

during the formation and early evolution of the planets. Measurements from five instruments would provide the data which should accomplish the science objectives. These objectives include detailed studies of surface processes such as the formation of soil from rocks and surface characteristics of these very low gravity bodies. The study of Eros is expected to provide data to characterize asteroid physical and geological properties and indicate elemental and mineralogical composition. Data collected by NEAR could also provide important information on the search for intrinsic magnetization of the asteroid.

Alternatives that were evaluated include: (1) No-Action (*i.e.*, no NEAR mission); and (2) launch vehicles options, including the Space Shuttle, Titan, and Atlas configurations, foreign launch vehicles, as well as other Delta configurations. Failure to undertake the NEAR mission would disrupt the execution of NASA's Solar System Exploration Program, as defined by the Agency's Solar System Exploration Committee. Cancellation of the NEAR mission would delay or eliminate the gathering of potentially important data needed to study the origin and evolution of our solar system. Of the launch vehicles evaluated, the Delta II 7925/PAM-D most closely matches the NEAR mission requirements, has superior reliability, minimizes adverse environmental impacts, and is also the lowest in cost.

Expected impacts to the human environment associated with the mission arise almost entirely from the normal launch of the Delta II 7925. Air emissions from the exhaust produced by the solid propellant graphite epoxy motors and liquid first stage primarily include carbon monoxide, hydrochloric acid, aluminum oxide in soluble and insoluble forms, carbon dioxide, and deluge water mixed with propellant by-products. Air impacts will be short-term and not substantial. Short-term water quality and noise impacts, as well as short-term effects on wetlands, plants, and animals, would occur in the vicinity of the launch complex. These short-term impacts are of a nature to be self-correcting, and none of these effects would be substantial. There would be no impact on threatened or endangered species or critical habitat, cultural resources, or floodplains. Accident scenarios have also been addressed.

The second stage would be ignited at an altitude of 122 km (76 mi.), which is in the ionosphere. Although the second stage would achieve orbit, its orbital decay time would fall below the limit NASA has set for orbital debris

consideration. After burning its propellant to depletion, the second stage would remain in low Earth orbit until its orbit eventually decayed. The NEAR Project has followed the NASA guidelines regarding orbital debris and minimizing the risk of human casualty for uncontrolled reentry into the Earth's atmosphere. No other impacts of environmental concern has been identified.

The level and scope of environmental impacts associated with the launch of the Delta II 7925 vehicle are well within the envelope of impacts that have been addressed in previous FONSI's concerning other launch vehicles and spacecraft. No significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns associated with the launch vehicle have been identified which would affect the earlier findings.

On the basis of the NEAR EA, NASA has determined that the environmental impacts associated with the mission would not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. NASA will take no final action prior to the expiration of the 30-day comment period.

Dated: January 17, 1996.

Wesley T. Huntress, Jr.,

Associate Administrator for Space Science.

[FR Doc. 96-917 Filed 1-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Advisory Committee Meetings

With the combination of the Federal Government furlough and the blizzard, NSF was unable to provide timely notice of a number of advisory committee meetings that had been scheduled. The list below provides notice of these meetings in accord with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463).

1. Special Emphasis Panel in Graduate Education (57)
Date: February 4-10, 1996 and February 14-16, 1996
Contact: Susan Duby at 703-306-1694
Agenda: To review and evaluate applications submitted to the Graduate Research Fellowship Program
2. Special Emphasis Panel in Chemical & Transport Systems (1190)
Date: January 22, 1996
Contact: Farley Fisher at 703-306-1370
Agenda: To review and evaluate Faculty Early Career Award proposals
Date: January 22-23, 1996
Contact: Roger Arndt at 703-306-1371

Agenda: To review and evaluate nominations for the Faculty Early Career Award proposals

Date: January 22, 1996

Contact: Maria Burka at 703-306-1370

Agenda: To review and evaluate Faculty Early Career Award proposals submitted to the Chemical Reaction Processes Program

Date: January 24, 1996

Contact: Milton Linevsky at 703-306-1370

Agenda: To review and evaluate Faculty Early Career Award proposals

Date: January 29, 1996

Contact: Farley Fisher at 703-306-1370

Agenda: To review and evaluate Engineering Research Equipment Award

Date: January 30, 1996

Contact: Robert Wellek at 703-306-1371

Agenda: To review and evaluate nominations for the FY96 Research Equipment Grant proposals

3. Special Emphasis Panel in Chemical (1191)

Date: January 29, January 29-30, February 12-13, and February 13, 1996

Contact: Karolyn Einstein at 703-306-1850

Agenda: To review and evaluate proposals submitted to the Faculty Early Career Development Program

Date: February 8-9, 1996

Contact: Karolyn Einstein at 703-306-1850

Agenda: To review and evaluate applications for Postdoctoral Fellowships in Chemistry

4. Special Emphasis Panel in Cross Disciplinary Activities (1193)

Date: January 22, 1996

Contact: Rita Rodriguez 703-306-1980

Agenda: To review and evaluate CISE Postdoctoral Research Associates in Computational Science and Engineering.

