

Committee's information gathering process. The meetings are not adjudicatory hearings such as those conducted by the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel as part of the Commission's licensing process. ACNW meetings are conducted in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

General Rules Regarding ACNW Meetings

An agenda is published in the **Federal Register** for each full Committee meeting and is available on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/ACRSACNW> and is updated as changes are made. During an ACNW meeting there may be a need to make changes to the agenda to facilitate the conduct of the meeting. The Chairman of the Committee is empowered to conduct the meeting in a manner that, in his/her judgment, will facilitate the orderly conduct of business, including making provisions to continue the discussion of matters not completed on the scheduled day during another meeting. Persons planning to attend the meeting may contact the Designated Federal Official specified in the individual **Federal Register** Notice prior to the meeting to be advised of any changes to the agenda that may have occurred. This individual can be contacted between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Eastern Time.

The following requirements shall apply to public participation in ACNW meetings:

(a) Persons wishing to submit written comments regarding the agenda items may do so by sending a readily reproducible copy addressed to the Designated Federal Official specified in the **Federal Register** Notice for the individual meeting in care of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Comments should be in the possession of the Designated Federal Official at least five days prior to the meeting to allow time for reproduction and distribution. Comments should be limited to topics being considered by the Committee. Written comments may also be submitted by providing a readily reproducible copy to the Designated Federal Official at the beginning of the meeting.

(b) Persons desiring to make oral statements at the meeting should make a request to do so to the Designated Federal Official. If possible, the request should be made five days before the meeting, identifying the topics to be discussed and the amount of time needed for presentation so that orderly arrangements can be made. The

Committee will hear oral statements on topics being reviewed at an appropriate time during the meeting as scheduled by the Chairman.

(c) In addition to the ACRS/ACNW Internet web site, information regarding topics to be discussed, changes to the agenda, whether the meeting has been canceled or rescheduled and the time allotted to present oral statements can be obtained by contacting the Designated Federal Official between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Eastern Time.

(d) During the ACNW meeting presentations and discussions, questions may be asked by ACNW members, Committee consultants, NRC staff, and the ACNW staff.

(e) The use of still, motion picture, and television cameras will be permitted at the discretion of the Chairman and subject to the condition that the physical installation and presence of such equipment will not interfere with the conduct of the meeting. The Designated Federal Official will have to be notified prior to the meeting and will authorize the installation or use of such equipment after consultation with the Chairman. The use of such equipment will be restricted as is necessary to protect proprietary or privileged information that may be in documents, folders, etc., in the meeting room. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public.

(f) A transcript is kept for certain open portions of the meeting and will be available in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20003-1527, for use within one week following the meeting. A copy of the certified minutes of the meeting will be available at the same location on or before three months following the meeting. Copies may be obtained upon payment of appropriate reproduction charges. ACNW meeting agenda, meeting transcripts, and letter reports are available for downloading or viewing on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/ACRSACNW>.

(g) Videoteleconferencing service is available for observing open sessions of some ACNW meetings. Those wishing to use this service for observing ACNW meetings should contact Mr. Theron Brown, ACNW Audio Visual Technician, (301-415-8066) between 7:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m., Eastern Time at least 10 days before the meeting to ensure the availability of this service. Individuals or organizations requesting this service will be responsible for telephone line charges and for providing the equipment and facilities that they use to establish the

videoteleconferencing link. The availability of videoteleconferencing services is not guaranteed.

ACNW Working Group Meetings

ACNW Working Group meetings will also be conducted in accordance with these procedures, as appropriate. When Working Group meetings are held at locations other than at NRC facilities, reproduction facilities may not be available at a reasonable cost. Accordingly, 25 additional copies of the materials to be used during the meeting should be provided for distribution at such meetings.

Special Provisions When Proprietary Sessions Are To Be Held

If it is necessary to hold closed sessions for the purpose of discussing matters involving proprietary information, persons with agreements permitting access to such information may attend those portions of the ACNW meetings where this material is being discussed upon confirmation that such agreements are effective and related to the material being discussed.

The Designated Federal Official should be informed of such an agreement at least five working days prior to the meeting so that it can be confirmed, and a determination can be made regarding the applicability of the agreement to the material that will be discussed during the meeting. The minimum information provided should include information regarding the date of the agreement, the scope of material included in the agreement, the project or projects involved, and the names and titles of the persons signing the agreement. Additional information may be requested to identify the specific agreement involved. A copy of the executed agreement should be provided to the Designated Federal Official prior to the beginning of the meeting for admittance to the closed session.

Dated: September 22, 1999.

Andrew L. Bates,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Procedures for Meetings

Background

This notice describes procedures to be followed with respect to meetings conducted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

(ACRS) pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act. These procedures are set forth so that they may be incorporated by reference in future notices for individual meetings.

The ACRS is a statutory group established by Congress to review and report on applications for the licensing of nuclear power reactor facilities and on certain other nuclear safety matters. The Committee's reports become a part of the public record.

