

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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BRIEFING ON ACCIDENT SEQUENCE
PRECURSOR PROGRAM

- - - -

PUBLIC MEETING

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
Rockville, Maryland

Thursday, June 14, 1990

The Commission met in open session,
pursuant to notice, at 2:00 p.m., Kenneth M. Carr,
Chairman, presiding.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

KENNETH M. CARR, Chairman of the Commission
KENNETH C. ROGERS, Commissioner
JAMES R. CURTISS, Commissioner
FORREST J. REMICK, Commissioner

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STAFF SEATED AT THE COMMISSION TABLE:

SAMUEL J. CHILK, Secretary

WILLIAM C. PARLER, General Counsel

JAMES TAYLOR, Executive Director for Operations

DR. THOMAS MURLEY, Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FRANK CONGEL, Director, Division of Rad. Protection and Emergency Preparedness, NRR

EDWARD JORDAN, Director, AEOD

RICHARD BARRETT, Chief, Risk Applications Branch, NRR

DR. PETER LAM, Chief, Reactor Systems Section, AEOD

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN CARR: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

This afternoon the NRC staff will brief the Commission on the Accident Sequence Precursor Program. This program, which was initiated in 1979, evaluates actual events at operating nuclear power plants to determine those initiating events or system configurations which significantly increase the risk of core damage.

We look forward to hearing how the program works, some of the results of this effort, and how those results are used to reduce any significantly increased risk that may be identified.

Commissioner Roberts will not be with us today.

I understand that copies of the staff's briefing slides are available at the entrance to the meeting room.

Do any of my fellow Commissioners have opening comments?

If not, Mr. Taylor, please proceed.

MR. TAYLOR: Good afternoon. With me at the table, to my left, starting at the far left, Rich

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1 Barrett, Frank Congel and Tom Murley from NRR. To my
2 right, Ed Jordan and Peter Lam from AEOD.

3 We thought that this briefing would be
4 appropriate because of the increased use and value of
5 the Accident Sequence Precursor Program to the staff.
6 It's being used in AEOD case studies. We're starting
7 to use the approach and methodology to shut down
8 conditions. That's being worked and it provides
9 timely assessment of the significance of important
10 events and gives us an inference of overall safety
11 trends.

12 So, with that sort of cross staff usage,
13 we thought it would be appropriate to schedule this
14 briefing. The briefing will be in two parts. First,
15 the program comes under AEOD and that will be provided
16 by Ed Jordan and Doctor Lam. Then, Tom Murley and his
17 staff will talk about how the staff is utilizing the
18 output from AEOD.

19 So, with that introduction, I'll ask Ed to
20 begin.

21 MR. JORDAN: Okay. This particular
22 program provides a method that's independent of the, I
23 would say, deterministic reviews that we do both in
24 the regions, NRR and AEOD to assess safety
25 significance, try to put a number on events that

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1 appear significant to us and we need to analyze
2 further.

3 The methodology was established using
4 generic event sequences and this then gives us, by
5 plugging in what actually happened in this event, the
6 conditional core damage probability given that
7 particular set of circumstances. So, in that fashion,
8 it is quantitative. It has some limitations. The
9 limitations have to do with the modeling that's done.
10 It is a generic modeling and then the values that are
11 assigned within the generic model, those probabilities
12 that are assigned are also treated generically.

13 We see the world improving in terms of our
14 ability to do a better job with this program. There's
15 feedback from the NUREG-1150 work that we think is
16 going to benefit further this model, this program.
17 And then insights from plant-specific PRAs done under
18 the IPE Program we feel will be beneficial to us in
19 the future in getting a better value for a particular
20 event in terms of that particular plant's
21 characteristics and its particular values.

22 (Slide) Could I have slide number 3,
23 please, the background slide.

24 As the Chairman indicated, this program
25 was established in 1979 as a response to a TMI

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1 recommendation. Annual reports are published. The
2 most recent report was published in February of this
3 year for the 1988 events. That bothers us that we are
4 lagging behind. There is a natural lag in terms of
5 the time to analyze from the last event for a given
6 year.

7 We're currently trying to improve the
8 timeliness of those by doing more in the way of on-
9 line type reviews. For instance, the Vogtle event,
10 the methodology has been revised to support shutdown
11 events and we have characterized that event by this
12 methodology and got a value of the order of 1×10^{-3}
13 core damage probability given the events that happened
14 at Vogtle at that time. That helps calibrate us, for
15 instance, in our actions in response to that Vogtle
16 event, that here we can say we have a reasonable
17 understanding, order of magnitude level, of the
18 significance of it.

19 So, we're working to try to do those
20 events that are identified through the Agency's
21 screening on a more like real time basis within a
22 couple of months of the event so that we will have
23 accumulated the more important events as the year goes
24 through. So then our publishing of the annual
25 summaries will be more timely.

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1 This program was initially developed under
2 the Office of Research and then transferred to AEOD as
3 an operational program. The methodology has been
4 constant. Oak Ridge has been the contractor
5 throughout this time and this constant methodology
6 then provides now in time a basis for examining trends
7 and Doctor Murley is going to talk about those trends.

8 We have done some improvements along the
9 way by adding other sequences. For instance, I
10 mentioned the shutdown sequences. Sealed LOCA
11 sequences have been added and others so that we can
12 better characterize a wider range of events. So,
13 without taking away from Doctor Lam's presentation,
14 I'll turn it to him to go through the further
15 discussion.

16 DOCTOR LAM: Thank you, Mr. Jordan, for
17 your introductory remarks.

18 May I present to the Commission the
19 program status and program results for the past five
20 years. Additionally, I would like to present the
21 highlights of the lessons learned on current emphasis
22 and future plants.

23 (Slide) May I have slide number 4,
24 please.

25 The way the program defines a precursor is

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1 indicated on this slide. There are three
2 characteristics, any one of which would define a
3 precursor. One, failure of a safety system. Two,
4 degradation of two safety systems. Three, occurrence
5 of an initiator such as a loss of coolant accident, a
6 loss of off-site power, a steam line break, or any
7 transient with complications.

8 This set of definitions are sufficiently
9 broad so that it catches and has caught in the past
10 safety important events. At the same time, it has
11 reasonably high threshold so the true real events
12 would not be included in the analysis. This is a set
13 of definitions that the program has used consistently
14 in the past ten years.

15 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Excuse me just a
16 minute. In looking at the Vogtle event and to help me
17 calibrate, would that have fit in to this definition
18 or not? I'm just trying to see --

19 DOCTOR LAM: Yes. Yes, Commissioner.

20 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Where would it fit
21 in?

22 DOCTOR LAM: It would fit into two places.
23 One, it's a loss of off-site power or a transient with
24 complications. So, either one of the two would fit.
25 Furthermore, it would also fit under failure of a

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1 safety system.

2 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Where would it fit
3 under a transient? I don't follow that.

4 MR. JORDAN: The heat-up would be
5 considered a transient, the loss of coolant and then a
6 subsequent primary system heat-up.

7 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Pretty weakly there,
8 I would think. That's a pretty mild transient.

9 MR. TAYLOR: I think the loss of off-site
10 power is the --

11 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Yes. Sure. Yes. I
12 was just curious if it would fit in.

13 MR. JORDAN: We do try to treat it as a
14 matrix. So, it tumbles on a number of elements of the
15 matrix.

16 DOCTOR LAM: (Slide) Let me turn to slide
17 number 5 about the programs product. There are three
18 major products. May I have the next slide, please?

19 There are three major products the program
20 provides. One, accident scenarios. It provides a
21 description of the likely accident scenario given the
22 precursor occur. Specifically, it described what the
23 system failure would be, what type of human
24 intervention would be necessary, and how the accident
25 may progress.

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1 Second, it provides a quantification of
2 the precursors. The quantification would be expressed
3 in terms of a conditional core damage probability. I
4 will offer more discussion on this topic later.

5 Third, it provides some sort of integrated
6 risk perspectives as to identification of potential
7 plant weaknesses in design, in operation and in human
8 recovery.

9 Let me share with you --

10 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Just before you move
11 off there, on the question of finding a scenario, how
12 unique do you think that is? Using these screening
13 criteria, do you find several different possible
14 scenarios or does it -- do these screening criteria
15 tend to lead you to one?

16 DOCTOR LAM: Commissioner Rogers, we
17 usually find several likely scenarios, and some of
18 which may dominate in terms of risk, some of which may
19 dominate in terms of likelihood.

20 May I move to the next slide, please?

21 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Sure. Please.

22 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Let me ask to make
23 sure I understand. When we talk about conditional
24 probability, let's use Vogtle as an example. You
25 assume that -- what, that loss of off-site power

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1 occurred or do you assume that somebody would back
2 into a pole and then you go from that point? Where do
3 you draw the point that you assume that that has
4 occurred, loss of off-site power? Is that where you
5 begin or do you go back a step further to the
6 possibility of somebody backing into a pole leading to
7 a loss of off-site power?

8 DOCTOR LAM: For the Vogtle event, the
9 event boundary is loss of off-site power. So, given
10 the loss of off-site power occurred, that's a
11 precursor, Commissioner.

12 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Okay. Now, let me
13 go a step further. Then a diesel was out for
14 maintenance. When you go through then your trees, do
15 you assign a probability that'd be out for maintenance
16 of one for one of those diesels or do you use industry
17 average or --

18 DOCTOR LAM: To the extent feasible,
19 Commissioner, we use plant-specific data. For Vogtle,
20 we happened to use generic number.

21 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Okay. But --

22 DOCTOR MURLEY: Excuse me a second. But
23 in this case, the diesels -- one was out and one
24 didn't start.

25 DOCTOR LAM: Right.

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1 DOCTOR MURLEY: So you're already into
2 that part of the tree where you assume emergency
3 diesel failure.

4 DOCTOR LAM: Okay.

5 DOCTOR MURLEY: So, the question really is
6 what do you assume about recovery and how do you--
7 then you've got to go into various --

8 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Okay. So you use
9 the actual situation on the event.

10 DOCTOR LAM: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Okay.

12 MR. JORDAN: We plug in the failures that
13 occurred associated with that event and then some the
14 probabilities for recovery are --

15 CHAIRMAN CARR: From there on.

16 MR. JORDAN: -- operator action from there
17 on, yes.

18 COMMISSIONER REMICK: I see. So --

19 DOCTOR MURLEY: And Peter will get into
20 it, I think, but strictly speaking, you ought to draw
21 the tree from that point on for that specific plant
22 and for that configuration.

23 COMMISSIONER REMICK: And for that
24 condition then, what actually happened? Okay.

25 DOCTOR MURLEY: Because we don't have PRAs

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1 for every plant, we do have to rely on generic event
2 trees to some extent.

3 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Okay. Thank you.

4 DOCTOR LAM: (Slide) Slide number 6,
5 please.

6 Let me illustrate to the Commission the
7 process the program has gone through. This slide
8 indicates the amount of data and the extent of effort
9 the staff has gone through. In the past decade, over
10 40,000 licensee event reports were processed and
11 screened by the program, in which 1,500 potential
12 precursors were identified and more than 450
13 precursors were quantified. The point here is the
14 program has utilized reasonably high threshold. Only
15 one percent of the operating experience is labeled a
16 precursor.

17 (Slide) The next slide, please. Slide
18 number 7, please.

19 As indicated earlier, the conditional core
20 damage probability is a major product of the program.
21 It is the end result of the quantification process.
22 The term "conditional" was used to mean given the
23 event has occurred. So, the conditional core damage
24 probability of a precursor is the damage probability
25 associated with the precursor, after it has occurred.

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1 Now, this concept is further illustrated in the next
2 slide, please.

3 (Slide) We offer a simplified and very
4 simplistic example, assuming a loss of off-site power
5 has occurred. By definition, a loss of off-site power
6 is a precursor. If all the diesel generators were to
7 fail and if recovery efforts were not successful, then
8 core damage would occur. The conditional core damage
9 probability associated with the precursor, in this
10 case which is the loss of off-site power, would be the
11 product of the failure probability of the diesel
12 generator and the recovery failure probability, which
13 is illustrated here.

14 The emphasis here is that the conditional
15 core damage probability is not the frequency of the
16 precursor. The frequency would be indicated by how
17 often the loss of off-site power would occur.

18 CHAIRMAN CARR: But to take your model,
19 you started there at Vogtle after the diesel generator
20 failure. So, the entry was down at the bottom line on
21 recovery failure, right?

22 DOCTOR LAM: That's exactly right,
23 Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN CARR: Okay.

25 COMMISSIONER CURTISS: For purposes of

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1 this program, do you give credit to recovery efforts?

2 DOCTOR LAM: Commissioner Curtiss, we give
3 credit to human recovery efforts to the extent
4 feasible. And at the Vogtle analysis, we gave a great
5 deal of credit to human recovery. As a matter of
6 fact, the whole Vogtle analysis is hinged on recovery
7 of off-site power or recovery of the diesel generator.

