

Contact Person: Dr. Gary Strong, Acting Deputy Division Director, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230, (703) 306-1928.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate Robotics and Human Augmentation Program, "Robotics Panel" 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 matter are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: December 22, 1997.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-1258 Filed 1-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Research, Evaluation and Communication; 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: Special Emphasis Panel in Research, Evaluation and Communication.

Date and Time: February 9-10, 1998, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; February 12-13, 1998; 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Place: Rooms 365, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Person: Dr. Nora Sabelli, Senior Program Director, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Room 855, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone (703) 306-1651.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate proposals and provide advice and recommendations as part of the selection process for proposals submitted to the Research on Education, Policy and Practice (REPP) Program.

Reason for Closing: Because 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 proposals, the meetings are closed to the public. These matters are within

exemptions (4) and (6) of 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: January 16, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-1255 Filed 1-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences; Notice of Meetings

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces that the Special Emphasis Panel in Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences will be holding panel meetings for the purpose of reviewing proposals submitted to the Division of International Programs for the Summer Programs in Japan and Korea. In order to review the large volume of proposals, panel meetings will be held on February 2-3, 1998. All meetings will be closed to the public and will be held at the National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. from 8:30 to 5:00 each day.

Contact Person: Randall Soderquist, Program Manager, or Thomasina Edwards, Program Assistant, Division of International Programs, NSF, Room 935, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230 (703) 306-1701.

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: January 12, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-1257 Filed 1-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Regulatory Information Conference; Notice of Meeting

SUMMARY: The objectives of the conference are to give the licensees and the public insights into our approach to safety regulations and to provide a forum for feedback from those in attendance on their concerns about our overall approach, as well as, feedback on differences that may exist on technical issues. NRC staff will provide

information regarding on-going programs and potential new initiatives as a basis for discussion.

Discussions will proceed from general (*i.e.*, the plenary sessions) to specific issues (*i.e.*, the breakout sessions), with emphasis on plant operations and the NRC view of these operations based on experience in carrying out its regulatory mission. Three plenary sessions are planned, two of which will be followed by breakout sessions that will include presentations by the NRC staff and industry representatives.

DATES: Conference will be held April 14 and 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The conference will be held at The Capital Hilton Hotel, 16th and K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036
TELEPHONE: (202) 393-1000 **FAX** (202) 639-5742 (Refer to NRC Meeting for special conference rate.)

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION CONTACT: ES, Inc., by facsimile on (202) 835-0118 or by phone on (202) 835-1585, *after January 20, 1998.*

Participation

This conference is open to the general public; however, advance registration is required by *March 23, 1998.* The following is the preliminary program for the conference:

Tuesday, April 14, 1998

Opening: 8:30 a.m.—8:45 a.m.

Welcome—Samuel J. Collins,

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, NRC

Morning Speaker: Chairman Shirley Ann Jackson

8:45 a.m.—9:15 a.m.

Morning Plenary Session: 9:15 a.m.—10:00 a.m.

Regulatory Trends—Samuel J. Collins

Mid-Morning Speaker: Commissioner Nils J. Diaz

10:15 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Mid-Morning Plenary Session: 11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Regional Administrators' Panel: Each Regional Administrator will make a presentation on a topic of current interest.

Post Luncheon Speaker: Commissioner Greta J. Dicus

1:15 p.m.—1:45 p.m.

Breakout Sessions 2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

1. Restructuring and Deregulation

2. Architect/Engineer Inspections

3. Maintenance Rule

4. Public Communications Initiatives

Breakout Sessions 3:45 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

1. Allegations/Enforcement Issues

2. Probabilistic Risk Assessment Issues

3. The Role of Industry

4. Role of Potassium Iodide in

Emergency Response
Afternoon Speaker: New Commissioner,
if appointed
5:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 15, 1998

Morning Speaker: Commissioner
Edward McGaffigan, Jr.

8:30 a.m.–9:00 a.m.

Breakout Sessions 9:05 a.m.–10:15 a.m.