The ACRS meetings are conducted in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act; they are normally open to the public and provide opportunities for oral or written statements from members of the public to be considered as part of the Committee's information gathering process. ACRS reviews do not normally encompass matters pertaining to environmental impacts other than those related to radiological safety.

The ACRS meetings are not adjudicatory hearings such as those conducted by the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel as part of the Commission's licensing process.

General Rules Regarding ACRS Meetings

An agenda is published in the **Federal Register** for each full Committee meeting and is available on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/ACRSACNW> and is updated as changes are made. There may be a need to make changes to the agenda to facilitate the conduct of the meeting. The Chairman of the Committee is empowered to conduct the meeting in a manner that, in his/her judgment, will facilitate the orderly conduct of business, including making provisions to continue the discussion of matters not completed on the scheduled day on another meeting day. Persons planning to attend the meeting may contact the Designated Federal Official specified in the individual **Federal Register** Notice prior to the meeting to be advised of any changes to the agenda that may have occurred. This individual can be contacted between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Eastern Time.

The following requirements shall apply to public participation in ACRS full Committee meetings:

(a) Persons wishing to submit written comments regarding the agenda items may do so by sending a readily reproducible copy addressed to the Designated Federal Official specified in the **Federal Register** Notice, care of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Comments should be limited to items being considered by the Committee. Comments should be in the possession

of the Designated Federal Official at least five days prior to a meeting to allow time for reproduction and distribution. Written comments may also be submitted by providing a readily reproducible copy to the Designated Federal Official at the beginning of the meeting.

(b) Persons desiring to make oral statements at the meeting should make a request to do so to the Designated Federal Official. If possible, the request should be made five days before the meeting, identifying the topics to be discussed and the amount of time needed for presentation so that orderly arrangements can be made. The Committee will hear oral statements on topics being reviewed at an appropriate time during the meeting as scheduled by the Chairman.

(c) Information regarding topics to be discussed, changes to the agenda, whether the meeting has been canceled or rescheduled, and the time allotted to present oral statements can be obtained by contacting the Designated Federal Official between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Eastern Time.

(d) During the presentations and discussions at ACRS meetings, questions may be asked only by ACRS members, ACRS consultants and staff, and the NRC staff.

(e) The use of still, motion picture, and television cameras will be permitted at the discretion of the Chairman and subject to the condition that the physical installation and presence of such equipment will not interfere with the conduct of the meeting. The Designated Federal Official will have to be notified prior to the meeting and will authorize the installation or use of such equipment after consultation with the Chairman. The use of such equipment will be restricted as is necessary to protect proprietary or privileged information that may be in documents, folders, etc., in the meeting room. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public.

(f) A transcript is kept for certain open portions of the meeting and will be available in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20003-1527, for use within one week following the meeting. A copy of the certified minutes of the meeting will be available at the same location on or before three months following the meeting. Copies may be obtained upon payment of appropriate reproduction charges. ACRS meeting agenda, meeting transcripts, and letter reports are available for downloading or viewing on

the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/ACRSACNW>.

(g) Videoteleconferencing service is available for observing open sessions of ACRS meetings. Those wishing to use this service for observing ACRS meetings should contact Mr. Theron Brown, ACRS Audio Visual Technician, (301-415-8066) between 7:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. Eastern Time at least 10 days before the meeting to ensure the availability of this service. Individuals or organizations requesting this service will be responsible for telephone line charges and for providing the equipment and facilities that they use to establish the videoteleconferencing link. The availability of videoteleconferencing services is not guaranteed.

ACRS Subcommittee Meetings

ACRS Subcommittee meetings will also be conducted in accordance with the above procedures, as appropriate. When Subcommittee meetings are held at locations other than at NRC facilities, reproduction facilities may not be available at a reasonable cost. Accordingly, 25 additional copies of the materials to be used during the meeting should be provided for distribution at such meetings.

Special Provisions When Proprietary Sessions Are To Be Held

If it is necessary to hold closed sessions for the purpose of discussing matters involving proprietary information, persons with agreements permitting access to such information may attend those portions of the ACRS meetings where this material is being discussed upon confirmation that such agreements are effective and related to the material being discussed.

The Designated Federal Official should be informed of such an agreement at least five working days prior to the meeting so that it can be confirmed, and a determination can be made regarding the applicability of the agreement to the material that will be discussed during the meeting. The minimum information provided should include information regarding the date of the agreement, the scope of material included in the agreement, the project or projects involved, and the names and titles of the persons signing the agreement. Additional information may be requested to identify the specific agreement involved. A copy of the executed agreement should be provided to the Designated Federal Official prior to the beginning of the meeting for admittance to the closed session.

Dated: September 22, 1999.

Andrew L. Bates,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Final Standard Review Plan on Foreign Ownership, Control, or Domination

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Final Standard Review Plan.

