use the decay heat/time-to-boil curves as the governing criteria for time to perform pre-test operations. These curves indicated about 55 minutes time to boil; it took the licensee about one hour and 37 minutes to get the ADHR in service. At the time the ADHR pumps were started, the RWCU inlet temperature was just approaching the 160 degree limit in the test procedure. The water level inside the vessel was well above the spill-over point. There was sufficient water above the core that it would have taken approximately 7 hours to uncover the core with no shutdown cooling available. Similar events involving temperature monitoring have occurred at other boiling water reactors.

Region IV is conducting a special inspection of the event.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 26, 1997

Design Basis Threat/Vulnerability Assessment Workshop

On September 23-25, 1997, the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards conducted a physical protection workshop for representatives of Russia and Kazakstan at Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters. The workshop was held to discuss the NRC's Design Basis Threat, as well as how vulnerability assessments are performed. The workshop included a visit to Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, where demonstrations of vulnerability assessments were conducted.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission/Department of Energy Liaison Meeting

On September 18, 1997, staff from the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards Division met with their counterparts from the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Safeguards and Security at Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters. This was a continuation of the arrangements agreed to by NRC and DOE several years ago to exchange information on safeguards and security issues of common interest. Topics of discussion at the meeting included: (1) current status of the organizations within the respective agencies; (2) status and coordination of NRC/DOE efforts related to mixed oxide fuel fabrication and utilization; (3) utilization of the Nuclear Materials Management and Safeguards System for tracking nuclear material; (4) security, regulatory and guidance issues; (5) potential impacts of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Strengthened Safeguards System; and (6) privatization of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation.

Meeting with the Department of the Navy

On September 11, 1997, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards staff met with representatives of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program in the Department of the Navy (Navy) to discuss Navy's plans for interim storage and ultimate disposition of Naval spent nuclear fuel (SNF). The Navy generates SNF in the

operation of its nuclear-powered submarines, aircraft carriers, and guided missile cruisers. The total amount of SNF anticipated to be generated by the year 2035 is 65 metric tons (heavy metal). All of the inventory is expected to be disposed of in the planned high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Discussion at the meeting included an overview of the designs of the various nuclear reactors employed in the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, the design and characteristics of Naval SNF, the concepts for the multi-purpose canisters used for storage, transportation and disposition of SNF, the criticality control features of the canister designs, estimated SNF degradation and radionuclide release rates in a repository environment, and results of corrosion tests of Naval SNF, as well as plans for future testing. The staffs plan to meet again for more detailed discussions.

#### Meeting of the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards

On September 18, 1997, the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS) met at Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters. Representatives from the NRC, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Energy (DOE), the Department of Defense, the Department of Transportation, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, were in attendance.

The members discussed ISCORS accomplishments to date and agreed on the need to continue this forum for information exchange. EPA updated the members on the Council of Radiation Control Program Directors' program to link orphan sources at scrap yards and steel mills with organizations who can recover them. The Committee was also briefed on the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference.

The ISCORS subcommittees reported on their respective activities and progress being made in their areas of responsibility. The Cleanup Subcommittee will review NRC's draft decommissioning regulatory guide. The Mixed Waste Subcommittee was tasked with

assessing EPA's waste management strategy to establish regulations to allow very low-level radioactive waste in Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Subtitle C, facilities. The Sewage Subcommittee is completing preparations for the sewage sludge/ash survey and responding to industry comments on the draft guidance document for publicly- owned treatment works. The Recycle Subcommittee reported on EPA's progress in developing a recycle rulemaking. The Risk Harmonization Subcommittee is evaluating application of institutional controls.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1997  
ENCLOSURE B

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 26, 1997

International Activities on Human Factors Simulation Facility

The Halden Reactor Project (HRP), which the NRC has sponsored for many years, is an international center for the study of human factors issues in nuclear power plant operations. The simulation facility at the HRP, the Halden Man-Machine Laboratory (HAMMLAB), needs to be updated to better address emerging human factors issues. The HRP is pursuing an effort to develop a new human factors laboratory, HAMMLAB 2000, Halden's next generation human factors research simulation facility. There are several research simulator facilities in the United States that are used to study human factors issues similar to those that face the nuclear industry. The Federal Aviation Administration's Technical Center and their Research and Development Human Factors Laboratory in Absecon, New Jersey; the MITRE Corporation's Integration and Interaction Laboratory (I-Lab) in Tysons Corner, Virginia; and NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, all have research simulation facilities in which they study human factors issues in the aerospace domain. The HRP and NRC can benefit from the experiences of these facilities in the development of the HAMMLAB 2000 infrastructure and research agenda.

