

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

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]

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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