

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

Section 503 of ERISA provides that, pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Labor, each employee benefit plan must provide adequate notice in writing to any participant or beneficiary whose claim for benefits under the plan has been denied. This notice must set forth the specific reasons for the denial and must be written in a manner calculated to be understood by the claimant. Each plan must also afford a reasonable opportunity for any participant or beneficiary whose claim has been denied to obtain a full and fair review of the denial by the appropriate named fiduciary of the plan.

The Department previously issued a regulation pursuant to section 503 that establishes certain minimum requirements for employee benefit plan procedures pertaining to claims. The ICR included in the claims procedure regulation generally requires timely written disclosures to participants and beneficiaries of employee benefit plans of information concerning the plan's claims procedures, the basis for the denial of a claim, and time limits for addressing or appealing the denial of a claim. These requirements are intended to ensure that plan administrators provide for a full and fair review of claims, and that plan participants and beneficiaries have information which is sufficient to allow them to exercise their rights under the plan.

II. Current Actions

The Office of Management and Budget's approval of this ICR will expire on September 30, 1998. On September 8, 1997, the Department published a Request for Information (September 8 RFI) (62 FR 47261) concerning the advisability of amending the existing regulation that establishes minimum requirements for employee benefit plan claims procedures. In the Department's Semiannual Regulatory Agenda published on April 27, 1998, the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration indicated its intention to publish a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking with respect to employee benefit plan claims procedures in June, 1998 (63 FR 22240). While certain modifications to the claims procedure ICR may be anticipated in connection with proposed revision of these rules, estimates of burden associated with modifications currently under consideration are not yet available. The burden estimates shown in this notice are, therefore, based on the existing ICR.

To avoid unnecessary duplication of public comments, however, those

comments received in response to the September 8 RFI that address burden associated with the claims procedure regulation will be treated as comments on this ICR.

Agency: Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

Title: Benefit Claims Procedure regulation pursuant to 29 CFR 2560.503-1.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

OMB Numbers: 1210-0053.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Total Respondents: 23,454.

Total Responses: 23,454.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Total Annual Burden: 7,063 hours.

Comments submitted in response to this comment request will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 22, 1998.

Gerald B. Lindrew,

Deputy Director, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Office of Policy and Research.

[FR Doc. 98-16939 Filed 6-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**Special Emphasis Panel in Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences; 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 Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (1766).

Dates: July 27-29, 1998 and August 3-5, 1998.

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230, Room 1235.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Person: Mike McCloskey, Program Director, Division of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 995, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 306-1732.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate proposals submitted to the Knowledge and Distributed Intelligence (KDI) Program Solicitation 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 USC 552b(c) (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: June 22, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-16926 Filed 6-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-410]

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation (Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2); Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of an Order approving, under 10 CFR 50.80, an application regarding a transfer of control of possessory rights held by Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation (Applicant) under the operating license for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit No. 2 (NMP2). The transfer would be to a holding company, not yet named, to be created over Applicant in accordance with a New York State Public Service Commission order, issued and effective February 19, 1998 (Case 96-E-0909), and related documents entitled "Amended and Restated Settlement Agreement" dated January 2, 1998, and "Modifications to Amended and Restated Settlement Agreement" dated February 26, 1998 (see Exhibits G-G2 in the application). Applicant is licensed by the Commission to own and possess a 9 percent interest in NMP2, located in the town of Scriba, Oswego County, New York.

Environmental Assessment*Identification of the Proposed Action*

The proposed action would consent to the transfer of control of the license to the extent effected by Applicant becoming a subsidiary of the newly formed holding company in connection with a proposed plan of restructuring. Under the restructuring plan, the outstanding shares of Applicant's common stock are to be exchanged on a share-for-share basis for common stock of the holding company, such that the holding company will own all of the outstanding common stock of Applicant. In addition, the holding