

*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 U.S.C. 552b.(c) (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: September 11, 1996.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 96-23799 Filed 9-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

### **United States Antarctic Program Blue Ribbon Panel; Notice of Meeting**

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting.

*Name and committee code:* United States Antarctic Program Blue Ribbon Panel (#1531).

*Date and time:* October 11-12, 1996, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

*Place:* Room 1235, NSF.

*Type of meeting:* Open.

*Contact person:* Guy G. Guthridge, Office of Polar Programs, Room 755, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230. Telephone: (703) 306-1031.

*Minutes:* May be obtained from the contact person listed above.

*Purpose of meeting:* Examine a full range of infrastructure, management, and scientific options for the United States Antarctic Program so that the Foundation will be able to maintain the high quality of the research and implement U.S. policy in Antarctica under realistic budget scenarios.

*Agenda:* The committee will receive presentations from Antarctic experts and will discuss options in the areas of research, research support, contractor tasking, military transition, cost-saving initiatives, health and safety context, environment and waste management, South Pole redevelopment, international aspects, science users' perspectives, and interagency involvement.

Dated: September 11, 1996.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 96-23800 Filed 9-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

### **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[Docket No. 72-18]

#### **Northern States Power Company; Notice of Consideration of Issuance of a Materials License for the Storage of Spent Fuel and Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering an application dated August 7, 1996, for a materials license, under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 72, from Northern States Power Company (the applicant or NSP) to possess spent fuel and other radioactive materials associated with spent fuel storage in an off-site independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) located in Goodhue County, Minnesota. If granted, the license will authorize the applicant to store spent fuel in a dry storage cask system at the off-site ISFSI which the applicant proposes to construct and operate in Goodhue County, Minnesota. Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR Part 72, the term of the license for the ISFSI would be twenty (20) years. The NRC has previously granted the applicant a license to store up to forty eight (48) casks on-site at the Prairie Island Power Plant located in Welch, MN. However, a Minnesota law requires that NSP develop an off-site facility.

Prior to issuance of the requested license, the NRC will have made the findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the NRC's rules and regulations. The issuance of the materials license will not be approved until the NRC has reviewed the application and has concluded that approval of the license will not be inimical to the common defense and security and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to public health and safety. The NRC, in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51.20(b)(9), will complete an environmental impact statement. This action will be the subject of a subsequent notice in the Federal Register. Pursuant to 10 CFR 2.105, by October 17, 1996, the applicant may file a request for a hearing; and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene with respect to the subject materials license in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 2.714. If a request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and

Licensing Board Panel will rule on the request and/or petition, and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order. In the event that no request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the NRC may, upon satisfactory completion of all required evaluations, issue the materials license without further prior notice.

A petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) The nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order that may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend a petition, without requesting leave of the Board, up to 15 days prior to the holding of the first pre-hearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first pre-hearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the action