Contact Person: Dr. Karen Kindle, Program Director for Biochemistry of Gene Expression, Room 655, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. (703) 306–1441.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate research proposals submitted to the Biochemistry of Gene Expression Program 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: March 23, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98–7929 Filed 3–25–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Advisory Panel for Cell Biology; 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: Advisory Panel for Cell Biology (1136).

Date and Time: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, April 15, 16 and 17, 1998; 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 330, Arlington, VA 22230.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Persons: Drs. Barbara Zain and Richard D. Rodewald, Program Directors for the Cell Biology Program, National Science Foundation, Room 655 South, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: 703/306–1442.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate research proposals submitted to the Cell Biology Program 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. 522b(c) (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: March 23, 1998.

Rebecca M. Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98–7930 Filed 3–25–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–237]

Commonwealth Edison Company; Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License, Proposed no Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR–19, issued to Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd, the licensee), for operation of the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2, located in Grundy County, Illinois.

The proposed amendment would reflect a change in the Dresden, Unit 2, minimum critical power ratio (MCPR) Safety Limit and revise footnotes in Technical Specifications (TS) Section 5.3, to allow the use of Siemens Power Corporation (SPC) ATRIUM–9B fuel.

This request for amendment was submitted under exigent circumstances to support Dresden, Unit 2, Cycle 16, operation which is scheduled to begin on April 12, 1998. The licensee had submitted an application for TS amendments on August 29, 1997, (published on January 14, 1998 at 63 FR 227) citing SPC Topical for Revised ANFB Correlation Uncertainty, ANF–1125(P), Supplement 1, Appendix D, to allow the use of SPC ATRIUM–9B fuel. However, the need for additional information has delayed the review of this topical report. To ensure that use of ATRIUM–9B fuel is approved in time for the scheduled Unit 2 startup, ComEd determined that it would submit this one-time cycle-specific amendment request proposing an interim conservative approach to calculating the MCPR Safety Limit. The time necessary for ComEd to develop this TS request would not allow the normal 30-day period for public comment to support Dresden, Unit 2, startup on April 12, 1998. However, should startup on Dresden, Unit 2, be delayed enough to allow the normal 30-day period for public comment, this amendment will not be issued until expiration of the normal 30-day period for public comment.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6) for amendments to be granted under exigent circumstances, the NRC staff must determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

1. Involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated:

The probability of an evaluated accident is derived from the probabilities of the individual precursors to that accident. The consequences of an evaluated accident are determined by the operability of plant systems designed to mitigate those consequences. Limits have been established consistent with NRC approved methods to ensure that fuel performance during normal, transient, and accident conditions is acceptable. This change does not affect the operability of plant systems, nor does it compromise any fuel performance limits.

Revision to Cycle Specific Footnotes for Dresden 2 Cycle 16 Operation With ATRIUM–9B

The revisions to the footnotes in [Technical Specification] Section 5.3 have no implications for accident analysis or plant operations. The purpose of the revisions to the footnotes is to allow operation of Dresden Unit 2 Cycle 16 with an interim conservative approach to calculating the MCPR Safety Limit. This is the same approach that was NRC approved for use for Dresden Unit 3 Cycle 15 and Quad Cities Unit 2 Cycle 15. The Dresden Unit 2 Cycle 16 MCPR Safety Limit was calculated using an interim additive constant uncertainty. The MCPR Safety Limit is used in the determination of the cycle's MCPR Operating Limit. The MCPR Operating Limit ensures that the MCPR Safety Limit is not violated for any anticipated operational occurrence. This revision does not affect any plant equipment or processes; therefore, there is no alteration in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

Revision to the MCPR Safety Limit

Changing the MCPR Safety Limit for Dresden Unit 2 from 1.08 to 1.09 will not increase the probability of an accident previously evaluated. Additionally, operational MCPR limits will be applied that will ensure the MCPR Safety Limit is not violated during all modes of operation and anticipated operational occurrences. Changing the MCPR Safety Limit will not alter any physical systems or operating procedures. The Dresden Unit 2 MCPR Safety Limit is set to 1.09, which is a critical power