During the week of September 8th, a team of international human factors experts, hosted by the NRC, visited the FAA, Mitre, and NASA facilities for studying advanced technology. The experts constitute the HAMMLAB 2000 Task Force, which is chaired by Dr. J. Persensky of RES. The task force is overseeing the development of the requirements for HAMMLAB 2000. The participants in these meetings included Dr. Persensky, Jerry Wachtel of RES, and representatives from VTT/Finland; EdF/France; GRS/Germany; and two persons from HRP in Norway. Discussions focused on lessons learned in the development and operation of these simulation facilities. There was an exchange of technical papers and computer media, new professional contacts were made, and significant insight was gained into the strong similarity of human factors research issues, methods, and constraints in the aviation and aerospace fields with those in the nuclear industry.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1997  
ENCLOSURE C



Continuing dialog with these professional contacts can help strengthen NRC's research program while minimizing overlap and duplication of effort with other Government agencies.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1997  
ENCLOSURE C

Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 26, 1997

Nine Mile Point Unit 2 Exercise

On September 24, 1997, IRD staff participated in the Nine Mile Point Unit 2 exercise along with Region I, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, Oswego County, and the State of New York. At Headquarters, Commissioner Dicus headed the Executive Team, while at the Region, Hub Miller managed the Base Team and Bill Axelson was in charge of the Site Team. Two IRD staff members were on site to perform regional assessment.

In addition, the Headquarters News Center was activated using the Two White Flint auditorium. Journalism students and their professors from George Washington and American Universities were invited to participate as simulated new media during the press briefing segment of the exercise. Hugh Thompson represented the Executive Team and interacted with the students while Rich Barrett portrayed the Technical Briefer. The students provided their evaluations and comments to the IRD staff following the briefing

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATIONS (PNs):

1. PNO-I-97-058, Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. (Susquehanna 2), UNPLANNED REACTOR SHUTDOWN GREATER THAN 72 HOURS
2. PNO-I-97-059, Allegheny General Hospital, LOSS OF NUCLEAR POWERED CARDIAC PACEMAKER CONTAINING APPROX. 4.2 CURIES OF PLUTONIUM 238 AT ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL
3. PNO-I-97-060, Apgee Corp. & Berthold Systems, Inc., COBALT SOURCE FALLS OUT OF DENSITY GAUGE; CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER ISSUES TO GAUGE MANUFACTURER
4. PNO-II-97-053, Mayaguez Medical Center, UNPLANNED CONTAMINATION EVENT

SEPTEMBER 26, 1997  
ENCLOSURE D

5. PNO-III-97-078, Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, EMPTY 10-CYLINDER DROPPED
6. PNO-III-97-079, Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, BRACHYTHERAPY MISADMINISTRATION
7. PNO-IV-97-052, Bill Miller, Inc., THEFT OF RADIOGRAPHIC EXPOSURE DEVICE
8. PNO-IV-97-052A, Bill Miller, Inc., THEFT OF RADIOGRAPHIC EXPOSURE DEVICE
9. PNO-IV-97-052, Siemens Nuclear Power Corporation, UO2 EXCEEDED MOISTURE LIMIT

Office of Administration  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 26, 1997

License Applications for Certain Items Containing Byproduct Material (Part 32)

A proposed rule that would regulate the distribution of timepieces containing gaseous tritium light sources under the same requirements as timepieces containing tritium paint was published in the Federal Register on September 19, 1997 (62 FR 49173). The proposed rule, which responds to a petition for rulemaking submitted by MB-Microtec, Inc. (PRM-32-4), would remove specific requirements for the prototype testing of these products from the regulations and provide guidance for prototype testing in a separate document. The comment period for this action closes December 3, 1997.