5. Special Emphasis Panel in Electrical and Communications Systems (1196)

Date: January 25, 1996

Contact: Deborah Crawford or George Lea at 703-306-1340

Agenda: To review and evaluate Computational Engineering proposals

Date: February 1, 1996

Contact: Paul Werbos at 703-306-1340

Agenda: To review and evaluate Neuroengineering proposals

6. Special Emphasis Panel In Human Resource Development

Date: January 24, 25, 26, 31, 1996

Contact: Betty Ruth Jones and Alexandra King at 703-306-1633

Agenda: To review and evaluate Comprehensive Partnerships for Minority Student Achievement Proposals

7. Special Emphasis Panel in International Programs (1201)

Date: January 25-26, 1996

Contact: Randy Soderquist at 703-306-1701

Agenda: To review and evaluate Summer Programs in Japan proposals

Date: February 5-6, 1996

Contact: Susan Parris or Randy Soderquist at 703-306-1701

Agenda: To review and evaluate International Research Fellow Award proposals

8. Special Emphasis Panel in Materials Research (1203)

Date: January 26 & 31, 1996

Contact: Lorretta Inglehart at 703-306-1817

Agenda: To review and evaluate Instrumentation proposals

Date: February 9, 1996

Contact: Andrew Lovinger at 703-306-1839

Agenda: To review and evaluate DMR 1996 Faculty Early Career Development Program proposals

9. Special Emphasis Panel in Mathematical Sciences (1204)

Date: January 22-23 & February 5-6 1996

Contact: Joe Jenkins at 703-306-1879

Agenda: To review and evaluate the Analysis Program nominations and applications

Date: January 22-23 & February 8-9, 1996

Contact: Deborah Lockhart at 703-306-1882

Agenda: To review and evaluate proposals in the Applied and Computational Mathematics Programs

Date: January 25-26, 1996

Contact: Alvin Thaler at 703-306-1880

Agenda: To review and evaluate proposals concerning Algebraic Geometry

10. Special Emphasis Panel in Civil & Mechanical Systems (1205)

Date: January 30 and February 1-2, 1996

Contact: Priscilla Nelson at 703-306-1361

Agenda: To review and evaluate civil and mechanical systems proposals

11. Special Emphasis Panel in Undergraduate Education

Date: January 30-31, 1996

Contact: Herbert Levitan at 703-306-1669

Agenda: To review and evaluate proposals submitted to the Institution Reform of Undergraduate Education Program.

12. Special Emphasis Panel in Biological Sciences (1754)

Date: January 22-23, 1996.

Contact: Carter Kimsey at 703-306-1469

Agenda: To review and evaluate proposals concerning Molecular Evolution

Date: February 12-14, 1996

Contact: Carter Kimsey at 703-306-1469

Agenda: To review and evaluate proposals concerning Biosciences related to the environment

Times: 8:30 to 5:00 p.m. each day.

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA. 22230.

Type of Meetings: Closed.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

Reason for Closing: The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 USC 552b(c)(4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: January 18, 1996.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-908 Filed 1-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures; Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Planning and Procedures will hold a meeting on February 7, 1996, Room T-2B1, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance, with the exception of a portion that may be closed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (2) and (6) to discuss organizational and personnel matters that relate solely to internal personnel rules and practices of ACRS, and matters the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

Wednesday, February 7, 1996—1:30 Noon until 4 p.m.

The Subcommittee will discuss proposed ACRS activities and related matters. The purpose of this meeting is to gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and to formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committee.

Oral statements may be presented by members of the public with the concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman; written statements will be accepted and made available to the Committee. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked only by members of the Subcommittee, its consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the cognizant ACRS staff person named below five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, the scheduling of sessions open to the public, whether the meeting has been cancelled or rescheduled, the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements, and the time allotted therefor can be obtained by contacting the cognizant ACRS staff person, Dr. John T. Larkins (telephone: 301/415-7360) between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. (EDT). Persons planning to attend this

meeting are urged to contact the above named individual one or two working days prior to the meeting to be advised of any changes in schedule, etc., that may have occurred.

Dated: January 18, 1996.

Sam Duraiswamy,

Chief, Nuclear Reactors Branch.

[FR Doc. 96-963 Filed 1-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

[Docket Nos. 50-317 and 50-318]

Baltimore Gas and Electric Co.; Withdrawal of Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted the request of Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE or the licensee) to withdraw its July 13, 1995, application for proposed amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-53 and DPR-69 for the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, located in Lusby, Maryland.

The proposed amendment would have revised the Technical Specification 5.2.1, Fuel Assemblies, to allow the use of cladding materials other than Zircaloy or ZIRLO.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments published in the Federal Register on August 30, 1995 (60 FR 45174). However, by letter dated December 21, 1995, the licensee withdrew the proposed change.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated July 13, 1995, and the licensee's letter dated December 21, 1995, which withdrew the application for the license amendments. The above documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Calvert County Library, Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678.

Dated at Rockville, Md., this 17th day of January 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Daniel G. McDonald,
Senior Project Manager, Project Directorate, Division of Reactor Projects—Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 96-964 Filed 1-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P