8 COMMISSIONER CURTISS: Okay.

9 DOCTOR MURLEY: I think we ought to make
10 sure we not leave the misimpression that at Vogtle the
11 chances of a core damage were one in ten. In fact, do
12 you want to say --

13 MR. JORDAN: 10^{-3} .

14 DOCTOR MURLEY: Did you mention that?

15 MR. JORDAN: Yes.

16 DOCTOR LAM: Right.

17 DOCTOR MURLEY: The chances -- and in
18 Vogtle's particular case, because it had been shut
19 down for a long time and they had some options, there
20 the chances of core damage, given the events that
21 occurred, was one in 1,000, 10^{-3} .

22 DOCTOR LAM: That's exactly right, Doctor
23 Murley. This is a highly simplistic example.

24 CHAIRMAN CARR: I understand.

25 DOCTOR LAM: (Slide) Next slide, please.

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1 The current results, as Mr. Jordan
2 indicated, was available in February of this year.
3 Within another two months, we had the 1989 data
4 available. The 1988 results, a quick summary would be
5 there are no precursors with conditional core damage
6 probability greater than 10^{-3} . Among the top seven
7 precursors in the 10^{-4} range, three of which would
8 involve surface water system failures, another three
9 would involve emergency diesel generator problems, and
10 another two would involve aux. feedwater system
11 problems.

12 There is a double term here. One event
13 specifically which occurred at Catawba where clam
14 fouling of the aux. feedwater system was induced by
15 clams' presence in the surface water system. So,
16 there's a double term here. All these events would
17 add up to eight.

18 (Slide) In the next slide, we'd like to
19 share with you what are the staff activities taken
20 prior to and concurrent with the precursor safety
21 results. The staff had taken numerous activities on
22 these three major important safety systems, as I
23 indicated earlier, prior to the results of the
24 precursor safety study.

25 On the surface water system problems, AOED

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1 in 1988 had issued a case study on the surface water
2 system problems and degradations, which is a study
3 involving a comprehensive review and analysis of the
4 system problems. As a result of the study, the EDO
5 had forwarded the report to the Commission. Mr.
6 Jordan has asked the program officers to take actions.
7 In coordinating with the regions, with Office of
8 Research and with NRR and AEOD, the staff had issued
9 generic letter 89-13. In the generic letter, the
10 staff had asked the licensees to look and the
11 licensees had looked and found numerous deficiencies
12 and problems.

13 So, in our humble opinion, this is a
14 success. This is example of a success.

15 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Let me ask you a
16 question. I could draw several conclusions from the
17 fact that the staff was working in areas where the
18 accident sequence precursor studies indicate we should
19 be working on. Now, a brilliant staff, which of
20 course we do have and therefore they're working on the
21 right things, or you could argue you don't need the
22 accident sequence precursor study because the staff
23 already is working in those areas. I found that odd.
24 The justification seemed to be that you were working
25 on the right problems and I don't differ with that.

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1 But are you able to use this in a way to investigate
2 areas where you might not otherwise have done so? I
3 didn't see much evidence of that, where you were using
4 this study for purposes like that. I saw it more you
5 were justifying what you were doing and saying --

6 DOCTOR MURLEY: Commissioner, this is, to
7 me, one of our most valuable programs and I'll give a
8 personal anecdote as to what -- how it tipped me off.

9 I was, at the time, Regional Administrator
10 in Region I and I got one of the reports that I think
11 came out of the work that was done here on the
12 accident sequence precursor, that I think Peter did,
13 on BWR over-pressurization events. I read about an
14 event that happened at one of my plants that I didn't
15 know about because the staff was not really sensitized
16 then to the potential for over-pressurization events.
17 The regional staff I guarantee was not.

18 When I read that, I got to thinking, "My
19 gosh, if --" and I went back and looked and, sure
20 enough, it was in a resident inspector's monthly
21 report, but it was not highlighted or anything because
22 there was no real damage. But it was an important
23 precursor.

24 I think as a result of that, I, at least,
25 drew the conclusion that we had to be looking more at

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1 these early signs of things more than we were doing.
2 So, there are some cases where that happens. I think
3 usually our common sense and our everyday notion of
4 what's important will get us to the same place, but
5 there's some occasions where it won't.

6 CHAIRMAN CARR: How did that fit the
7 precursor? I can't find an over-pressure fit unless
8 it was a transient.

9 DOCTOR MURLEY: This happened in the early
10 '80s and I don't know whether they're still in here or
11 not. I presume they are.

12 DOCTOR LAM: Chairman Carr, Doctor Murley
13 was referring to the event that happened in 1984 at
14 Browns Ferry. Mr. Taylor had intimate knowledge on
15 that event as well. The data here -- what I just
16 shared with you was 1988. In the next couple of
17 slides, I will share with you about a five year
18 summary.

19 CHAIRMAN CARR: No, no, I meant the
20 definitions. I'm trying to fit in the over-pressure
21 event he's talking about that caused him to worry into
22 the definition of how it became a precursor.

23 DOCTOR LAM: It would fit into the first
24 two, Chairman Carr. It would fit into the failure of
25 a safety system or degradation of more than two

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1 systems because the over-pressurization event referred
2 to is specifically the failure of the test of a check
3 valve of General Electric design reactors and also the
4 subsequent failure of a motor operating valve. The
5 end result would be a major degradation of all the
6 ECCS systems. So, it would fit into the first two
7 definitions..

8 CHAIRMAN CARR: Okay.

9 MR. JORDAN: And maybe I'd like to take
10 away a little bit from the rigor of the criteria on
11 that page. What we were looking for is a way of
12 nominating events to do an analysis --

13 CHAIRMAN CARR: Yes.

14 MR. JORDAN: -- and since then, the staff
15 has the significant event identification that we use
16 in the performance indicator that NRR and AEOD jointly
17 nominate events, about 200 a year. So, we look at
18 those as a screening tool for this as well. So, we
19 have an overlay of the contractors in our screening
20 process that helps reduce the likelihood that
21 something's going to slip through.

22 CHAIRMAN CARR: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER CURTISS: Have you had any
24 events that didn't meet the criteria here but that you
25 determined ought to be plugged into the system?

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1 MR. JORDAN: Probably, but I don't know of
2 any examples.

3 DOCTOR MURLEY: Oh, yes. I'll mention one
4 in a minute. But in Vogtle, a year or two ago they
5 had a leak of -- a fire suppression system water leak
6 in a cable spreading room that went down and got into
7 the control room cabinets and caused some equipment to
8 go off. As it turned out, that particular thing was
9 not a high-risk precursor, but it didn't show up in
10 any PRAs or anything. That was a systems interaction
11 that we hadn't planned on, hadn't thought about
12 beforehand. So, that's one that comes to mind.

13 MR. TAYLOR: But I think the point Ed was
14 making is this screening tries to pick up even those
15 and get them in in a valued basis.

16 MR. JORDAN: Yes. It gives us a better
17 chance of getting them, I think, by not being totally
18 deterministic --

19 CHAIRMAN CARR: So, it's not an
20 exclusive --

21 MR. TAYLOR: No, it isn't.

22 MR. JORDAN: No.

23 CHAIRMAN CARR: -- screen, it's a broad
24 cut.

25 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

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1 MR. JORDAN: Yes, sir.

2 CHAIRMAN CARR: Okay.

3 DOCTOR LAM: Let me talk about diesel
4 generator problems. The staff has long recognized
5 diesel generator reliability as an important issue.
6 This is explicitly recognized in the station blackout
7 rule. This is also recognized by AEOD which is
8 conducting a major study on diesel generator problems.
9 Also, there have been numerous generic communications
10 on this topic.

11 (Slide) The next slide, please?

12 As to the aux. feedwater system problems,
13 Doctor Murley indicated to us that there is now closer
14 resolution of generic issues 124 and 125; 124
15 specifically referred to aux. feedwater system
16 reliability and 125 is a generic issue created after
17 the Davis-Besse event in 1985.

18 There has been special inspections
19 conducted by the regional staff and by Doctor Murley's
20 staff and there has been numerous AEOD studies on the
21 topic. Two of the highlights are the case study on
22 aux. feedwater system steam binding and also on the
23 turbine pump over-speeding phenomena.

24 (Slide) Let me now give you a summary of
25 the five year data on the next slide.

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1 This is the slide that shows the
2 distribution of the precursors by their -- according
3 to the safety significance. This slide is color coded
4 for the safety significance. The safety significance
5 is measured by the conditional core damage
6 probability. The color black refers to a conditional
7 core damage probability of 10^{-2} . That is the most
8 safety-significant event in the past five years which
9 occurred in 1985 at Davis-Besse, which involved the
10 loss of main feedwater and the loss of aux. feedwater.
11 The event was extensively investigated by the Agency's
12 IIT and had the results of numerous regulatory and
13 industry activities.

14 At the next lower level of safety
15 significance, color red is the precursors with the
16 conditional probability of 10^{-3} . In 1984, there was an
17 event at La Salle in which a reactor scram was
18 followed by the unavailability of the RHR system and
19 the RCIC system failure.

20 In 1985, an event happened at Hatch in
21 which a safety relief valve was stuck open at 100
22 percent power, concurrent with the failure of the HPCI
23 and the RCIC system.

24 In 1986, there were two events, one
25 happened at Catawba. At about 50 percent power, a

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1 let-down line, which is about the size of one inch
2 diameter, ruptured causing the loss of reactor
3 inventory during power operation. A second event
4 happened at Turkey Point 3. At 100 percent power, a
5 PORV on the pressurizer spuriously opened and stuck
6 open at 100 percent power, again leading to a loss of
7 reactor inventory.

8 From this distribution, a couple of points to
9 be made. After 1985, there are no precursors for
10 conditional core damage probability bigger than 10^{-2} .
11 After 1986, there are no conditional core damage
12 probability bigger than 10^{-3} . So, these data indicate
13 in 1987 and 1988 the industry performance has
14 improved.

15 Now, I would defer to Doctor Murley to
16 offer more interpretation on what this data would
17 mean.

18 CHAIRMAN CARR: But the Vogtle comes in at
19 1×10^{-3} on this chart, would show up -- will show up
20 this year?

21 DOCTOR LAM: That's right.

22 CHAIRMAN CARR: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER REMICK: There's an apparent
24 observation one can make. As the -- you have fewer in
25 the range of 10^{-4} . You seem to have more in 10^{-5} . Is

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1 it obvious that those things are being shoved down in
2 probability, the type of events are occurring, but
3 it's just that they're occurring with a less
4 conditional probability? Is that a safe assumption or
5 is it that could be misleading?

6 MR. JORDAN: I think it could be
7 misleading because the same sieve is occurring and
8 we're not just assessing as a set of events, a
9 numerical set, but the ones that get caught in the
10 sieve. And so, I don't know the significance of that
11 larger number of lesser events.

12 COMMISSIONER REMICK: I see. Okay.

13 DOCTOR LAM: (Slide) If I may go to the
14 next slide, this is a slide that illustrates the
15 system problems that have been observed in all the
16 precursors in the past five years happening at the
17 pressurized water reactors. It shows a lessons
18 learned about relative systems importance.

19 Before I get into details, may I say to
20 you that these results offer no surprises. These
21 results are consistent with the staff's perception
22 about how important the safety systems are.
23 Additionally, these results are consistent with the
24 current staff effort in paying attention to this
25 safety systems.

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1 The acronym for the safety systems are
2 offered on page 17. As we see here, the aux.
3 feedwater system has been observed to be most
4 frequently involved in the safety precursors in the
5 past five years, followed by electric power systems,
6 followed by main feedwater, main steam relief, high
7 head injection, surface water system, instrumentation
8 and control, turbine bypass, atmospheric dump and
9 PORV.

10 Again I'd like to iterate the precursor
11 population had relatively high threshold. It
12 represented one percent of the operating experience.

13 (Slide) Similar observations may be made
14 on the next slide about boiling water reactor system
15 problems. We see RCIC coming in first, electric power
16 systems second, feedwater, HPCI, LPCI, isolation
17 condenser, steam relief valve, instrumentation and
18 control, turbine bypass, RHR, ADS and high pressure
19 core spray system.

20 CHAIRMAN CARR: Now, on that chart -- on
21 the other chart, I recognized what we're doing in
22 those. But on that one, reactor core isolation
23 cooling seems to me to be something we aren't really
24 focused on. Is that wrong or right?

25 DOCTOR LAM: Well, Chairman Carr, the
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1 staff has gone through extensive efforts in
2 prioritizing and resolving safety issues. The results
3 are documented in NUREG-933. I think the RCIC systems
4 written importance was recognized in NUREG-933 and
5 also in the latest 1150 results. I think this
6 system's contribution to reactor accident risk is well
7 recognized.

8 CHAIRMAN CARR: Well, we've got a -- I
9 mean I'm personally aware of things we've got going on
10 in the other systems and I guess I'm kind of ignorant
11 of what we've got going on in this system.