Contract Awards

Noncompetitive Contract NRC-30-97-232 was awarded to Glen Ellyn Clinic, SC, "Health Services For Region III Employees." The period of performance is September 22, 1997, through September 21, 1999, with three, one-year options. The total value of the contract, including options, is \$380,750. The following streamlining initiatives were applied: electronic transmittal of SOW; use of a commercial product description; limiting the size of the SEP panel to two members; decrease in the response time for the submittal of proposals to 5 days; and award without discussions.

NRC-02-97-009, the five year renewal of the contract with Southwest Research Institute for the operation of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA), was awarded on September 19, 1997. The total estimated cost is \$87,611,477.00 and the period of performance is September 27, 1997 through September 27, 2002. The mission of the CNWRA is to provide technical assistance and research in support of NRC's high-level waste management program under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended. The following streamlining methods were used:

proposal preparation time reduced and simplified evaluation report.

Contract No. NRC-04-97-056, entitled "Testing Ground-Water Flow & Transport Models," was awarded on September 22, 1997 to University of Arizona in the amount of \$1,633,744. The period of performance is September 22, 1997 through September 22, 2001. The contractor shall develop a methodology with supporting technical bases and guidance for selecting and evaluating appropriate ground-water flow and transport models and assessing uncertainties of the related performance measures. Streamlined procurement procedures used: electronic transmittal of statement of work and final evaluation report; waiver of the Commerce Business Daily notice; simplified evaluation criteria; competition limited to known qualified sources; waiver of audit requirements.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1997  
ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 26, 1997

FOIA Requests Received during the 5-Day Period of September 19-25, 1997:

Thorpe Reprocessing Plant, UK, record consultation from State Dept. (FOIA/PA-97-362)

Organizational chart and staff directory. (FOIA/PA-97-363)

Records regarding client. (FOIA/PA-97-364)

Vermont Yankee, OI report 1-96-005. (FOIA/PA-97-365)

OI report 3-96-037. (FOIA/PA-97-366)

Radiiodine (I-131), thyroid disease treatment. (FOIA/PA-97-367)

X-Ray Florescent Spectrometers, relation to cancer development. (FOIA/PA-97-368)

MLTS database, specific program codes, on disk. (FOIA/PA-97-369)

TMI, 1987 accident. (FOIA/PA-97-370)

Rocketdyne/Atomics International, printout of records in the PDR and Central Files. (FOIA/PA-97-371)

Statutorily required indexes and reference guides to NRC information systems and records. (FOIA/PA-97-372)

Chief Financial Officer  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 26, 1997

Authorized Federal Travel Directory on LAN

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer has made the Authorized Federal Travel Directory (AFTD) available on the network. The AFTD contains flight, hotel, rental car, and other travel information currently available in the Official Airline Travel and Flight Guide (OAG). Included in the AFTD are both domestic and foreign per diem rates, as well as rates for areas frequently travelled to by NRC employees.

As a result of putting the AFTD on the network, the agency has been able to significantly reduce the number of hardcopy OAG guides for an annual savings of \$16,000.

Office of Human Resources  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending September 26, 1997

Career Fair Attended at Florida International University

On September 22, 1997, Henry Rubin, Office of Human Resources, David Diec, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and Tom Johnson, Region II, attended a career fair at Florida International University in Miami, Florida. Several outstanding candidates were referred to NRC offices for possible consideration.

Career Fair Attended at the University of Virginia

On September 24-25, 1997, Duane Potter, Office of Human Resources, and Garmon West, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, attended a career fair at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia. There were a number of excellent applicants who indicated interest in the NRC.

