

## **BNE Improvement Statement**

The BNE continually strives to make improvements to our program that will increase our efficiency and effectiveness. This past year is no exception. Since July 2008 the BNE has:

- BNE contracted Becht Nuclear Services (Becht) to perform the independent review of the Oyster Creek drywell three-dimensional analysis. Becht recommended that continued measurement of drywell thickness and evaluation be an ongoing process, and that the interval of inspections and measurements be done and evaluated as frequently as practicable in the early years of extended operation. This is consistent with the State of New Jersey's position that it would be prudent to inspect 100 percent of the drywell bays during the fall refueling outage for sandbed coating failures.
- During a planned cable replacement within an onsite cable vault, plant workers at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (Oyster Creek) discovered water within the vault. As part of Exelon's investigation, they discovered and fixed two active pipe leaks. Exelon continues to sample the onsite groundwater monitoring wells in the vicinity of the underground cable vault to determine whether the tritium is migrating towards the property boundary and to ensure that the tritium levels decrease as would be anticipated if the leaks were terminated. The BNE has been receiving split samples from these wells (raw well water) for independent analysis of tritium and gamma emitting radionuclides by our radiological contract laboratory. The analytical results of the split samples may be viewed on the BNE's web site.
- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) jointly issued Supplement 4 to NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, Rev. 1 to provide additional guidance for the development, review, and evaluation of offsite radiological emergency response planning and preparedness surrounding the Nation's commercial nuclear power plants (NPPs). The BNE in coordination with other state and local response organizations are in the process of evaluating the documents and preparing comments. Public comments also are being solicited and information on the process can be found in the NEPS Fact Sheet.
- The Department of Environmental Protection has contracted with Envitech Ltd. to provide a new central computer system for the Air Pollution / Radiation Data Acquisition and Early Warning System. It is designed with failover capability and multiple redundancies to ensure maximum reliability. The system also has extensive alarm capabilities to notify staff of system failures and above normal environmental conditions, including ambient radiation levels, via text messages and email.
- In the spring of 2009, two monitoring stations around Oyster Creek that had been unable to transmit data for an extended period due to failed telephone lines were restored. These two sites were converted to wireless communications and are now successfully transmitting data again. As of June 30, 2009, a total of eight monitoring stations have been upgraded to wireless communications.

- The environmental group generated element correction factors (ECFs) for over 500 TLD badges during the months of August and December 2008. This represents the entire population of BNE TLD badges available for deployment in the field. The application of ECF's compensates for the slight variations in readings between individual badges, thus normalizing TLD performance.
- The NEES completed a cross training program to ensure that all environmental personnel are competent in applying the protocols and procedures for the TLD program in order to assure the highest quality data.
- In July 2007, PSEG formed a License Renewal Project for seeking twenty year operating license renewals from the NRC for the units at Salem and Hope Creek. The forty year operating licenses will expire as follows: Salem Unit 1 on August 8, 2016; Salem Unit 2 on April 4, 2020; Hope Creek on April 11, 2026. The present schedule for submittal to the NRC of all three license renewal applications is August 2009. Public participation will be encouraged during the renewal process via public meetings and dissemination of information by PSEG and the NRC.

The BNE fact sheets provide additional details of program enhancements.