

NURSING DIRECTOR CONNIE SHEA enters patient information with the touch of a finger into one of Dosher Memorial Hospital's new computer "chart carts."

DOE SEEKING REVIEW Federal Judge Blocks Acceptance Of Spent Fuel Bound For Port

BY SUSAN USHER

A federal judge in South Carolina extended an injunction Tuesday blocking the delivery of shipments of foreign research reactor spent nuclear fuel due to arrive at Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal near Southport this month.

The first 159 fuel elements were to arrive at the U.S. Army docks aboard two ships arriving the same unannounced day, each delivering two sealed casks of rods, and were to remain at the terminal no more than 24 hours before starting the journey by rail to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site storage facility near Aiken, S.C.

Jayne Brady, spokesman for the Energy Department in Washington, D.C., said Tuesday that the agency will ask the Department of Justice to seek an immediate review of the in-Court Judge Matthew Perry.

Perry issued a temp

first ship arrives off the coast.

"We have several options but we're not considering that now because the ship is still on its way," she said.

Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, responding to Perry's decision, said the acceptance of the fuel by the U.S. is "an issue of grave importance for preventing the spread of dangerous weapons material."

DOE has acted responsibily, she said, and will continue to pursue acceptance of the fuel here.

Prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons is a fundamental foreign policy and national security objective of the United States, Assistant DOE Secretary Thomas Grumbly advised in a submission to the court Monday.

The challenge by South Carolina Gov. Carroll Campbell comes after the Energy Department agreed in junction issued by U.S. District negotiations earlier this month to fund security and protection measures, in excess of federal require-Friday after the state of South ments, requested by both South Carolina and North Carolina. North Carolina Gov. Jim Hunt has shipments, then extended the order also raised strenuous objections to Tuesday following a four-hour hear- entry of the fuel rods into the country through a North Carolina port According to Brady, the ship car- and their transport across the state as rying the first two casks of fuel rods an unnecessary threat to public The Sunny Point terminal was chosen from among a group of likesue is resolved. She would not say ly East Coast ports in part because what DOE's plans are if the order of its relative isolation and proximi-

Computerized Charting Expected To Save Time, Steps, Paper At Dosher Hospital

BY LYNN CARLSON Call them state-of-the-art chart

carts. Connie Shea does. Shea, director of nursing at Dosher Memorial Hospital in South-

port, has been planner and trainer for a \$75,000 project to computerize medical records at the hospital, a move expected to increase accuracy and efficiency, save staff time, and streamline ordering and billing.

The computerized charting system will go on line Monday for use by all nurses and their assistants. Instead of carrying clipboards in their hands and pens around their necks, nurses will roll the computer carts into patients' rooms, plug them in and enter information with the touch of a fingertip on the computer monitor screen. The carts can oper-

ate on batteries for up to two hours. A patient's "chart," or medical record, is printed and bound for use by the attending physician. Vital statistics are graphed by the computer. Bad handwriting is no longer an issue, nor is the traditional problem of nurses having to keep up with information until they can find a minute to stop and write it down.

"There've been times when I've actually had to write information on my scrubs until I could sit down and write charts.'

The new charting system automatically leads the nurse or assistant through the steps of gathering patient data, offering prompts when more information should be entered. In addition to recording patients' medical information, the carts contain locked cabinets beneath the computer monitor where medications can be stored.

"Every item is bar-coded," Shea explains. "When a patient is given a medication, the account is automatically charged and the item is deleted from inventory."

When tests are ordered via computer, the lab is notified immediately and a test tube label is printed, saving steps, paper and time.

Nurses' stations will have fixed computers where physicians can review patient data and nursing notes.

Dosher will be the only hospital in the Carolinas and Virginia to use the chart cart system, whose software was developed especially for hospitals with less than 200 beds. Shea helped adapt the computer program to Dosher's system of documenting patient information. She also wrote what's being called "Connie's Cookbook," a training manual Dosher nurses can use on the job to practice with the computers and to study at home.

It hasn't been easy to convince some veteran nurses and assistants it's time to ride the wave of the future, Shea said. She's trying to make computerization less intimidating by offering plenty of practice.

A room has been converted into a computer learning center, with chart carts on which to enter simulated data, a printer and a table and chairs for studying training manuals.

"I think they're going to love it," Shea says confidently.

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Juger Carolina filed suit against the federal agency in an attempt to block the ing held Monday.

has left its Scandinavian port and is health and safety. on its way to Sunny Point, but will not be allowed to dock until the ishas not been lifted by the time the ty to the Aiken site.

Landlord Investment Program Implemented With Weatherization

Landlord Owner Investment Program to be implemented in conjuncrization Assistance Program.

The Landlord Investment Program will provide home weatherization to elderly, disabled, handicapped and low-income Brunswick Countians, according to a news release from Thurman B. Everett, county public housing director.

The U.S. Department of Energy requires that landlords invest in the cost of materials and labor. The investment can be monetary or an inkind investment, Everett said.

percent of the total cost of materials tion coordinator, at 253-4301.

Southport, Alvin Richard Labelle Jr.

of Southport, and Penny Cochran

summer semester 1994.

Martin of Long Beach.

The Brunswick County Public and labor up to seven units, and 30 Housing Agency has developed a percent beyond seven units weatherized," he said. "The landlord can elect an in-kind investment where he tion with the 1993-94 Weathe- or she provides the labor from his or her own crews."

Applications for the landlord program must be submitted by the landlord or owner. Applications cannot be accepted from tenants, Everett said.

Applications are being accepted at the Brunswick County Public Housing Agency, Brunswick County Government Complex, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

For more information contact "The monetary investment is 10 Everett or Eric Smith, weatheriza-

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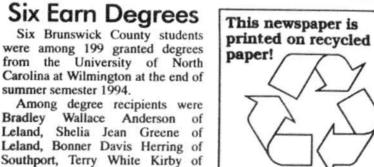
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