1. Region I/Licensee Interface & Communications
2. Region II/Licensee Interface & Communications
3. Region III/Licensee Interface & Communications
4. Region IV/Licensee Interface & Communications

Breakout Sessions 10:30 a.m.–12:00 noon

1. 10 CFR 50.59
2. Strategic Planning/Operating Plan/Budget
3. Generic Letter 96-06, "Assurance of Equipment Operability and Containment Integrity During Design Basis Accident Conditions"
4. Licensing Actions/ Technical Specification Conversions

Post-Luncheon Speaker: TBD

1:30 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions 2:45 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

1. Improvements to NRC's Performance Assessment Process
2. License Renewal
3. Spent Fuel Storage/Dry Cask Issues
4. Core Performance/Fuels Issues

Closing Plenary Session: 4:15 p.m.–4:45 p.m.

Summary/Closing—Samuel J. Collins

Note: There will be a question and answer period after each session each day.

Next year's conference is scheduled for April 6 and 7, 1999, at The Capital Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC.

Dated in Rockville, Maryland this 12th day of January 1998.

For The Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Kathryn O. Greene,

Chief, Administration Branch, Division of Inspection and Support Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98-1211 Filed 1-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Draft Regulatory Guide; Issuance, Availability

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued for public comment a draft of a guide planned for its Regulatory Guide Series. This series has been developed to describe and make available to the public such information as methods

acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the Commission's regulations, techniques used by the staff in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and data needed by the staff in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

The draft guide, temporarily identified by its task number, DG-3013 (which should be mentioned in all correspondence concerning this draft guide), is titled "Nuclear Criticality Safety Standards for Fuels and Material Facilities." The guide is intended for Division 3, "Fuels and Materials Facilities." This draft guide is being developed to provide guidance on procedures for preventing nuclear criticality accidents in operations involving handling, processing, storing, and transporting special nuclear material at fuels and materials facilities. The guide will also endorse 13 standards on nuclear criticality safety that have been developed by the American National Standards Institute/American Nuclear Society.

The draft guide has not received complete staff review and does not represent an official NRC staff position.

Public comments are being solicited on Draft Regulatory Guide DG-3013. Comments may be accompanied by additional relevant information or supporting data. Written comments may be submitted to the Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Copies of comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC. Comments will be most helpful if received by March 31, 1998.

You may also provide comments via the NRC's interactive rulemaking website through the NRC home page (<http://www.nrc.gov>). This site provides the availability to upload comments as files (any format), if your web browser supports that function. For information about the interactive rulemaking website, contact Ms. Carol Gallagher, (301) 415-5905; e-mail CAG@nrc.gov.

Although a time limit is given for comments on this draft guide, comments and suggestions in connection with items for inclusion in guides currently being developed or improvements in all published guides are encouraged at any time.

Regulatory guides are available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC. Requests for single copies of draft or final guides (which may be reproduced) or for placement on an automatic distribution list for single copies of future draft guides in specific

divisions should be made in writing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Printing, Graphics and Distribution Branch; or by fax at (301) 415-5272. Telephone requests cannot be accommodated. Regulatory guides are not copyrighted, and Commission approval is not required to reproduce them.

(5 U.S.C. 552(a))

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 6th day of January 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Joseph A. Murphy,

Director, Division of Regulatory Applications, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 98-1213 Filed 1-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

[Order No. 1205; Docket No. A98-1]

In the Matter of Nassau, Minnesota 56272 (James Schneichel, Petitioner); Notice and Order Accepting Appeal and Establishing Procedural Schedule Under 39 U.S.C. 404(b)(5)

Issued January 14, 1998.

Docket Number: A98-1.

Name of Affected Post Office: Nassau, Minnesota 56272.

Name(s) of Petitioner(s): James Schneichel.

Type of Determination: Closing.

Date of Filing of Appeal Papers: December 22, 1997.

Categories of Issues Apparently Raised

1. Effect on the community (39 U.S.C. 404(b)(2)(A)).
2. Effect on postal services (39 U.S.C. 404(b)(2)(C)).

After the Postal Service files the administrative record and the Commission reviews it, the Commission may find that there are more legal issues than those set forth above. Or, the Commission may find that the Postal Service's determination disposes of one or more of those issues.

The Postal Reorganization Act requires that the Commission issue its decision within 120 days from the date this appeal was filed (39 U.S.C. 404(b)(5)). In the interest of expedition, in light of the 120-day decision schedule, the Commission may request the Postal Service to submit memoranda of law on any appropriate issue. If requested, such memoranda will be due 20 days from the issuance of the request and the Postal Service shall serve a copy of its memoranda on the petitioners. The Postal Service may incorporate by reference in its briefs or motions, any