SUMMARY: The NRC is issuing its Final Standard Review Plan (SRP) on Foreign Ownership, Control, or Domination. The SRP documents procedures and guidance used by the staff to analyze applications for reactor licenses, or applications for the transfer of control of such licenses, with respect to the limitations contained in sections 103 and 104 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.38 against issuing a license for a production or utilization facility to an alien or an entity that is owned, controlled, or dominated by foreign interests.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The SRP was approved by the Commission on August 31, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Examine copies of comments received on the interim SRP, which preceded the final SRP, and copies of the attachments as stated in the final SRP at: The NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W. (lower level), Washington, D.C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven R. Hom, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, telephone (301) 415-1537, e-mail srh@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SRP on Foreign Ownership, Control, or Domination, attached hereto, contains the review procedures used by the staff to evaluate applications for the issuance or transfer of control of a production or utilization facility license in light of the prohibitions in sections 103d and 104d of the Atomic Energy Act and in 10 CFR 50.38 against issuing such reactor licenses to aliens or entities that the Commission "knows or has reason to believe" are owned, controlled, or dominated by foreign interests. The procedures expressly provide for requests for additional information and consideration of a negation action plan if the information described in 10 CFR 50.33(d) initially required to be

provided in an application indicates that there may be some degree of foreign control of the applicant. The SRP also sets forth substantive guidance consistent with existing Commission precedent on what may constitute foreign control. This SRP supersedes Section III.3 of NUREG-1577, Standard Review Plan on Power Reactor Licensee Financial Qualifications and Decommissioning Funding Assurance (Draft Report for Comment) (containing review procedures regarding foreign ownership) in its entirety.

An earlier interim version of the SRP was published in the **Federal Register** on March 2, 1999 (64 FR 10166) for public comment. Four sets of comments were received from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (AmerGen), Florida Power and Light Company (FPL), and PECO Energy (PECO). These comments, and the staff's response to them, are set forth below.

Comments and Responses

NEI and FPL

NEI stated that, in general, the criteria and review process outlined in the interim SRP provide an "appropriate degree of regulatory flexibility." In addition, NEI specifically provided its view that "a foreign entity should be allowed to own a significant share of a nuclear power plant," provided that special nuclear material is not under the control of the foreign entity, the foreign entity has no control over the day-to-day nuclear activities at the plant, and ownership would not be inimical to the common defense and security. Further, NEI stated its belief that foreign ownership of a licensee's parent company "should be allowed unless the foreign entity has legal control over the conduct of licensee activities involving common defense and security." Such control can be "overcome" by "special arrangements, such as special operating committees, which vest effective control and operation of licensed activities with U.S. citizens," according to NEI.¹

FPL stated that it "supports the approach set forth in the SRP." It also stated that it endorses NEI's comments.

Response

Section 103d of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, provides that no license may be issued to an alien, or to a corporation owned, controlled, or dominated by an alien, foreign corporation, or foreign government. As

¹NEI also stated its support for amendment of the Atomic Energy Act to remove the foreign ownership prohibition, while preserving the authority to protect the common defense and security.

the SRP now indicates, a (U.S.) *applicant* that is partially owned by a foreign entity may still be eligible for a license under certain conditions. However, the intent of NEI's comment that a foreign entity "should be allowed to own a significant share of a nuclear power plant" is not entirely clear. If NEI is suggesting that a foreign entity may become a direct owner of a substantial percentage of the facility, its position would not appear to be consistent with the Commission's interpretation of the statute, even if the foreign entity is only a co-owner. In Public Service Co. of Indiana (Marble Hill Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2), ALAB-459, 7 NRC 179, 200-01 (1978), the Appeal Board held that each proposed co-owner of a nuclear facility must be an applicant for a license. Accordingly, each co-owner is subject to the foreign ownership or control prohibition contained in the Act.

NEI's other major comment (i.e., that foreign ownership of a licensee's parent company should be allowed unless the foreign entity has legal control over common defense and security activities, which control is not overcome by special arrangements such as limiting such activities to U.S. citizens) appears to go beyond the guidance in the SRP that deals with foreign parent companies. The SRP states that (based on the Commission's determinations in the Hoffmann-LaRoche and initial Cintichem matters discussed in the attachments to the SRP), an applicant with a foreign parent will not be eligible for a license, unless the Commission knows that the foreign parent's stock is largely owned by U.S. citizens, and certain conditions or "special arrangements" are imposed, such as having only U.S. citizens within the applicant's organization be responsible for special nuclear material. NEI has not presented any compelling argument why the scenario it set forth, which is devoid of any indication of ultimate control of the parent by U.S. stockholders, is consistent with the statutory prohibition on foreign control, in light of the Commission's interpretation in the Hoffmann-LaRoche and initial Cintichem matters.²

AmerGen

AmerGen commented that the SRP should provide more detailed guidance by establishing "safe harbors" with respect to certain types of ownership and/or operating arrangements.

²However, for situations involving an applicant's proposed acquisition of less than a 100% interest in a reactor, see the discussion below in response to AmerGen's comments.