Arrivals		
CAHILL, Christopher	REACTOR ENGR (PFT)	RI
DANIS, Aaron	INTELLIGENCE SPEC (PFT)	NMSS
RICE, Danny	RADIATION SPEC (PFT)	RI V
ROTHSTEIN, Stanley	SR ENFORCEMENT SPEC (PFT)	OE
Retirements		
JOHNSON, Richard	MATERIALS ENGR (PFT)	RES
KROPP, Wayne	BRANCH CHIEF (PFT)	RI I I
Departures		
SALEHI, Kombiz	PROJECT MGT (PFT)	NRR



**SEPTEMBER 26, 1997**  
**ENCLOSURE I**

Office of Public Affairs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 26, 1997

Media Interest

OPA:HQ received a number of calls on the decision of the Attorney General in Maine not to file charges against Maine Yankee for alleged safety violations.

The Hartford Business Journal will publish a story on the decommissioning at Haddam Neck.

The St. Petersburg Times is reporting on plants such as Crystal River and Brunswick that were shut down or on the watch list and are now improving their performance.

School Volunteers Program

Mel Fields, NRR, will be using the OPA Reactor Model to discuss the design and construction of major structures in a typical nuclear power plant for the Ronald McNair E. S. 5th grade class.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
97-141	NRC Schedules Workshop in Rockville, Maryland on "Restricted Release" Decommissioning Procedures
97-142	Note to Editors: ACRS reports received
97-143	NRC Names Dr. Robert E. Uhrig to Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
Regions:	
I-97-125	Note to Editors: Nuclear Energy Advisory Council Meeting Regarding Haddam Neck
I-97-126	NRC to Hold Press Briefing on Decommissioning of Maine Yankee

I-97-127	NRC Accepting Comment on Maine Yankee Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report
I-97-128	NRC, GPU Nuclear to Discuss Apparent Violations at Oyster Creek
II-97-70	NRC Staff to Hold Conference With Duke Power Company to Discuss Apparent Violations at McGuire Nuclear Plant
III-97-86	Note to Editors: Confirmatory Action Letter Issued to American Electric Power Co.
III-97-87	NRC Staff Proposes \$50,000 Fine Against Detroit Edison Company for a Violation of NRC Requirements at Fermi Plant
III-97-88	NRC Staff Issues Demand for Information to Illinois Power Co.
IV-97-55	NRC, SCE Officials to Discuss Apparent Violation at San Onofre
IV-97-56	NRC Staff, Entergy Officials to Discuss Apparent Violations at Arkansas Nuclear One
IV-97-57	Stolen X-Ray Camera Found Safe

Office of International Programs  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 26, 1997

Chairman to Conclude Three Bilateral Information Exchange and  
General Cooperation Arrangements in Vienna

Arrangements are being finalized for Chairman Jackson to sign the five-year renewals of NRC's arrangements with the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (September 30) and The Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (October 2) as well as the first five-year arrangement with the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of Armenia (also September 30). These will all be done in connection with bilateral discussions Chairman Jackson will hold during the week of September 28 on the margins of the IAEA General Conference in Vienna.

U. S. - China Science and Technology Executive Secretaries Meeting

On September 25-26, 1997, the Department of State hosted the U. S. - China Science and Technology Executive Secretaries Meeting where 30 representatives from China met with their U. S. counterparts to discuss bilateral cooperation. Kevin Burke, OIP/NRC, met with Yang Bo, National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA), to discuss current and upcoming projects under the NRC-NNSA Protocol on Nuclear Safety Matters, including the renewal of the Protocol that will expire in January 1998. A common theme expressed during the Executive Secretaries Meeting was China's rapid growth of science and technology programs and accelerated bilateral cooperation, limited in many Protocols by the availability of funding.

Office of the Secretary  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 26, 1997

Negative Consent Documents Released to the Public

<u>Document</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1. SECY-97-193	8/27/97	Assistance to the U. S. Department of Energy's Fissile Materials Disposition Program
2. SECY-97-187	8/13/97	NMSS Policy and Procedures Letter "Procedure for Preparing the Annual Report to Congress on the Gaseous Diffusion Plants"
- SRM on 97-187	9/18/97	(same)

Information Papers Released to the Public

1. SECY-97-206	9/12/97	Status Report of
----------------	---------	------------------

the  
Nuclear  
Regulatory  
Commission  
Task Force  
on  
Oversight  
of the  
Department  
of Energy,  
in  
Response  
to  
COMSECY-  
96-053 -  
DSI 2