12 MR. TAYLOR: You're asking about any
13 ongoing action?

14 Tom, do you have --

15 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes. I don't know that we
16 have a --

17 CHAIRMAN CARR: It stands out at the top
18 of the precursor list for BWRs.

19 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes. Yes. But we pay a
20 lot of attention to RCIC. But I don't know that we
21 have a generic issue or that it rises to that level
22 that we single it out as a --

23 MR. TAYLOR: When we have a RCIC failure,
24 it gets an awful lot of attention.

25 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes. It's part of our

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1 inspection program.

2 MR. JORDAN: Maybe the idea of --

3 CHAIRMAN CARR: There seems to be some
4 anomaly there, I guess, in those two charts.

5 MR. JORDAN: But what we're maybe
6 confusing you with is these are the numbers of cases
7 in which RCIC was one of the elements or the dominant
8 element, but it doesn't assign a risk value. In fact,
9 the RCIC risk contribution is quite small. There are
10 a lot of ways of getting water in a BWR. So, in terms
11 of actually getting on the scale --

12 CHAIRMAN CARR: So, even though it's a
13 major contributor, its effect is negligible, relative
14 to some others, huh?

15 MR. JORDAN: It's small in the risk of a
16 BWR, I would say.

17 DOCTOR MURLEY: It shows up frequently in
18 events, but it's failure is not as significant as a
19 lot of other systems.

20 MR. JORDAN: Right.

21 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Oh, I didn't
22 understand. So, this is not that it leads to a large
23 conditional failure problem.

24 DOCTOR MURLEY: No.

25 MR. JORDAN: No.

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1 COMMISSIONER REMICK: I see. That's how I
2 was interpreting it. I was surprised --

3 MR. JORDAN: So, we should be weighting
4 these with, in the cases of RCIC, how much of a risk
5 have they contributed in these. I see quantity, but I
6 was ignoring it.

7 COMMISSIONER CURTISS: What do you see on
8 that chart as the -- if this is just recounting the
9 numbers, what are the significant BWR precursors?

10 CHAIRMAN CARR: Feed and blackout.

11 DOCTOR LAM: Right. We see electric power
12 systems being a major contributor. Station blackout
13 always is a risk driver as consistent with the
14 insights in 1150. We see the availability HPCI and
15 RCIC together would be a problem. This has been
16 recognized by the staff as well as by the industry.
17 EPRI and INPO has conducted extensive studies on HPCI
18 and RCIC together being unavailable.

19 MR. JORDAN: And if you added ADS to that
20 equation, then that would be a very risky event.

21 CHAIRMAN CARR: But it's --

22 MR. JORDAN: But there --

23 CHAIRMAN CARR: There is a message here
24 that something is getting by us in RCIC if it's the
25 biggest system failure that we're seeing in BWRs. I

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1 don't understand that.

2 MR. JORDAN: It's a --

3 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Is it a turbine
4 failure?

5 MR. JORDAN: -- turbine, mostly turbine.

6 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Turbine failure.

7 MR. JORDAN: Over-speed type problems.

8 CHAIRMAN CARR: Turbine.

9 DOCTOR LAM: But it is a single train
10 system, both HPCI and RCIC. RCIC is not even labeled
11 as ECCS. It's a single train system, tightly
12 controlled by tech spec. But because it's a single
13 train on a standby basis, then the steam supply would
14 have problem, at the discharge side they have
15 problems. So, on the system reliability basis, both
16 HPCI and RCIC is a single train, steam-driven, standby
17 system had low reliability.

18 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Am I correct the
19 biggest risk with RCIC would be steam line break and
20 failure to isolate? Is that the biggest risk of a
21 failure of RCIC?

22 DOCTOR LAM: That would be one of the
23 scenarios, Commissioner Remick.

24 DOCTOR MURLEY: Now, that's a pretty
25 low --

1 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Probability?

2 DOCTOR MURLEY: -- probability.

3 DOCTOR LAM: And if I may add to what Mr.
4 Jordan has talked about and what Doctor Murley and Mr.
5 Taylor talk about, the insights from 1150 are
6 consistent with these, one of which may be relevant to
7 our discussion. It's on the boiling water reactors
8 has significantly lower core damage probability. One
9 of the reasons may be, in my humble opinion, it would
10 be the availability of multiple means of injection of
11 water. Therefore, this would develop into our
12 discussion.

13 COMMISSIONER REMICK: It becomes a teapot.

14 MR. JORDAN: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: In these data, is
16 there double counting here in a sense, that some event
17 would have more than one of these systems out?

18 DOCTOR LAM: Yes, Commissioner Rogers. If
19 you add them all up, they add up more than 169.

20 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Just count them all
21 up, whatever is out?

22 MR. TAYLOR: This was meant to show that
23 it showed up.

24 MR. JORDAN: Yes. I think as a result of
25 our discussion though for this kind of a presentation

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1 we'll put risk on it as well for those events. I
2 think that might help us understand better.

3 MR. TAYLOR: I don't know how you'd
4 present it, but --

5 MR. JORDAN: I don't either.

6 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Okay. Well, it
7 might be semi-difficult though if you are double
8 counting because --

9 MR. TAYLOR: That's the point.

10 MR. JORDAN: Yes. Somehow we have to
11 not --

12 MR. TAYLOR: I'm not sure you can
13 graphically do it.

14 MR. JORDAN: -- double count that risk.

15 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Another somewhat
16 surprising thing, I would have expected ADS, looking
17 at quantity, to be increased perhaps because I thought
18 that was a system that we worried about reliability.

19 DOCTOR LAM: Yes. Yes. But to our
20 knowledge, there has not been too many ADS actuations,
21 Commissioner.

22 MR. TAYLOR: That's pretty infrequent.

23 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Yes. Okay.

24 DOCTOR LAM: And as a matter of fact, the
25 plan was designed only for one actuation per lifetime

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1 of ADS. So, the operator would have a great deal of
2 hesitancy pushing that button. The plant is designed
3 for one actuation per 40 years and no more.

4 DOCTOR MURLEY: But it could handle more,
5 couldn't it?

6 DOCTOR LAM: (Slide) The next slide would
7 provide the recent program emphasis. As Mr. Jordan
8 indicated to you earlier, in the past, the program
9 provides its results on an annual basis. With the
10 natural limitations, they are time lack. So, right
11 now we are, on a selective basis, providing turnaround
12 on the order of about two to four weeks. So, the
13 Vogtle IIT event was investigated and results were
14 available to us within three weeks.

15 In the new shutdown model, a new shutdown
16 event model was developed after the Vogtle IIT. Prior
17 to that, all the shutdown events were recognized by
18 the program as precursors. But because of the lack of
19 modeling, it was not quantified. But now we had to
20 quantify them.

21 (Slide) In my last slide, again as Mr.
22 Jordan indicated to you on our future activities, to
23 the extent feasible we would recognize and hopefully
24 incorporate NUREG-1150 insights. When the IPE
25 findings are available, we will incorporate them into

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1 the program.

2 This completes my presentation. I'd like
3 to turn this over to Doctor Murley.

4 COMMISSIONER CURTISS: One question before
5 you do that. When you take a look at calculating the
6 CCDFs, are they figures that you come up with weighted
7 by time so that the duration that the plant condition
8 exists, 36 minutes at Vogtle or different numbers for
9 different plants, is that factored into your CCDF?

10 DOCTOR LAM: Yes, Commissioner Curtiss.
11 For system unavailability type of situation, the
12 exposure of time, how long the system was unavailable
13 was specifically included. The longer the exposure
14 time, the higher the risk.

15 COMMISSIONER CURTISS: Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN CARR: In your use of 1150
17 insights, how do you see those being used? I thought
18 that when you were talking about all those things
19 being plant-specific or we made the comment to say,
20 "That's all plant-specific data, don't try to
21 extrapolate it," so you're only going to apply it to
22 those six plants or are you going --

23 DOCTOR LAM: Yes, Chairman Carr. For the
24 plants like Zion, Surry, Sequoyah, Peach Bottom, Grand
25 Gulf, 1150 gives very specific insights. The program

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1 model has divided up all the plants in the country
2 into eight categories. We will try to go back in
3 there and fit -- for example, the Grand Gulf insight
4 would be incorporated into that particular plant type
5 that we are dealing with to the extent feasible. It's
6 not always possible for us to do that.

7 But there are other insights, if I may
8 add, on common mode failures, on single failures, on
9 human errors. Some of them may be generic and may be
10 applicable to the programs.

11 CHAIRMAN CARR: Okay.

12 MR. JORDAN: I'd make a comment. When we
13 do a change that's rather dramatic in the methodology
14 and values we assign, we're going to introduce a
15 discontinuity that will cause the data not to be
16 trendable over time. So, we'll do that deliberately
17 to make sure that the change we're making is worth it
18 at the time.

19 CHAIRMAN CARR: So, you'll have to give us
20 a pre and post --

21 MR. JORDAN: I would not only have to
22 reanalyze the pre-data, right, but at least give an
23 indication if there is a significant perturbation to
24 the risk.

25 CHAIRMAN CARR: Okay.

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1 DOCTOR MURLEY: Okay. I'll talk a bit
2 about how we use the results from this program. I
3 should say at the beginning, this is one of my
4 favorite programs, relevant performance indicator
5 information that's available, to me at least. This is
6 the one I value the most because it's directly related
7 to safety, mainly core damage probability and it can't
8 be managed. It's an indicator that can't be managed
9 like some of the others can be. So, it's directly
10 relevant and it's a measure of what our -- I think our
11 safety product is.

12 Rich Barrett's staff and Frank Congel's
13 staff spent a lot of time analyzing these reports for
14 insights and trends. We ask ourselves are we focusing
15 on the right issues, is there anything that we're
16 missing? It's only -- there are frequently events
17 that happen that don't rise to our attention, at least
18 at my level, because it's not recognized by the staff
19 that sees the event, usually the inspection staff, of
20 the risk significance of the event. And it's only
21 after it's been analyzed and somebody says, "Hey, we
22 came closer then than we thought," that it is of use
23 to us. I recognized that when I was in the region,
24 that they did not have the finely honed sense of what
25 was risk significant that PRA analysts back here in

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1 Headquarters had.

2 So that's a separate issue to get that
3 feeling in the inspection staff. I think this is one
4 program that will allow us to do it, to go back and
5 relook at some of the old events.

6 COMMISSIONER CURTISS: Tom, is the
7 converse of that true, that this program could tell
8 you because of the lack of --

9 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER CURTISS: -- significant
11 information that we're focusing too much attention in
12 some areas?

13 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes. I think
14 traditionally our regulatory emphasis was on large
15 LOCAs, for example. And the whole regulatory
16 framework in the early days was set up to prevent and
17 mitigate the effects of a large LOCA, and of course we
18 don't really see any precursors to the large pipe-
19 break LOCAs. I mean, that's not to say they're not
20 important, but I think the fact that we don't see any
21 precursors to those tells us that we don't need to
22 overemphasize it at least.

23 COMMISSIONER CURTISS: Okay.

24 CHAIRMAN CARR: Unless over-pressure
25 incidents could be a precursor to those, of course.

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1 The fact we haven't had a large LOCA may skew the data
2 a little bit.

3 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes. The over-pressure is
4 a separate case. There it's usually the smaller
5 lines, four, six, eight inch lines that were only
6 designed for low pressure. And we see several cases
7 where they have been over-pressurized, usually by
8 human error in opening an isolation tower or something
9 like that.

10 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Yes. A question
11 that comes to mind is, from what I'm hearing it sounds
12 as if, you know, we're getting new insights into
13 relative importance of various systems from doing the
14 PRA analysis here, which is very valuable and these
15 insights are extremely important. And a question I
16 have is do you think that there's any way that one
17 can, after having done a certain number of these,
18 begin to develop a new sense of relative importance of
19 some of these systems in a plant for which a PRA has
20 not been done? And the reason I ask that is it would
21 be nice to be able to use these insights as quickly as
22 possible --

23 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: -- even though the
25 whole machinery of a full PRA has not been worked out

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1 in every plant.

2 I was visiting a plant the other day and
3 asked them if they were considering doing anything on
4 looking at the relative risks in their maintenance
5 scheduling, and they're just not ready to do anything
6 like that at this point. And yet, you know, they're
7 very conscientious about everything they do, but they
8 don't have the mathematical tools available and they
9 haven't gotten that deeply into their PRA yet -- their
10 IPE yet to have any of those insights. And I was
11 wondering if there is anything that can come out of
12 this that would be helpful to anyone, even though
13 they're not ready to do the mathematics of looking at
14 the relative importances.

15 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes. That's a good
16 question, because we've -- the answer is yes we can,
17 but we have to be careful. We've learned that the
18 details of the design are very important in finding,
19 say, problems and things you hadn't thought about.

20 On the other hand, after you've done a
21 half a dozen or more analyses of PRAs, you realize
22 that service water systems show up as important in
23 many plants and so you can kind of assume it to be the
24 case even for those plants that don't have PRAs. And
25 in that sense, it aims us to do specific studies like

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1 AEOD does. Or it may make us designate it as a
2 generic safety issue, so we'll pick it out for special
3 study. I think it's in that sense that we use this
4 data.

