

p.m., Closed Session; July 29, 1999—  
3:30 p.m., Open Session.

**PLACE:** The National Science  
Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard,  
Room 1235, Arlington, VA 22230.

**STATUS:** Part of this meeting will be  
closed to the public. Part of this meeting  
will be open to the public.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

*Closed Session (12:30 p.m.–12:45 p.m.)*

Closed Session Minutes  
Board Member Proposals  
Personnel

*Closed Session (2 p.m.–3:30 p.m.)*

Awards and Agreements  
FY 2001 Budget

*Open Session (3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.)*

Minutes, May 1999  
Closed Session Items for November  
1999  
Chair's Report  
Director's Report  
Committee Reports  
NSB 2000 Meeting Calendar  
Criteria for NSB Delegation of Authority  
NSF Strategic Plan  
Report of the CPP Task Force on the  
Environment  
NSF Commendation to Navy Personnel  
for Antarctic Support

[FR Doc. 99–18776 Filed 7–19–99; 3:50 pm]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

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**NUCLEAR REGULATORY  
COMMISSION**

[Docket Nos. 40–8794–MLA and 40–8778–  
MLA ASLBP No. 99–769–08–MLA]

**Molycorp, Inc.; Designation of  
Presiding Officer**

Pursuant to delegation by the  
Commission dated December 29, 1972,  
published in the **Federal Register**, 37 FR  
28,710 (1972), and Sections 2.1201 and  
2.1207 of Part 2 of the Commission's  
Regulations, a single member of the  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
Panel is hereby designated to rule on  
petitions for leave to intervene and/or  
requests for hearing and, if necessary, to  
serve as the Presiding Officer to conduct  
an informal adjudicatory hearing in the  
following proceeding.

**Molycorp, Inc. (Request for Materials  
License Amendment)**

The hearing, if granted, will be  
conducted pursuant to 10 C.F.R. Part 2,  
Subpart L, of the Commission's  
Regulations, "Informal Hearing  
Procedures for Adjudications in  
Materials and Operator Licensing  
Proceedings." This proceeding concerns

a request for hearing submitted by the  
City of Washington, Pennsylvania, and  
Canton Township, Pennsylvania. The  
requests were filed in response to a  
notice of receipt by the Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission of a license  
amendment request of Molycorp, Inc.,  
for temporary storage at its Washington,  
Pennsylvania facility of  
decommissioning waste now located at  
its facility in York, Pennsylvania. The  
notice of the proposed amendment  
request was published in the **Federal  
Register** at 64 Fed. Reg. 31,021 (June 9,  
1999).

The Presiding Officer in this  
proceeding is Administrative Judge  
Peter B. Bloch. Pursuant to the  
provisions of 10 C.F.R. 2.722, 2.1209,  
Administrative Judge Richard F. Cole  
has been appointed to assist the  
Presiding Officer in taking evidence and  
in preparing a suitable record for  
review.

All correspondence, documents, and  
other materials shall be filed with Judge  
Bloch and Judge Cole in accordance  
with 10 C.F.R. 2.1203. Their addresses  
are:

Administrative Judge Peter B. Bloch,  
Presiding Officer, Atomic Safety and  
Licensing Board Panel, U.S. Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission, Washington,  
DC 20555–0001

Dr. Richard F. Cole, Special Assistant,  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
Panel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory  
Commission, Washington, DC 20555–  
0001

Issued at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th  
day of July, 1999.

**G. Paul Bollwerk, III,**

*Chief Administrative Judge, Atomic Safety  
and Licensing Board Panel.*

[FR Doc. 99–18631 Filed 7–20–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

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**NUCLEAR REGULATORY  
COMMISSION**

[Docket No. 50–397]

**In the Matter of Washington Public  
Power Supply System, WPPSS Nuclear  
Project No. 2 (WNP–2), Exemption**

**I**

Washington Public Power Supply  
System (the Supply System or the  
licensee) is the holder of Facility  
Operating License No. NPF–21, which  
authorizes operation of the Washington  
Public Power Supply System Nuclear  
Project 2 (WNP–2). The facility consists  
of a boiling water reactor at the  
licensee's site in Benton County,  
Washington. The operating license  
provides, among other things, that

WNP–2 is subject to all rules,  
regulations, and orders of the  
Commission now or hereafter in effect.

**II**

Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1), each  
licensed operator is required to  
successfully complete a requalification  
program developed by the licensee that  
has been approved by the Commission.  
This program is to be conducted for a  
continuous period not to exceed 24  
months in duration. In addition,  
pursuant to 10 CFR 55.59(a)(2), each  
licensed operator must also pass a  
comprehensive requalification written  
examination and an annual operating  
test.

By letter dated May 7, 1999, the  
Supply System requested an exemption  
under 10 CFR 55.11 from the  
requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(a)(2). The  
schedular exemption requested would  
extend the completion date for the  
administration of the annual operating  
test for the WNP–2 requalification  
program from October 23, 1999, to  
February 12, 2000, because the  
scheduled examination time coincides  
with the plant refueling outage. The  
requested exemption would constitute a  
one-time extension of the annual  
operating test requirement of the  
requalification program.

The Code of Federal Regulations at 10  
CFR 55.11 states that, "The Commission  
may, upon application by an interested  
person, or upon its own initiative, grant  
such exemptions from the requirements  
of the regulations in this part as it  
determines are authorized by law and  
will not endanger life or property and  
are otherwise in the public interest."

**III**

In support of its request for  
exemption, the Supply System  
indicated that the licensed operators at  
WNP–2 will continue to participate in  
the ongoing requalification training  
program. The Supply System further  
indicated that due to the two extended  
shutdowns, the annual operating test  
would have to be conducted on  
overtime. The exemption would  
eliminate the need to conduct the  
annual operating tests on overtime.

The NRC staff finds the one-time  
exemption will allow additional  
licensed operator support during the  
current refueling outage, which will  
provide a safety enhancement during  
plant shutdown operations, and post-  
maintenance testing and eliminate the  
need to conduct annual operating tests  
on overtime. The affected licensed  
operators will continue to demonstrate  
and possess the required levels of  
knowledge, skills, and abilities needed