

Dated: March 23, 1999.

Linda Allen-Benton,

Acting Director, Division of Human Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 99-7562 Filed 3-26-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

U.S. National Assessment Synthesis Team; 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: U.S. National Assessment Synthesis Team (#5219).

Date & Time: April 12, 1999, 6:00-7:00 p.m.; April 13-15, 1999, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Place: Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 1850 Cottillion Drive, Atlanta, Georgia.

Type of Meeting: Partially Closed.

Contact Person: Melissa J. Taylor, Office of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), 400 Virginia Avenue, SW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20024. Tel: 202-314-2230; Fax: 202-488-8681; Email: mtaylor@usgrcp.gov. Interested persons should contact Ms. Taylor as soon as possible to assure space provisions are made for all participants and observers.

Minutes: May be obtained from the contact person listed above.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and recommendations to the interagency Subcommittee on Global Change Research on the design and conduct of the national effort to assess the consequences of climate variability and climate change for the United States.

Agenda

April 12:

Closed session to discuss personnel matters

April 13:

Meet with regions and sectors groups (morning)

Discuss Synthesis Report regional chapters (afternoon)

April 14:

Discuss Synthesis Report sectoral chapters (morning)

General session on status of the Synthesis Report (afternoon)

April 15:

Continue general discussion of the Synthesis Report, as well as next steps in the timetable

Reason for Closing: The personnel matters being discussed include information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute unwarranted invasions of personal privacy. These matters are within exemption 6 of 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: March 23, 1999.

Linda Allen-Benton,

Acting Director, Division of Human Resource Management.

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NORTHEAST DAIRY COMPACT COMMISSION

Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Northeast Dairy Compact Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Compact Commission will hold its monthly meeting to consider matters relating to administration and enforcement of the price regulation, including the reports and recommendations of the Commission's standing Committees. The Commission will also hold its deliberative meeting to consider whether the price regulation should be amended to change the method for determining the amount of the administrative assessment and whether to add a new regulation requiring milk handlers to make payment to the Compact Commission by electronic funds transfer.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 1999 to commence at the close of the public hearing for a proposed rule beginning at 9:00 a.m. as previously noticed at 64 FR12769 (March 15, 1999).

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Tuck Library, 30 Park Street, Concord, NH (exit 14 off I-93).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kenneth M. Becker, Executive Director, Northeast Dairy Compact Commission, 34 Barre Street, Suite 2, Montpelier, VT 05602. Telephone (802) 229-1941.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7256.

Dated: March 23, 1999.

Kenneth M. Becker,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 99-7573 Filed 3-26-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Notice of pending NRC action to submit an information collection

request to OMB and solicitation of public comment.

SUMMARY: The NRC is preparing a submittal to OMB for review of continued approval of information collections under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Information pertaining to the requirement to be submitted:

1. The title of the information collection:

NRC Form 313, "Application for Material License."

NRC Form 313A, "Training and Experience."

NRC Form 313B, "Preceptor Statement."

2. Current OMB Approval Number: 3150-0120.

3. How often the collection is required: There is a one-time submittal of information to receive a license. Once a specific license has been issued, there is a 10-year resubmittal of the information for renewal of the license. Amendments are submitted as needed by the licensee.

4. Who is required or asked to report: All applicants requesting a license, and licensees requesting renewal or amendment of a byproduct or source material license to possess, use, or distribute radioactive material.

5. The number of annual respondents: 17,958 (5,556 NRC licensees and 12,402 Agreement State licensees.) This is the total number of licensees which could potentially submit licensing actions.

6. The number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request: 66,652 (18,663 hours for NRC licensees and 47,989 hours for Agreement State licensees, an average of about 7.4 hours per response).

7. Abstract: All applicants must submit NRC Form 313 to obtain, renew, or amend a specific license to possess, use, or distribute byproduct or source material. NRC Form 313A, "Training and Experience," and NRC Form 313B, "Preceptor Statement," are used for 10 CFR Part 35, "Medical Use of Byproduct Material," applicants and licensees along with NRC Form 313 to obtain the above information. The information is reviewed by the NRC to determine whether the applicant is qualified by training and experience, and has equipment, facilities, and procedures which are adequate to protect the public health and safety of the public, and minimize danger to life or property.

Submit, by May 28, 1999, comments that address the following questions:

1. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the NRC to properly perform its functions? Does the information have practical utility?

2. Is the burden estimate accurate?

3. Is there a way to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?

4. How can the burden of the information collection be minimized, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

A copy of the draft supporting statement may be viewed free of charge at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, (Lower Level), Washington, DC. OMB clearance requests are available at the NRC worldwide web site (<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/PUBLIC/OMB/index.html>). The document will be available on the NRC home page site for 60 days after the signature date of this notice.