5 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Well, I was just
6 thinking that, you know, sometimes we seem to be
7 learning here that intuition is not always correct.

8 DOCTOR MURLEY: That's true.

9 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: You've got to work
10 the numbers out. But intuition very often comes from
11 experience.

12 DOCTOR MURLEY: That's true also.

13 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: That's how you get
14 the intuition about things. And if one can sort of
15 recalibrate that intuitive sense of things based on
16 these numbers, it might be very helpful in situations
17 such as scheduling and planning and things of this
18 sort for a plant that has not done -- isn't able to do
19 the calibration.

20 MR. TAYLOR: I just had a discussion with
21 some licensee management as a follow-on to another
22 utility, but as a follow-on to the Vogtle event and
23 talking about their outage planning. And they happen
24 to have a level 1 PRA and they have a person assigned
25 to evaluate and is working with the outage group

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1 already to plan outage work. So it is -- people are,
2 I think, getting ready to do what you're driving at.

3 CHAIRMAN CARR: I read his question as to
4 say can we use this data to decide which --

5 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Yes, before you've
6 done it.

7 CHAIRMAN CARR: -- which system we should
8 be most careful of taking out of commission and most
9 concerned about getting it rapidly back in.

10 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes. That can be done. I
11 mean, that's not part of this study, but you can take
12 a PRA analysis and do a sensitivity study on each
13 system one at a time and find out which ones are most
14 vulnerable to being out of service. And that has been
15 done, as a matter of fact, for some.

16 MR. BARRETT: We have a very active effort
17 along the lines of what you're suggesting for internal
18 use within NRR and in working with the regions. We've
19 gone through a number of PRAs for both BWRs and PWRs,
20 and we've compiled a list of generic important
21 accident sequences, about a dozen for each type. And
22 within each one of those sequences, we've compiled the
23 most important systems and the most important
24 component failure modes and human errors that have
25 shown up in a repetitive fashion from PRA to PRA. And

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1 over the last couple to three years, we've used these
2 insights in a number of ways in our own activities,
3 for instance to help in the prioritization of the
4 efforts of team inspections such as the maintenance
5 team inspections.

6 We've also used these insights to consult
7 with the regions from time to time on decisions of the
8 type you were talking about wherein a piece of
9 equipment or an important system is out of service and
10 perhaps maybe two systems are out of service and the
11 region wants to know how risk significant this
12 situation is and what would be an appropriate action
13 on the part of the region or what would be an
14 appropriate compensatory action on the part of the
15 licensee.

16 CHAIRMAN CARR: Have we published that to
17 the guys that need it, the operators and the people
18 who are doing the maintenance? I mean, it's great for
19 us to have it up here and second guess them, but
20 they're the guys who need it day to day.

21 MR. BARRETT: I have a concern about how
22 this type of information is used, as Doctor Murley
23 pointed out. We think that for prioritization purposes it
24 can be very useful, for instance for prioritization of
25 the inspection program. We've not sure if it's ready

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1 for use in terms of prioritizing a maintenance
2 program.

3 CHAIRMAN CARR: Well, I'm just talking
4 about giving it to them for information. It's
5 something that --

6 DOCTOR MURLEY: Let us look into that. I
7 have no objection. I mean --

8 CHAIRMAN CARR: Certainly, if we're
9 walking around here with some things that they ought
10 to be thinking of as they lay out their programs, it
11 certainly wouldn't hurt to at least offer it to them.

12 DOCTOR MURLEY: We generally have
13 documents like that that we use for guidance for our
14 own inspectors. That's a fair way to say it. And in
15 principle, then, it's like our inspection plan. We
16 would not have any trouble in publishing that. It
17 depends on what shape it's in in terms of quality, but
18 other than that --

19 CHAIRMAN CARR: Okay.

20 DOCTOR MURLEY: (Slide) Let me move on to
21 the next chart, the regulatory insights. There's
22 three major areas that I could mention.

23 The identification of safety issues. In
24 here Peter's mentioned issues such as station
25 blackout, service water problems, and auxiliary

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1 feedwater system problems. I think there's been
2 recent events -- not just Vogtle, but mid-loop
3 operation events -- that have caused us to put a new
4 emphasis on looking at shutdown accidents.

5 And I think a third area in identifying
6 safety issues is the one I mentioned about pointing
7 out the significance, the risk significance of events.
8 And I think we need to do even better than we're doing
9 in getting this insights, these risk insights out to
10 our inspectors, because there are events that are very
11 sometimes complicated that get overlooked because they
12 don't fall into one of the classic design basis
13 accident kind of events. And I think we need to--
14 we're getting there. We're getting there. I see a
15 lot better sensitivity than I --

16 CHAIRMAN CARR: Don't only put it out to
17 our inspectors. Put it out to the guys who are
18 running the plant. They need it too.

19 DOCTOR MURLEY: They do as well, yes.

20 We look for patterns in industry
21 performance here, and there are some patterns that are
22 kind of counter to our intuition or what our PRAs are
23 telling us. And one is that the older plants, those
24 15 years old or more, contribute less per capita of
25 the risk than the newer plants. And for example,

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1 about one-quarter of the plants are 15 years old or
2 more, yet they contribute less than nine percent of
3 the cumulative core damage probability over these four
4 year periods.

5 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Why do you think
6 that is?

7 DOCTOR MURLEY: Well, we think there's
8 several reasons for it. One is, of course, the
9 designs are simpler.

10 CHAIRMAN CARR: Simpler.

11 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Simpler, yes.

12 DOCTOR MURLEY: They have simpler tech
13 specs --

14 CHAIRMAN CARR: And maturer.

15 DOCTOR MURLEY: -- and simpler
16 surveillance test programs. But I think another
17 equally valid thing is that the operators have had
18 longer experience to understand the plant and to know
19 its idiosyncracies. That takes some time.

20 Again, this is kind of counter-intuitive
21 to some extent, because our PRAs would tell us that
22 the newer plants with all the fancier safety systems
23 would yield fewer precursors and have a lower core
24 damage probability. Now we haven't totally analyzed
25 that. We're just giving you our assessment. But I

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1 think the simplicity and the familiarity with the
2 plant are the two major factors.

3 A third benefit that we see from this
4 where we get some insights are to verify the PRA
5 methods and the PRA studies, because after all they
6 are just numerical studies and one can view this as a
7 reality check on PRAs. And in general we find that
8 the precursor events tend to verify the important
9 sequences that have been modeled in PRAs. Another way
10 of saying that is we see fewer and fewer new events
11 that weren't thought of and modeled in the PRA, and
12 that's kind of comforting.

13 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Yes. That was a
14 question I was going to ask you. To what extent do we
15 feed this back to make sure the PRAs are complete and
16 that when we run across a new sequence or event that
17 we see that people incorporate that.

18 DOCTOR MURLEY: There's a couple of areas,
19 and then maybe Rich will want to add something when I
20 get to that. The precursor data here confirm the PRA
21 predictions of the high risk significance of human
22 errors. For example, about a half of the precursors
23 involved a human error contribution of some sort or
24 another, and that's consistent with what the PRAs
25 would tell us. However, there are some weaknesses

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1 also in the PRA methodology. These are generally
2 known by the practitioners.

3 The first one is that the human errors of
4 commission are not modeled too well in the PRAs.
5 These are human actions that can make an accident
6 situation worse. It's hard to model those.

7 Also, there are some cases where system
8 interaction has not been modeled well. And I
9 mentioned a case in June of 1988 at Vogtle where water
10 from the fire suppression system leaked on the control
11 room floor via the upper cable spreading room by
12 flowing around an unsealed cable penetration in the
13 floor. This water dripped from the ceiling of the
14 control room onto various process panel cabinets and
15 it actuated various equipment, such as pressurizer
16 backup heaters and a pressurizer PORV. So that is a
17 thing that is very difficult to model and yet it could
18 have led to some system interactions that no one had
19 contemplated or planned for.

20 CHAIRMAN CARR: Or electrical failures,
21 failing automatic doors where they couldn't get to
22 things without having to go get the keys first.

23 DOCTOR MURLEY: I think it's highlighted
24 the importance of shutdown, potential accidents during
25 shutdown. And I think we've mentioned already the

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1 modeling of service water system vulnerabilities can
2 be improved.

3 Rich, do you have any other thoughts?

4 MR. BARRETT: Well, there is one thought
5 that I think is important, and that is that some of
6 the things we've learned from the precursors are
7 limitations of PRA. And the one area where I think
8 that the operational experience and particularly the
9 precursors complement PRAs is insofar as it shows
10 actual failure mechanisms.

11 A PRA is limited in the detail that it can
12 go into and it can tell you that an important failure
13 mode or risk-significant failure mode of the HPCI
14 system, for instance, is a failure of the valves, the
15 steam inlet valve to open. The operational experience
16 can complement that by showing you the mechanisms
17 which can cause that valve to fail, and that gives you
18 something you can work with to try to fix. So I think
19 they complement each other, PRAs and the operational
20 experience.

21 DOCTOR MURLEY: With regard to the Vogtle
22 event of systems interaction, maybe the lesson there
23 is not to go out and try to model all kinds of places
24 where water can leak into the control room, but to go
25 out and fix it to make sure it doesn't happen. I

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1 think that's the lesson there. But it tells us that
2 we can't sometimes be too complacent just because a
3 PRA doesn't show us an event as a high probability.
4 Here we've seen cases where things have happened that
5 haven't been predicted.

6 CHAIRMAN CARR: Take a look at where you
7 were on the water piping, certainly.

8 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN CARR: Have we done this kind of
10 analysis on spent fuel pool problems? And do we do
11 PRAs on things that might happen to spent fuel? Or
12 should we? Seems to me I've seen a lot of spent fuel
13 pool leaks, pumps, doors, gaskets.

14 DOCTOR MURLEY: We've analyzed specific
15 postulated events like loss of water in fires and that
16 sort of thing, but I don't know that we've done a
17 systematic PRA. We've analyzed events.

18 MR. JORDAN: We haven't done an analysis
19 of events that quantify those like these seal failure
20 type events in this fashion.

21 CHAIRMAN CARR: It may not be worth it. I
22 just --

23 MR. JORDAN: We would like to continue to
24 extend the modeling, but in a wise fashion. So it's
25 something that we haven't given up on.

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1 DOCTOR MURLEY: Okay.

2 (Slide) Could we have the next chart?

3 And now we get into kind of what it all
4 means, to some extent, and we have to be a little
5 careful there. This is the same data as in Peter's
6 chart, but here the events are weighted. They're
7 given their estimated conditional core damage
8 probability and they're added together.

9 And what one sees here then, for example,
10 in 1985 the red bar, the dark bar, is a Davis-Besse
11 loss of feedwater event. And it shows its major
12 contribution in 1985 to the total cumulative
13 conditional probability of core damage for that year.

14 I think we have to also recognize that
15 there's a certain stochastic nature of these events.
16 By that I mean if that event had happened seven months
17 later, which it equally could have, then it would have
18 shown up as 1986 being a very high year. So with that
19 caveat in mind, there is a certain stochastic nature
20 to these random events.

21 Nonetheless, the trends are looking very
22 good. They're in the right direction. They're
23 strongly decreased total cumulative conditional
24 probability.

25 If one then takes these data and divides

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1 by the number of reactor years in a given year, then
2 you come up with a frequency which on the next chart
3 we've called the "core damage index." And we have to
4 be a little careful, because it's not exactly the
5 total -- I'm sensitive. I know the Commission in the
6 past has been interested in whether our plants meet
7 the safety goal, and this is I think probably as close
8 as we come to getting an indicator of how well our
9 plants are doing at least with regard to the core
10 damage frequency for all of our plants.

11 This core damage index, then, is just what
12 we've defined. That is, the values of the conditional
13 cumulative core damage probability divided by reactor
14 years. It's not exactly the same thing as the core
15 damage index, because there's several limitations and
16 I think we need to be mindful of these.

17 As good as the accident sequence precursor
18 program is, it may miss certain events. It may
19 overlook certain events. And also, very rare events
20 like seismic events would not get picked up at all
21 there, and yet our plants may be vulnerable to seismic
22 events. It's just that we don't have them frequently
23 enough to get enough statistics on.

24 There are uncertainties in the
25 methodology, because -- take the Vogtle event. They

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1 did not have a PRA for that plant, so we had to use a
2 generic, I presume, four loop PWR kind of PRA and use
3 the event trees for that generic PRA. And we also had
4 to, to some extent, use generic failure rate data. So
5 those are caveats I think that are important that we
6 need to bring in mind.

7 CHAIRMAN CARR: But the overall sum
8 divided by the overall number of reactor years seems
9 to me to be a fairly reasonable indicator. This chart
10 here bothers me, because if you -- it's so affected by
11 one particular incident, if you move that incident
12 anywhere down you can't draw any conclusions, you
13 know. If I put it in '88, why '88 becomes -- we're
14 getting shakier.