- |    |             |         |  |
|----|-------------|---------|--|
| 2. | SECY-97-210 | 9/18/97 | Weekly<br>Information<br>Report -<br>Week<br>Ending<br>September<br>12, 1997 |
| 3. | SECY-97-211 | 9/18/97 | Milestones<br>for<br>Revising<br>10 CFR<br>Part 70                           |
| 4. | SECY-97-212 | 9/19/97 | Agreement<br>State<br>Program<br>Status<br>Assessment                        |

Commission Correspondence Released to the Public

SEPTEMBER 26, 1997  
ENCLOSURE 0

1. Letter to Dr. Charles Fairhurst dtd 9/18/97 provides an offer for an appointment to the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste
2. Letter to Joseph Duffy, USIA, dtd 9/16/97 concerns the Interagency Working Group on U. S. Government-Sponsored International Exchange and Training

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Postponement of the October 9, 1997 meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Reactor Fuels, Onsite Fuel Storage, and Decommissioning

Region I  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 26, 1997

Meeting Between NRC, USDA and USEPA to Discuss NRC Licensing Process

On September 22, 1997, Keith Brown of the Division of Nuclear Materials Safety staff met with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to discuss the NRC licensing process as it relates to the planned remediation of a USDA radioactive material burial site in Beltsville, MD. USDA is characterizing the site and developing a remediation plan for consideration by NRC and EPA.

Salem Generating Station

On Monday, September 22, 1997, Salem Unit 2 reactor power was increased from 90% to 100%, marking the first time in more than two years (since June 1995) that full power was attained. This transpired after an earlier call between the Salem Assessment Panel (SAP) and PSE&G management that was conducted to confirm the adequacy of the licensee actions since the last hold point. During the call, the licensee provided a summary assessment of activities that had been completed since their release from the 50% power hold point. In general, the SAP was satisfied with the licensee's assessment activities, and their consistency with NRC assessments over this time period. Based on the above, the SAP recommended releasing Salem Unit 2 from the 90% hold point. The Regional Administrator (RA) subsequently released the hold point.



Region II  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 26, 1997

Duke Power Company - Oconee

The Regional Administrator and other Region II managers met with Duke Power Company at the Oconee site on September 22 to discuss the Oconee Emergency Power Project initiatives. Topics discussed included an overview of the Oconee power system and the state of Oconee's emergency power system. Duke also discussed the recent Keowee field breaker closed coil failure and the status of open items from the Keowee Augmented Inspection Team report. Duke stated that a Continued Reliability Assurance review of the emergency power system would begin in October 1997.

Florida Power and Light Company - St. Lucie

Representatives from Florida Power and Light Company were in the Regional Office on September 23 to discuss the status of progress on St. Lucie performance improvement program, the steam generator replacement project (SGRP), and the employee concerns program. For the performance improvement initiative, FP&L discussed status of self assessments and reviewed other performance indicators and corrective actions. A detailed schedule of the SGRP was presented and the status of the project was discussed including project organization and staffing and pre-outage activities. During discussions of the employee concerns program, FP&L presented an assessment of likely causes of allegations and planned improvements in responding to employee concerns were also presented.

Southern Nuclear Operating Company - Vogtle

On September 24, the Regional Administrator and other NRC staff were at the Vogtle facility to present the results of the latest Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance for the Vogtle Plant. The facility's overall performance for the past eighteen month period was assessed as superior in all functional areas. Following a plant tour and the SALP presentation, a public meeting was held with state and local officials.

Tennessee Valley Authority - Sequoyah

The Regional Administrator and other NRC staff were at the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant on September 26 for a management meeting on operational performance of the Sequoyah facility. Topics of discussion included management initiatives, departmental self assessments, material condition, Unit 2 refueling outage goals, and quality assurance overview.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1997  
ENCLOSURE P

Region III  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 26, 1997

Demand For Information Issued to Illinois Power Company - Clinton Nuclear Power Plant

On September 26, 1997, the NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation in NRC headquarters, Rockville, Maryland, issued a Demand For Information (DIF) to Illinois Power Company. The DIF requires the utility to submit information on the corrective action program to resolve issues at the Clinton Nuclear Power Plant. The DIF requires the utility to respond at least two weeks before it plans to restart the Clinton plant. After the response is submitted, the NRC staff plans to meet with Illinois Power officials before the staff makes a decision on the plant's readiness for restart.

