

In the news...May 30, 2000

Compiled by NRC Office of Public Affairs

The South Bend Tribune in Indiana has begun running a five-part series on the story of Michigan's Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant shutdown and the events leading up to it, starting with a look at whistle-blower George Galatis, who had been employed as a nuclear engineer at the Millstone Nuclear Station in Waterford, Conn. 5/28. In a related story, the newspaper notes that the NRC ruled in a 1999 case that an unidentified welder suffered retaliation for questioning the welding procedures used to replace the steam generators at the D.C. Cook plant, according to agency records. 5/29. The second article in the series focuses on another whistle-blower, Curtis Overall, who reported faulty screws that "snapped like an old hickory twig" at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant in Tennessee. The article maintains that the Cook plant would be running today -- without extensive safety repairs -- had Overall remained silent. 5/29.

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The NRC has deemed problems at the Indian Point nuclear power plant so severe that it has knocked the operation into the agency's toughest oversight program for the next year. The Journal News in New York adds that the Buchanan plant is only one of three of 103 commercial nuclear plants in operation nationwide to receive such heightened scrutiny by the NRC, with the other two located in Michigan. 5/26.

TOKYO -- Reuters reports that Japan's largest utility firm, Tokyo Electric Power Co., shut down a 1,356-megawatt nuclear reactor on Monday after detecting high levels of radiation in the cooling water, a spokesman said. No radiation leak into the environment had been detected from the incident at the No. 6 Kashiwazaki-Kariwa power plant in Niigata prefecture on the Sea of Japan coast, he said. 5/28.

SEOUL -- A prolonged strike by North Korean workers may further delay construction of two internationally financed nuclear reactors in the communist country, South Korean officials said Friday. Associated Press, 5/26.

An article by the Scripps Howard News Service says that energy experts warn that the onset of the hot season, coupled with the recent acceleration in the wiring of America, is likely to bring months of power brownout and blackout alerts in unprecedented number. 5/29.

The Los Angeles Times reports that more than two weeks after a hellish

D/22
49