15 DOCTOR MURLEY: That's right.

16 CHAIRMAN CARR: So it's --

17 DOCTOR MURLEY: (Slide) Could I go to the
18 last chart? Here is where I think the strength of
19 this comes in, because here one sees almost 20 years
20 of data collected. And the decade before TMI, 1969 to
21 1979, what one sees is a core damage index of 3×10^{-3}
22 per reactor year, much higher than we thought at the
23 time. And one sees then right after TMI, in the 1980
24 and '81 time period, a very sharp drop of a factor of
25 20 in the core damage index. We believe -- we're

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1 quite sure that that is --

2 CHAIRMAN CARR: TMI is not in that
3 anywhere?

4 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes, it is. It's in the
5 1979 data, the first --

6 CHAIRMAN CARR: '69 to '79 data includes
7 TMI?

8 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes. And to be fair, it
9 tends to dominate that decade.

10 CHAIRMAN CARR: Yes.

11 DOCTOR MURLEY: There's three events that
12 dominate: the TMI-1 core damage accident itself--
13 TMI-2, excuse me; the Brown's Ferry fire, 1975; and at
14 Rancho Seco there was an over-cooling event, 1978.
15 Even without TMI, by the way, this would still be a
16 very high value in the 1969 and '79 period.

17 So we see a sharp drop and a continuing
18 decrease in this core damage index. The data was not
19 collected for 1982 and '83. I don't know -- I guess I
20 don't know the reason for that. Ran out of money.

21 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Tom, somewhere my
22 math has apparently failed me. If I look at your
23 chart of the cumulative conditional probability for
24 '88 --

25 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes.

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1 COMMISSIONER REMICK: -- I get something
2 like 10^{-3} . Am I right? 1×10^{-3} is approximate for
3 '88?

4 DOCTOR MURLEY: It should be --

5 COMMISSIONER REMICK: And then, assuming
6 roughly 100 reactor --

7 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes, that's right.

8 COMMISSIONER REMICK: -- 100 reactor
9 years--

10 DOCTOR MURLEY: 10^{-5} .

11 COMMISSIONER REMICK: 10^{-5} , yes. You have
12 2x --

13 DOCTOR MURLEY: 0.2×10^{-4} .

14 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Oh, 0.2. Okay, all
15 right.

16 DOCTOR MURLEY: Now this is -- we've
17 driven --

18 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Well, where did you
19 get the 2? That's a minor. I'm not worried about the
20 difference of factor 2. I thought we were off by a
21 factor of 10.

22 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes. I don't know. It's
23 probably the graph should be .002.

24 COMMISSIONER REMICK: But it's on the
25 order of 10^{-5} , is that right?

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1 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Okay.

3 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes.

4 I think there are some important lessons
5 from all this that tell us that we're really -- that
6 we're doing the right thing. The trends are correct.
7 One sees a sharp drop, even after 1985. You know,
8 there's almost a factor of 10 drop after that Davis-
9 Besse event, which dominated in 1985. And I think the
10 NRC, of course, did start to pay more attention then
11 to things like the auxiliary feedwater system, but
12 more importantly maintenance and how these plants were
13 operated.

14 CHAIRMAN CARR: I started to say, can you
15 break out of those numbers from '80 on to '88 the
16 number of personnel-generated events, i.e., personnel error
17 started it, and the personnel that saved it? I mean,
18 can you break those numbers out of -- can you really
19 tell if training is making the difference is the
20 question I'm asking.

21 DOCTOR MURLEY: Depends on how well the
22 event is described in the LERs, and I guess I'll defer
23 to AEOD as to whether -- do you think we can get like
24 human error rate or maintenance improvements out of
25 these data?

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1 MR. JORDAN: Might be able to get the ones
2 that were attributed to human error.

3 CHAIRMAN CARR: I guess my feeling is the
4 major changes we've made since then have been in
5 training and simulators, two major changes in
6 emphasis.

7 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, I'm sure that must be
8 helping.

9 CHAIRMAN CARR: And we've made some other
10 changes, but whether that really had the impact that
11 would indicate this or not -- and you say we did
12 something in hardware that prevented those other nine
13 years. I'd be hard put to say. It seemed to me like
14 it must be in the operator training and simulators.

15 DOCTOR MURLEY: Personally, I'm quite
16 confident it's in better training, better
17 qualifications of the operators, more of a
18 complement --

19 CHAIRMAN CARR: Awareness by the people
20 that it could happen, you know.

21 MR. TAYLOR: I would think, you know, some
22 equipment -- some changes clearly have improved the
23 plants through the years, because it -- but I would--
24 intuition would say those things certainly have
25 improved it too. Whether you can break this out or

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1 not, it would be useful to look.

2 MR. JORDAN: We'll look and see if there's
3 a --

4 MR. TAYLOR: I think we ought to take a
5 look, whether you can get a percent change.

6 MR. JORDAN: -- a valid way of breaking it
7 out.

8 CHAIRMAN CARR: Yes. I was just trying to
9 figure out. It's a pretty dramatic impact over the
10 last ten years compared to the previous ten years.

11 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes. I think we need to
12 mine this a little more. I think there's just lots of
13 data.

14 CHAIRMAN CARR: I guess my feeling is the
15 plants were generally designed and built already, a
16 lot of them. And so I can't think of any major things
17 that came out of post-TMI that would have made that
18 drastic a thing if it had been all hardware. But it
19 would be worth looking at just for curiosity, I guess,
20 once you get enough money and spare time.

21 MR. JORDAN: Money would help.

22 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Lam is going to ask for a
23 budget increase.

24 DOCTOR MURLEY: I think the emphasis after
25 the Davis-Besse event -- we came very close to a core

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1 damage situation at Davis-Besse. I mean, within --

2 CHAIRMAN CARR: And that was in '85?

3 MR. TAYLOR: '85.

4 DOCTOR MURLEY: And that was well after
5 we'd had emphasis on simulators and training. So I
6 think this other element of proper safety awareness
7 and proper management has also -- and proper
8 maintenance --

9 CHAIRMAN CARR: But as I remember the
10 Davis-Besse event, if the operators had been briefed
11 and trained on that event, since it had happened other
12 places, hadn't led to the same consequences, that
13 might have been a failure in the training breakdown
14 system rather than --

15 DOCTOR MURLEY: Actually, the operators at
16 Davis-Besse did extremely well. They saved the plant.

17 MR. JORDAN: That was a heroic save.

18 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes. They did things that
19 they've not been able to duplicate in terms of getting
20 valves changed in the auxiliary feedwater system.

21 There's one other point I'd like to make
22 with regard to the level of where we're at now. You
23 recall Ed Jordan said that the conditional core damage
24 probability for a Vogtle event was 10^{-3} . Divide that
25 by 100 reactors, 115 for this year. You're down in

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1 the range of that single event contributing about
2 1×10^{-5} to this core damage index. So that one event
3 would contribute already half of what we saw for the
4 whole year of 1988. So I think we're down in the
5 range where --

6 CHAIRMAN CARR: Since we've got a limited
7 data base, which is what we want.

8 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes, we've got a limited
9 data base. And the question is are we going to get it
10 much better? Are we going to push it down much
11 further? And of course, we're going to -- where we
12 see weaknesses like Vogtle reveals, we'll still
13 continue to do that. But I give you my own personal
14 view is we're down in the range where we're not going
15 to get substantial improvements from this.

16 CHAIRMAN CARR: Well, you're saying we're
17 not going to have a substantial number of incidents
18 and I hope that's right.

19 DOCTOR MURLEY: Well, we're not going to
20 drive it to zero either. I think we're approaching a
21 limit, probably.

22 This concludes what I had to say on this
23 program.

24 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Am I correct that--
25 I mean, I'm not trying to belittle the core damage

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1 index, because I think it's important. But since
2 we're using conditional probabilities, dividing it by
3 reactor years, we're getting something that would be
4 larger than a core damage frequency?

5 DOCTOR MURLEY: Generally, it would be
6 larger, because there are things that we're leaving
7 out here.

8 Now on the other hand, the way I've said
9 it here, if this accident sequence program data were
10 perfect -- namely, if there were a complete list of
11 events -- if all the LER descriptions were accurate,
12 you had accurate PRA models for each plant and
13 accurate plant-specific failure data and human error
14 rate data for each plant, if all those were -- then
15 this core damage index would be the mean core damage
16 frequency for all U.S. plants, except for the seismic
17 events.

18 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Yes.

19 DOCTOR MURLEY: But those ifs, I mean, I
20 don't know just how close this is to core damage
21 frequency average.

22 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Sure.

23 MR. TAYLOR: Best thing is the comparison
24 that --

25 COMMISSIONER REMICK: The trend you think

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1 is valuable?

2 MR. JORDAN: Yes, yes.

3 COMMISSIONER REMICK: I'd be afraid to put
4 any values --

5 MR. JORDAN: Not in absolute --

6 MR. TAYLOR: I'd be nervous about the
7 value.

8 That concludes the staff's presentation.

9 CHAIRMAN CARR: Commissioner Remick?

10 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Well, I certainly
11 want to commend the staff on what I think is
12 interesting and very important insights from the
13 program, and I want to particularly thank Doctor Lam,
14 I think, for a very clear and precise presentation.
15 But to all the staff, I think it's been a particularly
16 good one. I want to applaud you for including current
17 events when you're able to, so we get up to date
18 information like you did on Vogtle. That's a very
19 good comparison.

20 I can't read my own writing here. One
21 question I did want to ask you, though, Tom. When you
22 were talking about the over-pressure event, was that
23 an interfacing system LOCA situation? And if not, I
24 want to know is this giving us any insights on the
25 importance of interfacing system LOCA. Have we seen

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1 anything specifically would tell us what kind of a
2 core damage frequency we might infer from interfacing
3 system LOCAs? I wasn't quite sure, when you were
4 talking about the over-pressure event, if that was.

5 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes. The event that came
6 to my mind was at Pilgrim in I think it was 1983, if
7 you remember that event. As I said, I happened to be
8 the Regional Administrator and nobody brought this to
9 my attention. It was an over-pressurization of a
10 HPCI. A pump suction line got exposed to primary
11 system pressure and temperature, and it had some mild
12 notoriety because the paint on the piping started to
13 burn. It got so hot. But no one really focused on
14 the fact that this was a potential intersystems LOCA,
15 and so I kind of raised the sensitivity of my staff
16 when I found out about it.

17 But Rich is looking particularly into this
18 program. Maybe you can answer some of those
19 questions. What's coming out of this program
20 versus --

21 MR. BARRETT: I think one of the things to
22 keep in mind is that we've been looking at this
23 program in combination with a lot of other information
24 that comes out of AEOD. There was an AEOD case study
25 that was done back in 1984, I believe, in which they

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1 analyzed a number of situations in which BWR low-
2 pressure piping was exposed to high pressures from the
3 reactor coolant system. Since that time, we've seen
4 other events and as a result we've initiated a rather
5 comprehensive study of the interfacing systems LOCA
6 for the entire question of interfacing systems LOCA.

7 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Well, the point I
8 was trying to get at, did this study lead you in that
9 direction? In other words, you certainly must have
10 looked at some interfacing LOCA situation -- not LOCAs
11 necessarily, but where you had over-pressure due to
12 interfacing system type arrangements. If you then
13 looked at the conditional core damage probability,
14 were they significant, did you find? Would they by
15 themselves have led you into the study or were there
16 these other observations again that --

17 MR. BARRETT: There is one --

18 CHAIRMAN CARR: Could you speak up a
19 little, Rich?

20 MR. BARRETT: There is one interfacing
21 systems LOCA type event which was the most significant
22 event for 1986, of all event. It was a small LOCA,
23 guillotine break in a letdown line at Catawba. And
24 perhaps that should have, of and by itself, alerted us
25 to this problem. But I would have to say it's more

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1 fair to say that it was a combination of this type of
2 information with other types of operational
3 information that brought us to put more emphasis on
4 this.

5 DOCTOR MURLEY: Including even some
6 foreign experience.

7 COMMISSIONER REMICK: No, I understand.
8 But I was wondering, if you analyzed these this way,
9 did they show any kind of significant conditional core
10 damage probabilities?

11 MR. BARRETT: A lot of the events that we
12 look at now and regard to be significant harbingers of
13 an IS LOCA would not necessarily trip the criteria for
14 a precursor.

15 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Okay.

16 DOCTOR MURLEY: I think the answer from my
17 point of view is no. I did not see in here a high
18 core damage conditional probability. And that kind of
19 led me to also ask why. I think I've concluded that
20 the modeling is not good enough. The PRA modeling is
21 not good enough to show it, even if it had shown up.