The Clinton plant has been shut down since September 5 of last year. It is currently inspecting and refurbishing a number of circuit breakers as a result of a circuit breaker failure which occurred August 5, 1997.

Management Meeting with Illinois Power Company - Clinton Nuclear Power Plant

On September 26, 1997, a management meeting was conducted in the Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between management representatives from Illinois Power Company and members of the NRC staff. The meeting discussion focused on the utility's findings and conclusions regarding an August 5, 1997, event regarding a safety-related breaker that failed to open on demand. The utility also provided an overview during the meeting of the current corrective action and preventative maintenance programs associated with maintaining these and other safety-related equipment at the plant.

Special Evaluation Team Public Entrance Meeting - Clinton Nuclear Power Plant

On September 24, 1997, the Special Evaluation Team entrance was conducted at the Clinton Nuclear Power Plant. The meeting discussed the objectives, scope, and schedule of the team's evaluation of the Integrated Safety Assessment being conducted by Illinois Power Company and the independent review of the Clinton plant performance by the team. The 10-member team is headed by Kenneth E. Perkins, Jr., who is Director of the NRC's Field Office in Walnut Creek, California.

The NRC team will observe work of the utility assessment at the Clinton site September 24-October 3, 1997. Its independent onsite follow-up is scheduled for October 20-31, 1997. The NRC team will discuss its findings in a meeting with the utility which will be open to the public, tentatively scheduled for early December.

#### Management Meeting with Commonwealth Edison Company - Engineering Issues

On September 24, 1997, a management meeting was conducted in the Region III Office, Lisle, Illinois, between management representatives from Commonwealth Edison Company and members of the NRC staff to discuss engineering issues at the utility's six nuclear power stations. The major topics included: design basis document efforts; engineering performance indicators; and engineering assurance efforts.

Region IV  
Items of Interest  
Week Ending September 26, 1997

Diablo Canyon Predecisional Enforcement Conference

On September 22, 1997, in the Region IV office, the NRC staff and Pacific Gas & Electric Company senior managers met in a predecisional enforcement conference to discuss the licensee's handling of auxiliary saltwater system floor drain check valves under the requirements of the Maintenance Rule. There had been several instances in which these check valves had been found to be clogged with debris in the open position (a maintenance preventable functional failure). This created the potential for a flooding event to disable both trains of the auxiliary saltwater cooling system.

Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance Meeting at Fort Calhoun Station

On September 24, the Regional Administrator, accompanied by NRR and Region IV staff, attended a public meeting at the Fort Calhoun Station to discuss the results of the latest Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance for the Fort Calhoun Station.

Pre-Decisional Enforcement Conference with Arkansas Nuclear One

On September 26, 1997, the Regional Administrator and members of the Region IV and NRR staffs met with representatives of the Arkansas Nuclear One to conduct a pre-decisional enforcement conference. The purpose of the pre-decisional enforcement conference was to discuss apparent violations involving steam generator tube and tube sleeve degradation.

Office of Congressional Affairs  
 Items of Interest  
 Week Ending September 26, 1997

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, <u>No. 33</u>					
OCA CONTACT	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Keeling	09/30/97 2172 RHOB	10:00	TBA	U. S. - China Nuclear Cooperation	Reps. Gilman/Hamilton International Relations
Combs	TBA 406 DSOB	TBA	Markup	S. 8, Superfund Reauthorization	Sen. Chafee/Baucus Environment & Public Works
Gerke	10/06/97 TBA	TBA	OMB, GAO	Strategic Plan of OMB	Reps. Horn/Maloney Gov't Mgmt, Info & Technology Government Reform & Oversight
Keeling	10/06 342 DSOB	TBA	TBA	Nuclear Stockpile Safety	Sen. Cochran/Levin Intl Security, Proliferation & Federal Services Governmental Affairs

SEPTEMBER 26, 1997  
 ENCLOSURE R