Comments and questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the NRC Clearance Officer, Brenda Jo. Shelton, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, T-6 F33, Washington, DC 20555-0001, by telephone at 301-415-7233 or by Internet electronic mail at BJS1@NRC.GOV.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of March, 1999.

For the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Brenda Jo. Shelton,

NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-7596 Filed 3-26-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. STN 50-454, STN 50-455, STN 50-456 and STN 50-457]

Commonwealth Edison Company; Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments To Facility Operating Licenses, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-37, NPF-66, NPF-72, and NPF-77 issued to Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd, the licensee) for operation of the Byron Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, located in Ogle County, Illinois, and Braidwood Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, located in Will County, Illinois.

The proposed amendments would allow the use of the Gamma-Metrics Post Accident Neutron Monitors (PANMs) to provide neutron flux

information during Operational Mode 6 (refueling).

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

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendments requested involve 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 amendments 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:

Does the proposed change involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?

The installed Westinghouse source range neutron flux monitors are boron trifluoride detectors operating in the proportional region of the gas filled detector characteristic curve. The detectors monitor the neutron flux in counts per second. The instrument range covers six decades (i.e., 1 to 1E06 counts per second (cps)). The installed source range Gamma-Metrics post accident neutron flux monitors (PANMs) are enriched U-235 fission chambers operating in the ion chamber region of the detector characteristic curve. The detectors monitor the neutron flux in counts per second. The instrument range covers six decades (i.e., 0.1 to 1E05 cps). The detectors provide continuous visual indication in the Main Control Room (MCR.) Both the Westinghouse and Gamma-Metrics PANM neutron detectors are designed in accordance with 10CFR50 Appendix A, General Design Criterion (GDC) 13, "Instrumentation and control," and GDC 29, "Protection against anticipated operational occurrences," and are functionally equivalent for this application.

The Technical Specifications Bases state that two operable source range neutron flux monitors are required to provide a signal to alert the operator to unexpected changes in core reactivity such as with a boron dilution accident or an improperly loaded fuel assembly. The use of source range neutron flux monitors, either Gamma-Metrics PANMs or Westinghouse, has no effect on the probability of a dilution accident or an improperly loaded fuel assembly, because the source range neutron flux monitors are not in any way the initiators of or precursor to either accident.

The use of source range neutron flux monitors, either Gamma-Metrics PANMs or Westinghouse, has no effect on the

consequences of a dilution accident or an improperly loaded fuel assembly. The need for a safety analysis for an uncontrolled boron dilution accident is eliminated by isolating all unborated water sources as required by LCO 3.9.2, "Unborated Water Source Isolation Valves." Thus boron dilution is not considered a credible accident during refueling.

UFSAR Section 15.4.7 does not credit the source range neutron flux monitors for prevention or detection of the improperly loaded fuel assembly. It instead credits administrative procedures (i.e., nuclear component transfer lists, core inventory verification, etc.) implemented during fuel loading. If a fuel assembly loading error occurred, it would be detected by a flux map, or the perturbations of the power distribution will be sufficiently small to be within the allowable uncertainties.

Therefore this proposed change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

Does the proposed change create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated?

The proposed change to Technical Specification 3.9.3 does not involve any physical alteration of plant systems, structures, or components, or changes in parameters governing plant operation. This change will not result in a significant reduction in monitoring capability since both the Westinghouse and Gamma-Metrics PANM source range neutron flux monitors are functionally equivalent and both are Safety Category I (Class 1E) systems. These source range instrumentation systems are for monitoring neutron flux and criticality assessment. They are not relied upon to initiate automatic accident mitigation in Operational Mode 6. Therefore, the proposed change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated.

Does the proposed change involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety?

The proposed change will still maintain the requirement for two source range neutron flux monitors for visual monitoring of core reactivity as currently discussed in the Bases for the affected Technical Specifications. The Gamma-Metrics PANMs use fission chambers as detectors that have a sensitivity of 4 cps/neutron-volt (cps/nv) for thermal neutrons and 2 cps/nv for fast neutrons. The Westinghouse source range neutron flux monitors have a sensitivity of 13 cps/nv. The Gamma-Metrics PANMs have a comparable range and accuracy (i.e., range of 0.1 to 1E05 cps with an accuracy of 2% of full scale) to that of the Westinghouse source range neutron flux monitors (i.e., 1 to 1E+6 cps with an accuracy of 3 percent of full scale). The fact that the Gamma-Metrics PANMs do not cover the range of 1E05 to 1E06 cps is insignificant in Operational Mode 6 due to the low count rates expected. Therefore, these changes do not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three