22 DOCTOR LAM: If I may add to the
23 discussion, Commissioner Remick, in our assessment of
24 operating experience, the over-pressurization ECCS
25 study done by AEOD had found about eight operating

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1 events, six of which were actual over-pressurization
2 of the ECCS. As you're well aware, if an over-
3 pressurization ECCS occurs, then the only boundary to
4 a core damage is the system would rupture or not.
5 Because in one stroke, one over-pressurized ECCS, if
6 the ECCS piping were to rupture, then the reactor
7 inventory would be lost, containment would be
8 bypassed, safety systems required immediately, the
9 accident would be disabled. So one stone catches
10 three bird type of scenario.

11 And in the operating experience we had
12 observed, as Doctor Murley was saying, at Pilgrim an
13 actual over-pressurization occurred. Now the only
14 reason the program, the precursor program, did not
15 quantify a high core damage probability was because a
16 critical assumption made -- the assumption was, given
17 an over-pressurization of low-pressure piping designed
18 for 450 pounds of pressure to 1,000 pounds, the
19 rupture probability is 10^{-3} . Now that assumption is
20 critical. That assumption hinges on the information
21 we got from the plant that even though the piping
22 label pressure is 450 pounds, they routinely use 1,000
23 pound of equipment. So over-pressurization induced
24 rupture would not be likely.

25 COMMISSIONER REMICK: And that depends on

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1 the ability to isolate if it does rupture.

2 DOCTOR LAM: Right. But in our AEOD
3 earlier study, we sort of disagree with the program,
4 if I may say, because of potential defects in the
5 piping, and also because the potential does exist that
6 the plant's people may not have substituted higher
7 pressure piping for the piece of low pressure pipe.
8 And General Electric has responded to our study and
9 they always maintain 10^{-3} rupture probability would be
10 appropriate. Really, what is the real probability
11 remains to be seen.

12 DOCTOR MURLEY: And we've got a separate
13 program, as you know, and I think we briefed the
14 Commission, and that's looking at is that 10^{-3} failure
15 probability really accurate and does it apply to all
16 the plants. But also, there are other places that the
17 low pressure system can fail, like pump seals and
18 places like that. We want to look systematically,
19 just because of the potential ramifications of that
20 event.

21 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Yes. Just a couple
22 more questions. Chairman Carr introduced the subject
23 of getting this out to industry and I did want to know
24 to what extent are we getting this information out in
25 a usable form for industry that they might get some of

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1 the same insights that we glean from the presentations
2 from you.

3 Then the other thing, to what extent are
4 we using these insights in our review of the advanced
5 reactors? Are we somehow feeding that back so our
6 reviewers are looking for things in the reviews based
7 on those insights?

8 DOCTOR MURLEY: Well, with regard to the
9 latter question, yes, we are using these insights to
10 do several things. I think we've -- I've talked to
11 Research to see if we can improve some of the PRA
12 models, for example, to make sure that when PRAs are
13 done for these next plants, and even the current
14 plants, that they don't overlook the importance of
15 surface water systems, that they don't overlook
16 potential modes for intersystems LOCA and that sort of
17 thing.

18 We've picked out some of these events
19 to -- for the advanced plants, you recall the
20 intersystem LOCA was one of the 15 items for the
21 advanced plants that we said, "Let's just design that
22 away. It's easy to do with a fresh design." So
23 that's one area --

24 CHAIRMAN CARR: When I asked that question
25 they said, "Well, we're not going to design it to be

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1 high pressure piping, we're going to design to low
2 pressure but it will stand high pressure," which is
3 what you're bringing up.

4 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN CARR: And that --

6 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes. We didn't say --

7 CHAIRMAN CARR: -- worries me a little
8 bit.

9 DOCTOR MURLEY: -- it must be designed for
10 1,000 psi or 2,000 psi. What we said is make sure you
11 can make it so that the failure probability is low
12 enough that you don't have to worry about this.
13 Sometimes what they tell us -- and we're getting a
14 little off here, but what they tell us is even though
15 it's, say, in a BWR, it's designed for 600 psi. It's
16 ultimate strength can easily take 1,000 psi or system
17 pressure.

18 CHAIRMAN CARR: I hear you.

19 MR. JORDAN: Maybe I could respond to the
20 first part of your question in terms of getting out to
21 industry.

22 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes.

23 MR. JORDAN: We do distribute this report
24 widely to industry. But I think one of the points
25 that Peter was making was that for the issues that are

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1 these reports, we try to have them covered by some
2 generic correspondence where they're important. For
3 instance, out of the current 1990 issue, we feel that
4 the Vogtle issue will have been communicated to
5 industry before the report actually goes and we'll be
6 able to say that that relatively high risk event has
7 been communicated.

8 Surface water, for instance. Even though
9 it shows up as being an issue in this report for 1988,
10 it has been communicated to industry and if we had
11 lessons out of this that we would supplement, then we
12 would be recommending to NRR a supplement to the
13 generic letter or some other action. So, we try to
14 not only communicate the total document and its
15 results, but to assure that the lessons in it have
16 been transferred to industry in a specific fashion.

17 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Do our people give
18 papers on these type of subjects and so forth as
19 another mechanism of getting it out to peers?

20 MR. JORDAN: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN CARR: My problem was that
22 they've gone through the work of analyzing this and
23 saying, "What can we look for in this and what should
24 we look for when we go to the plants?" Certainly, if
25 we know what we're going to go look for, we ought to

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1 be telling them what they ought to be looking for.

2 COMMISSIONER REMICK: Oh, absolutely. I
3 agree completely, yes.

4 CHAIRMAN CARR: And if you've distilled
5 it, then there's no reason not to give them the
6 benefit of our great distillery here.

7 COMMISSIONER REMICK: And I'm interested
8 in the designers of the future plants being aware of
9 it too so they incorporate it.

10 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

11 CHAIRMAN CARR: I realize you'll be giving
12 the your inspection tips, but what we want them to do
13 is operate and be better.

14 DOCTOR MURLEY: That doesn't bother me.

15 CHAIRMAN CARR: Doesn't bother me either.

16 DOCTOR MURLEY: We're after safety.

17 CHAIRMAN CARR: I don't care why they fix
18 it as long as they look for it and correct it.

19 Commissioner Rogers?

20 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Yes. Can you say
21 anything about on the core damage index numbers what
22 your thoughts are on the uncertainties of those
23 numbers?

24 DOCTOR MURLEY: I really can't give a
25 numerical uncertainty. For the large numbers in the

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1 early years -- no, I can't even do that. I was going
2 to say I think for those very large numbers, the core
3 damage index is very, very close to being the same as
4 the core damage frequency because those events are so
5 high and there's so few of them that you cannot have
6 missed any of them. So, I think the fact is that we
7 know what they were, the Browns Ferry fire, the TMI
8 accident itself, and Rancho Seco. There's very little
9 chance you'd miss a high precursor like that.

10 On the other hand, the analysis of how
11 close they would have come to core damage -- of course
12 TMI did go to core damage -- I really wouldn't want to
13 give an uncertainty. I'd say certainly less than a
14 factor of ten, but I don't know.

15 MR. JORDAN: I would have said at least a
16 factor of ten.

17 DOCTOR MURLEY: Well, let's split the
18 difference.

19 MR. JORDAN: Okay.

20 MR. BARRETT: I think there's an
21 additional point to be made too and I think that this
22 should be interpreted as an experienced risk rather
23 than as a predictor risk. I don't think --

24 MR. TAYLOR: That's right.

25 MR. BARRETT: -- these are indicative of

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1 what you might expect next year.

2 DOCTOR MURLEY: That's right. We are
3 taking action all the time --

4 MR. TAYLOR: If we knew it all.

5 DOCTOR MURLEY: -- to deal with these
6 things.

7 CHAIRMAN CARR: Well, we're dividing by
8 reactor years of operation and that's not really a
9 correct number. I mean if you take Vogtle, it wasn't
10 operating. So, it's a plant and it's got a license,
11 so you're actually taking Commission licensed years,
12 but --

13 DOCTOR MURLEY: That's true, but typically
14 what people want to know is how do you compare the PRA
15 estimates which are given in terms of reactor years
16 versus what's really out there. So, you have to
17 normalize these by the total number of reactor years
18 at risk, so to speak, to compare with a PRA numerical
19 number.

20 CHAIRMAN CARR: But if we figure over a 40
21 year life he's going to operate at 80 percent power
22 instead of 100 as an average, I don't know whether--
23 I'd hesitate to put anything on those at all that I
24 could -- the units on that number are really strange.

25 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Well, it's just

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1 that -- they look like a mix and it's true they're
2 real events, but then there's calculations involved
3 and analysis that each of those steps has some
4 uncertainties involved with them, some.

5 MR. TAYLOR: That's right.

6 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: And so, you know,
7 you could put those back in.

8 MR. JORDAN: The thing we can say is that
9 the same methodology was used to cross those. So,
10 they're comparable, but in terms of their value with
11 reality --

12 CHAIRMAN CARR: Plus there's a lot of
13 range in the PRA itself that they're using.

14 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Well, you know, for
15 instance, if we see that something has gone down by a
16 factor of 2, is that significant or not significant?
17 Is 0.5 and 0.2 --

18 CHAIRMAN CARR: I don't think it's
19 significant at all. When you throw in one incident
20 like Davis-Besse, if you will, you can skew that whole
21 set of numbers.

22 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Yes.

23 DOCTOR MURLEY: Yes. They point out in
24 these reports that over the years they have refined
25 their models. So, they caution everybody who reads it

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1 that you really can't compare, strictly speaking, one
2 year from the next because they've revised their
3 models. On the other hand, I tend to view it as just
4 part of all the overall uncertainties. I guess I
5 wouldn't be surprised at a factor of ten at all, no.

6 CHAIRMAN CARR: Like all other indicators,
7 if they're used with caution, they may be good for
8 something.

9 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Well, yes. It's
10 just a question of -- it looks like a very nice trend,
11 but then you start asking questions about
12 uncertainties in these numbers, is there a trend there
13 at all. You know?

14 DOCTOR MURLEY: Oh, yes.

15 CHAIRMAN CARR: Small database.

16 DOCTOR MURLEY: But we're just not seeing
17 the very large near misses that we saw in those early
18 days. I feel --

19 MR. BARRETT: Qualitatively, I think you
20 can see a difference. If you look at the foremost
21 significant events of 1985, they were all significant
22 trips, loss of off-site power, LOCAs with
23 complications. If you look at the most significant
24 events of 1988, they were latent failures of safety
25 systems due to things like Asiatic clams, fouling of

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1 filters, a qualitatively different type of event.

2 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Well, just to try to
3 take the most extreme view of the significance of
4 these numbers and when one has a collection of numbers
5 that seem to show a trend, then the first thing you
6 say is, "Well, what are the uncertainties on each of
7 those numbers and is there really a trend there or not
8 on the basis of the numbers?"

9 What you're really saying is it's
10 something else that you're looking at, the qualitative
11 features of the events themselves that you're folding
12 into it in addition to just looking at the numbers
13 themselves.

14 MR. BARRETT: That gives credibility to
15 the numerical differences.

16 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Right, right, right.
17 Yes.

18 Well, the other thing is, what about
19 external events? Have we had anything, any events
20 that -- as a result of external events that I suppose
21 in a sense focus on external events, but --

22 MR. JORDAN: We've had hurricanes that
23 have gone right up the coast. They're not included in
24 this data unless there was an event that resulted from
25 the hurricane.

1 CHAIRMAN CARR: Well, trucks in a
2 switchyard are kind of an external --

3 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Well, that's what I
4 was going to say. In a sense, Vogtle was an external
5 event. What do you think about -- should we be
6 thinking about external events in this --

7 DOCTOR MURLEY: Commissioner, the way
8 we're handling those is that they're additive to
9 these. It's true, Hurricane Gloria came up the coast
10 and it affected probably a dozen plants along the East
11 Coast, and yet we didn't go in and analyze how close
12 it came because it didn't come very close to any
13 damage at all. I think it might have taken out some
14 power lines at Millstone, as I recall or something.
15 So, it's conceivable --

16 CHAIRMAN CARR: Well, they shut down,
17 didn't they?

18 MR. TAYLOR: Some plants in the path --

19 CHAIRMAN CARR: Yes.

20 MR. TAYLOR: I think they might have shut
21 down.

22 CHAIRMAN CARR: They did.

23 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: A lot of them just
24 shut down, yes, stay out of the way.

25 DOCTOR MURLEY: But in general, I think

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1 it's fair to say that they're not in here and they
2 should be added, calculated separately from other
3 frequency data that we have and then added to this.

4 COMMISSIONER REMICK: But you looked at
5 them, right? If they had occurred and tripped your
6 system, you --

7 MR. JORDAN: Right. Like the Brown's
8 Ferry fire is in the set in those early times and that
9 would be strictly called an external event.

10 DOCTOR MURLEY: That's true.

11 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: That's all.

12 CHAIRMAN CARR: Commissioner Curtiss?

13 COMMISSIONER CURTISS: No questions.

14 CHAIRMAN CARR: Well, I would like to
15 thank the staff for this informative briefing. In my
16 view, the evaluation of actual plant events using
17 probabilistic risk assessment techniques combines plant
18 operating experience with new methodology in a way
19 that helps us determine and respond to those plant
20 system configurations that pose the greatest risk to
21 safety.

