

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

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate proposals in the mathematics of fluids as part of the selection process for awards.

*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: December 27, 1996.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 96-33356 Filed 12-31-96; 8:45 am]

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### Special Emphasis Panel in Polar Programs; 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:* Special Emphasis Panel in Polar Programs (#1209).

*Date and Time:* January 30 & 31, 1997: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

*Place:* Room 770, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

*Type of Meeting:* Closed.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Michael Ledbetter, Program Director, Arctic System Sciences Program, Office of Polar Programs, Room 755 National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 306-1029.

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

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate *Arctic System Sciences SHEBA* proposals as part of the selection process for awards.

*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: December 27, 1996.

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### NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

#### Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Staff Assessment of Proposed Agreement Between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed Agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**SUMMARY:** The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received, from the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a proposal to enter into an Agreement pursuant to Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (Act). The proposed Agreement would permit Massachusetts to assume certain portions of the Commission's regulatory authority. As required by the Act, NRC is publishing the proposed Agreement for public comment. NRC is also publishing a summary of the NRC staff assessment of the proposed Massachusetts radiation control program. Comments are requested on the proposed Agreement, especially public health and safety aspects, and the assessment.

The Agreement will effectively release (exempt) persons in Massachusetts from certain portions of the Commission's regulatory authority. The Act also requires that NRC publish those exemptions. Notice is hereby given that the pertinent exemptions have been previously published in the Federal Register and are codified in the Commission's regulations as 10 CFR Part 150.

**DATES:** The comment period expires January 23, 1997.

Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to assure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be submitted to Mr. David L. Meyer, Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Copies of comments received by NRC may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW. (Lower Level), Washington, DC. Copies of the proposed Agreement, along with copies of the request by Governor Weld including referenced enclosures, applicable legislation, regulations for the control of radiation, and the full text of the NRC staff assessment are also available for public

inspection in the NRC's Public Document Room.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard L. Blanton, Office of State Programs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Telephone (301) 415-2322 or e-mail RLB@NRC.GOV.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Commission has received a request from Governor William Weld of Massachusetts to enter into an Agreement whereby the NRC would discontinue, and the Commonwealth would assume, certain regulatory authority as specified in the Act. Section 274 of the Act authorizes the Commission to enter into such an agreement.

Section 274e of the Act requires that the terms of the proposed Agreement be published for public comment once each week for four consecutive weeks. This notice is being published in the Federal Register in fulfillment of the requirement.

#### I. Background

(a) Section 274d of the Act provides the mechanism whereby a State may assume regulatory authority, otherwise reserved to the NRC, over certain radioactive materials<sup>1</sup> and uses thereof. In a letter dated March 28, 1996, Governor Weld certified that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a program for the control of radiation hazards that is adequate to protect health and safety of the public within the Commonwealth with respect to the materials covered by the proposed Agreement, and that the Commonwealth desires to assume regulatory responsibility for these materials. Included with the letter was the text of the proposed Agreement, which is shown in Appendix A to this notice.

The specific authorities requested by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under this proposed Agreement are (1) the regulation of byproduct materials as defined in Section 11e.(1) of the Act, (2) the regulation of source materials, (3) the regulation of special nuclear materials in quantities not sufficient to form a critical mass, (4) the evaluation of the safety of sealed sources and devices (containing materials covered by the Agreement) for distribution in interstate commerce, and (5) the land disposal of low-level radioactive waste

<sup>1</sup> The materials, sometimes referred to as "agreement materials," are: (a) Byproduct materials as defined in Section 11e.(1) of the Act; (b) Byproduct materials as defined in Section 11e.(2) of the Act; (c) Source materials as defined in Section 11z. of the Act; and (d) Special nuclear materials as defined in Section 11aa. of the Act, restricted to quantities not sufficient to form a critical mass.