

Nadene G. Kennedy, Permit Office,  
Office of Polar Programs, Rm. 755,  
National Science Foundation, 4201  
Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 26, 1997 (62 FR 14448), the National Science Foundation published a notice in the **Federal Register** of a permit application received. A permit was issued on April 29, 1997 to the following applicant: Ron Koger, Permit #98-001.

**Nadene G. Kennedy,**  
*Permit Office.*  
[FR Doc. 97-11753 5-5-97; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

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## NATIONAL SKILL STANDARDS BOARD

### Notice of Open Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Skill Standards Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The National Skill Standards Board was established by an Act of Congress, the Goals 2000: Educate America Act of 1994, Title V, Public Law 103-227. The 27-member National Skill Standards Board will serve as a catalyst and be responsible for the development and implementation of a national system of voluntary skill standards and certification through voluntary partnerships which have the full and balanced participation of business, industry, labor, education and other key groups.

**TIME & PLACE:** The meeting will be held from 8:00 a.m. to approximately 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 30, 1997, in the Ballroom at the Ritz-Carlton located at 2100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.

**AGENDA:** The agenda for the Board Meeting will include: a strategic plan update, progress on Voluntary Partnership start-up, proposed NSSB recognition programs, and a Web Site presentation.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** The meeting, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., is open to the public. Seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Seats will be reserved for the media. Individuals with disabilities should contact Pat Warfield at (202) 254-8628, if special accommodations are needed.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Majorie Haas, Director of  
Communications, at (202) 254-8628.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 30th day of April, 1997.

**Edie West,**  
*Executive Director, National Skill Standards Board.*  
[FR Doc. 97-11709 Filed 5-5-97; 8:45 am]  
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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[50-388]

### Pennsylvania Power and Light Company; Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 2; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-22, issued to Pennsylvania Power and Light Company (the licensee), for operation of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, located in Luzerne County, PA.

#### Environmental Assessment

##### Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would change the Technical Specifications for the unit to permit the use of ATRIUM-10 fuel in the reactor. The changes include core flow dependent minimum critical power ratio (MCPR) Safety Limits in Sections 2.1.2 and 3.4.1.1.2, addition of Siemens Power Corporation (SPC) methodology topical report references in Section 6.9.3.2, changes in Section 5.3.1 to reflect new fuel design features, changes in definitions in Section 1 to reflect the new fuel design, and changes to the Bases to correspond to the above changes as appropriate.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated December 18, 1996, as supplemented by letters dated February 26, 1997, March 12 and 27, April 3, 9, 16, 18, and 24, 1997.

##### The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action will enable the licensee to complete its maintenance and refueling outage on this unit and begin a new fuel cycle which will include a portion of the core consisting of the new ATRIUM-10 nuclear fuel.

#### Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that it is acceptable. The safety considerations associated with the use of the ATRIUM-10 fuel in the

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 2, have been evaluated by the NRC staff and the staff has concluded that this change in the reactor fuel design would not adversely affect plant safety. The proposed change to the fuel design has no adverse effect on the probability of any accident previously analyzed. The increase in fuel enrichment from 4.0% versus 4.5% for an increased fuel cycle of 24 months results in an increase in the projected maximum burnup rate or discharge exposure from the current 45 to 48 MWd/kgU. This increased burnup may slightly change the mix of fission products that might be released in the event of a serious accident, but such changes would not significantly affect the consequences of serious accidents. Routine radiological effluents are not affected. As a result, there is no increase in individual or cumulative radiation exposure.

The environmental impacts of transportation resulting from the use of higher enrichment and extended irradiation are discussed in the staff assessment entitled, "NRC Assessment of the Environmental Effects of Transportation Resulting from Extended Fuel Enrichment and Irradiation." This assessment was published in the **Federal Register** on August 11, 1988 (53 FR 30355), as corrected on August 24, 1988 (53 FR 32322), in connection with the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1: Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact. As indicated therein, the environmental cost contribution of an increase in fuel enrichment of up to 5 weight percent U-235 and irradiation limits of up to 60 Gigawatt Days per Metric Ton (GWd/MT) are either unchanged, or may in fact be reduced from those summarized in Table S-4 as set forth in 10 CFR 51.52(c). These findings are applicable to the proposed increase in the allowable exposure of SPC ATRIUM-10 fuel for Susquehanna, Unit 2. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed change will in no way affect environs located outside the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed change in the fuel exposure limit and the use of the new fuel design.