22 This program is valuable in our efforts to
23 ensure the continued safety of currently operating
24 plants, as well as for future designs, I think.

25 Do any of my fellow Commissioners have
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1 additional remarks?

2 If not, we stand adjourned.

3 (Whereupon, at 3:33 p.m., the above-
4 entitled matter was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

This is to certify that the attached events of a meeting
of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission entitled:

TITLE OF MEETING: BRIEFING ON ACCIDENT SEQUENCE PRECURSOR PROGRAM

PLACE OF MEETING: ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DATE OF MEETING: JUNE 14, 1990

were transcribed by me. I further certify that said transcription
is accurate and complete, to the best of my ability, and that the
transcript is a true and accurate record of the foregoing events.

Carol Lynch

Reporter's name: Peter Lynch

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ACCIDENT SEQUENCE PRECURSOR PROGRAM AND APPLICATIONS

June 14, 1990

**Edward L. Jordan, Director
Office for Analysis and Evaluation
of Operational Data**

**Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation**

**CONTACT: PETER LAM
TELEPHONE: 301-492-4436**

ASP PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES

- Identify safety significant events and issues
- Use systematic, consistent methods
- Provide quantitative estimates
- Present integrated risk perspectives

LIMITATIONS

- Completeness in modeling
- Uncertainties in quantification

ASP BACKGROUND

- **Started in 1979 responding to a Lewis Committee recommendation**
- **Program managed by RES, then AEOD**
- **Analyses conducted by Oak Ridge National Laboratory**

PRECURSOR DEFINITION

- Failure of one or more safety systems
- Degradation of two or more safety systems
- Occurrence of an Initiator such as:
 - Loss of Offsite Power
 - Loss of Coolant Accident
 - Steam Line Break
 - Transient with Complications

ASP ANALYSES PROVIDE

- **Core damage accident scenarios for given plant conditions**
- **Estimation of core damage probability given the event**
- **Identification of potential plant weakness in operation, equipment reliability, or human recovery**

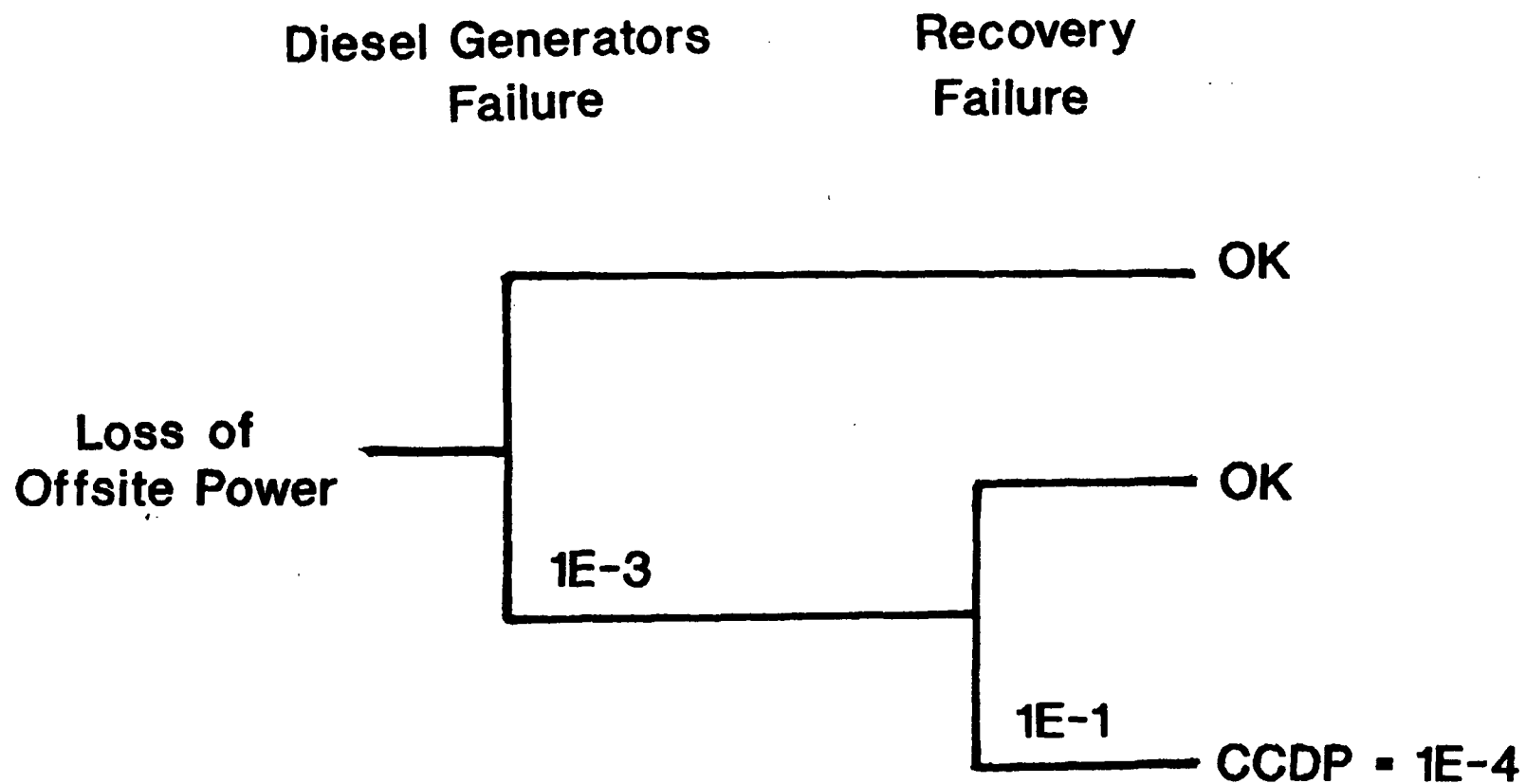
ASP OVERVIEW

- Screened 41,000 LERs from 1969 through 1988
- Selected 1,500 for detailed review for precursors
- Quantified 454 precursors

CONDITIONAL CORE DAMAGE PROBABILITY (CCDP)

**CCDP = The core damage probability given an
event occurs**

A SIMPLIFIED EXAMPLE



1988 ASP RESULTS

- No precursors with conditional core damage probability (CCDP) greater than $1E-3$
- 7 precursors with CCDP in $1E-4$ range
 - 3 of 7 precursors involve service water system
 - 3 of 7 precursors involve emergency diesel generators
 - 2 of 7 precursors involve auxiliary feedwater system

RELATED STAFF ACTIONS

SERVICE WATER PROBLEMS

- 1988 AEOD case study
- Generic Letter 89-13
- RES aging programs

EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATOR PROBLEMS

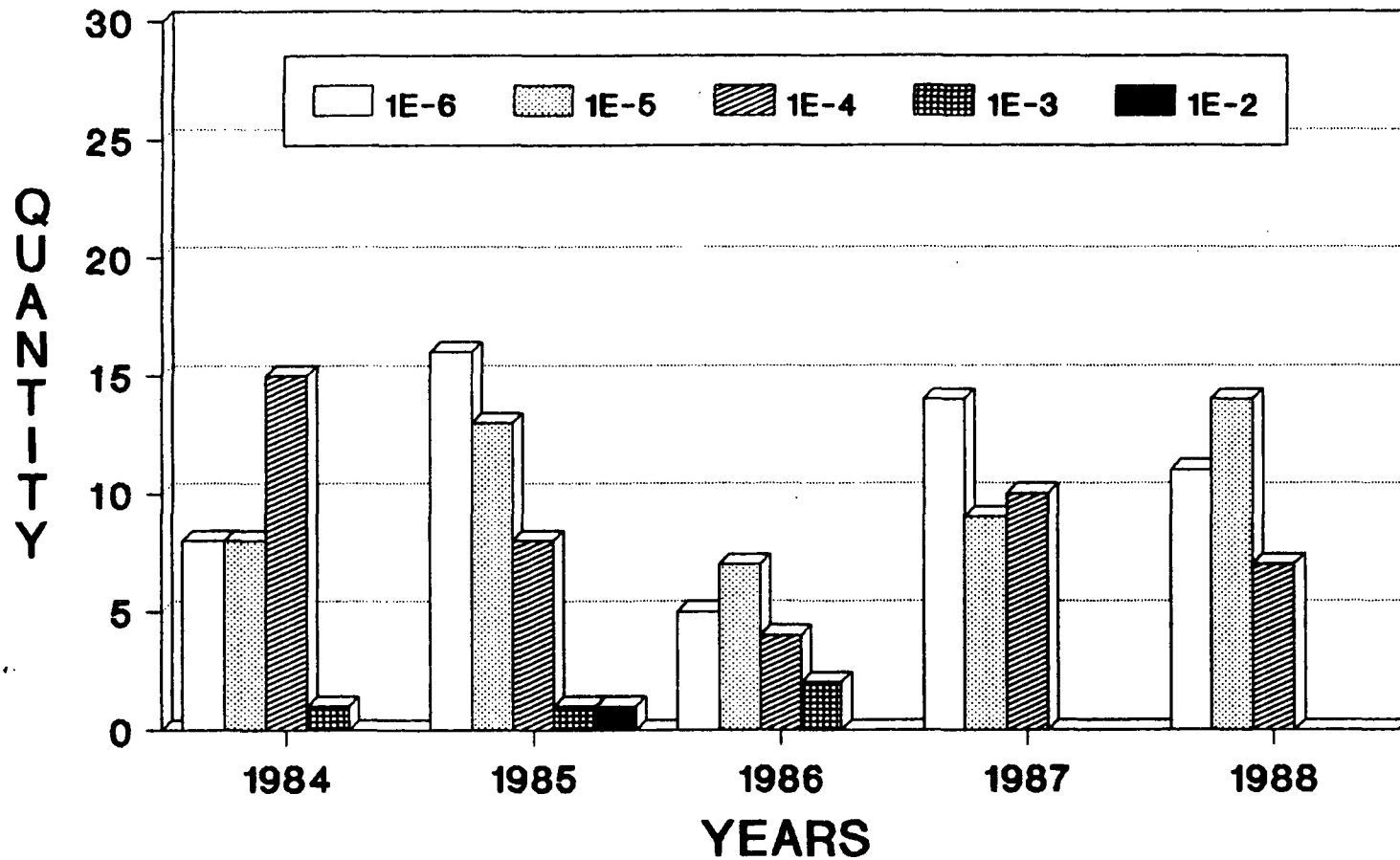
- Station blackout rule
- AEOD study of diesel generator problems

RELATED STAFF ACTIONS (CONT.)

AUXILIARY FEEDWATER SYSTEM PROBLEMS

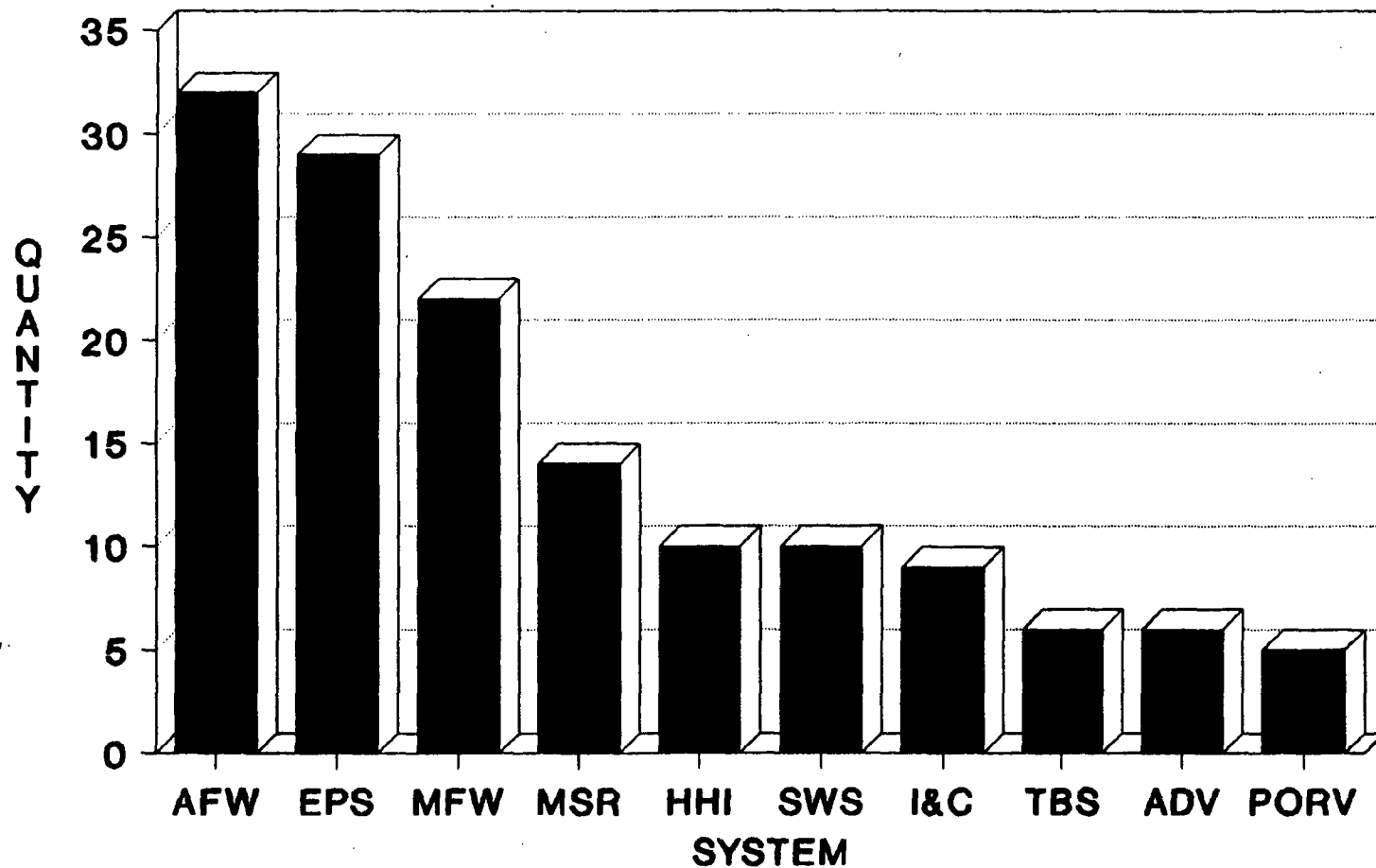
- **Generic Issues 124, 125**
- **Special inspections**
- **AEOD studies**

NUMBER OF PRECURSORS AND ASSOCIATED CONDITIONAL CORE DAMAGE PROBABILITIES

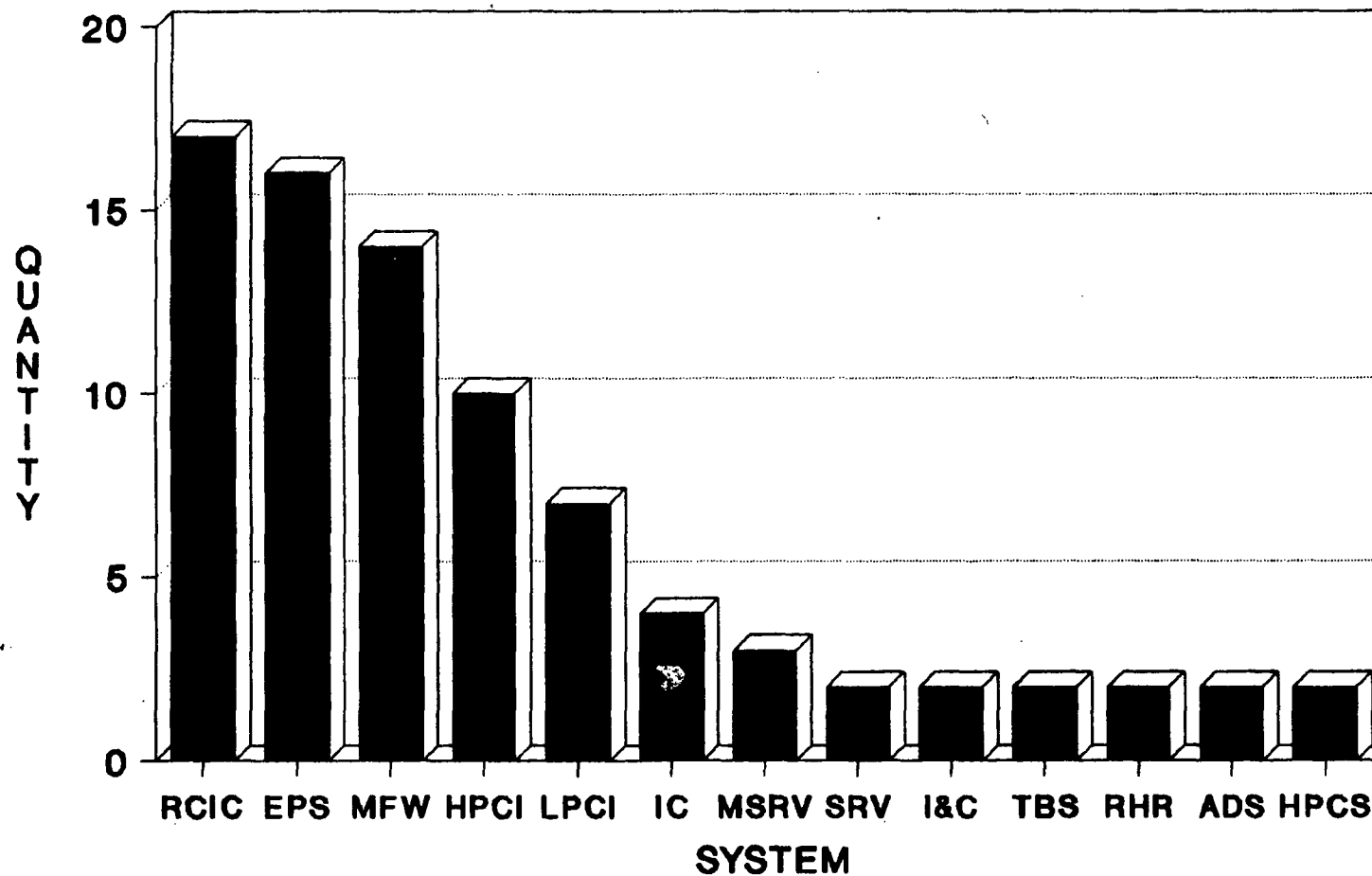


NOTE - LEGEND SHOWS CONDITIONAL CORE
DAMAGE PROBABILITY

SYSTEM PROBLEMS OBSERVED IN PWR PRECURSORS (1984-1988)



SYSTEM PROBLEMS OBSERVED IN BWR PRECURSORS (1984-1988)



RECENT ASP EMPHASIS

- **Timely analysis of current events**
- **New model on shutdown events, e.g., Vogtle IIT**

FUTURE ASP ACTIVITIES

- Recognize NUREG-1150 insights
- Utilize IPE findings

SYSTEM ABBREVIATIONS

PWRs

ADV	Atmospheric Dump Valve
AFW	Auxiliary Feedwater
EPS	Electrical Power System
HHI	High Head Injection
I&C	Instrumentation & Control
MFW	Main Feedwater
MSR	Main Steam Relief
PORV	Power Operated Relief Valve
SWS	Service Water System
TBS	Turbine Bypass System

BWRs

ADS	Automatic Depressurization System
EPS	Electrical power system
HPCI	High Pressure Coolant Injection
HPCS	High Pressure Core Spray
I&C	Instrumentation and Control
IC	Isolation Condenser
LPCI	Low Pressure Coolant Injection
MFW	Main Feedwater
MSRV	Main Steam Relief Valve
RCIC	Reactor Core Isolation Cooling
RHR	Residual Heat Removal
SRV	Safety Relief Valve
TBS	Turbine Bypass System

NRR USE OF ASP INFORMATION

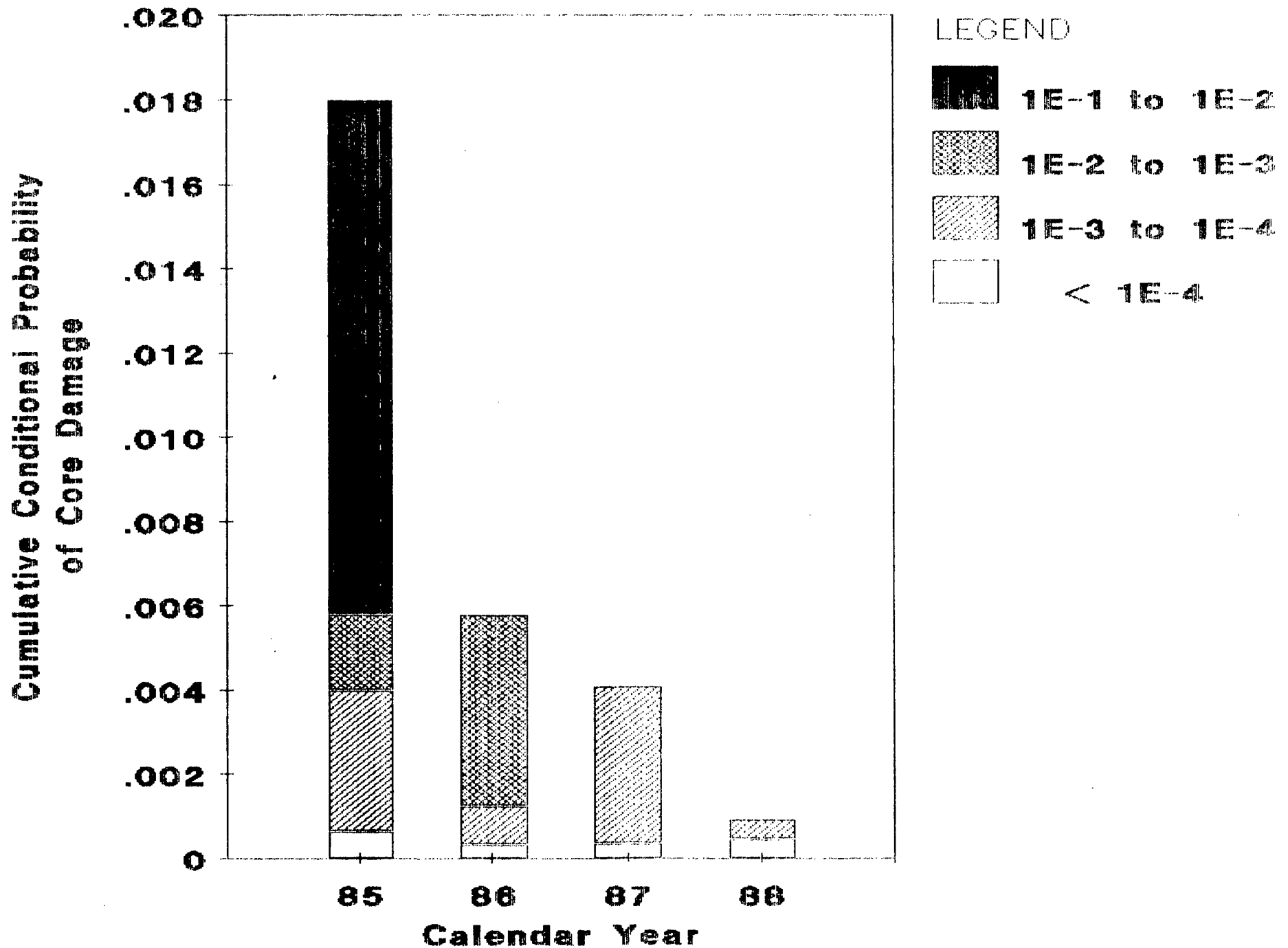
DR. THOMAS E. MURLEY, DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

REGULATORY INSIGHTS FROM THE ANALYSIS OF OPERATIONAL DATA

- IDENTIFICATION OF SAFETY ISSUES
- EXAMINATIONS OF PATTERNS IN INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE
- VERIFICATION OF PRA METHODS AND RESULTS

ASP CUMULATIVE CONDITIONAL PROBABILITIES



CORE DAMAGE INDEX

- FOR A GIVEN TIME PERIOD, THE CORE DAMAGE INDEX IS DEFINED AS CUMULATIVE CONDITIONAL PROBABILITY OF CORE DAMAGE DIVIDED BY REACTOR YEARS OF OPERATION
- THE CORE DAMAGE INDEX IS RELATED TO THE INDUSTRY AVERAGE CORE DAMAGE FREQUENCY FOR A GIVEN PERIOD

CORE DAMAGE INDEX

(Continued)

- USE OF THE CORE DAMAGE INDEX IN THIS WAY REQUIRES RECOGNITION OF SEVERAL LIMITATIONS:
 - NOT ALL EVENTS ARE ANALYZED, PARTICULARLY EXTERNAL EVENTS
 - THERE ARE LARGE UNCERTAINTIES IN THE SCREENING AND ANALYSIS METHODS.

CORE DAMAGE INDEX

(Continued)

- LIMITATIONS, continued:
 - CORE DAMAGE FREQUENCY IS HIGHLY PLANT SPECIFIC
 - ASP EVENTS IN A GIVEN YEAR REPRESENT A FRACTION OF OPERATING PLANTS

TRENDS FROM ASP ANALYSIS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CORE DAMAGE INDEX</u>
1969-79	3.1 E-3 per R-Yr
1980-83	1.6 E-4 per R-Yr
1984-85	1.4 E-4 per R-Yr
1985-87	0.5 E-4 per R-Yr
1988	0.2 E-4 per R-Yr

