

modifications, and related correspondence and working papers.

3. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service (N1-90-99-1, 59 items, 32 temporary items). Older records accumulated by the Public Health Service (PHS), ca. 1945-1977, which relate to administrative matters. Included are records relating to budget, personnel, and other housekeeping activities, routine correspondence, raw and/or incomplete data concerning such matters as emergency care and dental treatment, statistical information on medical supplies, duplicate background materials, and computer printouts. Records proposed for permanent retention include subject files relating to international health issues, environmental health, and influenza, files documenting the activities of a wide variety of PHS components, budget documents and other files pertaining to programs for individuals rejected for military service during the Vietnam War, and files relating to organizational changes.

4. Department of State, Office of Management, Policy and Planning (N1-59-99-16, 29 items, 16 temporary items). Records relating to Office of Inspector General Reports and forms used as input for an automated system that tracks Departmental personnel positions. Also included are electronic copies of documents created using electronic mail and word processing that are accumulated by the Office. Files proposed for permanent retention include record-keeping copies of general subject files and records relating to projects, bureau and mission planning, overseas staffing, and accountability review boards.

5. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Public Debt (N1-53-99-1, 92 items, 92 temporary items). System outputs from electronic systems previously scheduled as temporary. The schedule covers outputs of systems used to perform routine administrative functions or to facilitate accounting or accounting-related work processes (primarily verification and correction of financial data).

6. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Public Debt. (N1-53-99-2, 183 items, 164 temporary items). Public Debt Accounting and Reporting System (PARS) and related records. Most PARS data tables, used primarily to verify and correct raw financial data, are proposed for disposal as are electronic and hardcopy financial data inputs and outputs used to verify and correct financial data. Hardcopy versions of the Interest Expense on the Public Debt and the Monthly Statement of the Public

Debt are proposed for permanent retention while the related electronic word processing and spreadsheet versions are proposed for disposal. Fifteen PARS data tables are proposed for permanent retention including raw financial data and tables needed to interpret the data.

7. U.S. Office of Government Ethics, Office of Information Resource Management (N1-522-99-3, 50 items, 50 temporary items). Electronic tracking and administrative systems with related inputs, outputs, and systems documentation. Included are systems relating to calendars of events, document management, public financial disclosure reporting, certificates of divestiture, blind and diversified trusts, the status of pending legislation, designated agency ethics official listings, audits, annual agency ethics program questionnaires, registration for ethics conferences and workshops, the preparation of mailing labels, and emergency notifications.

Dated: September 23, 1999.

Michael J. Kurtz,

Assistant Archivist for Record Services—Washington, DC.

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BILLING CODE 7515-01-P

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities, Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Panel Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463 as amended) notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Panel of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities will be held at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20506, in Room 714, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, November 9, 1999.

The purpose of the meeting is to review applications for Certificates of Indemnity submitted to the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities for exhibitions beginning after January 1, 2000.

Because the proposed meeting will consider financial and commercial data and because it is important to keep values of objects, methods of transportation and security measures confidential, pursuant to the authority granted me by the Chairman's Delegation of Authority to Close Advisory Committee Meetings, dated July 19, 1993, I have determined that the

meeting would fall within exemption (4) of 5 U.S.C. 552(b) and that it is essential to close the meeting to protect the free exchange of views and to avoid interference with the operations of the Committee.

It is suggested that those desiring more specific information contact the Advisory Committee Management Officer, Laura S. Nelson, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20506, or call 202/606-8322.

Laura S. Nelson,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-26251 Filed 10-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7537-01-M

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Meetings of Humanities Panel

AGENCY: The National Endowment for the Humanities.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), notice is hereby given that the following meetings of the Humanities Panel will be held at the Old Post Office, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20506.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura S. Nelson, Advisory Committee Management Officer, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC 20506; telephone (202) 606-8322. Hearing-impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter may be obtained by contacting the Endowment's TDD terminal on (202) 606-8282.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed meetings are for the purpose of panel review, discussion, evaluation and recommendation on applications for financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including discussion of information given in confidence to the agency by the grant applicants. Because the proposed meetings will consider information that is likely to disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential and/or information of a personal nature the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, pursuant to authority granted me by the Chairman's Delegation of Authority to Close Advisory Committee meetings, dated July 19, 1993, I have determined that these meetings will be closed to the

public pursuant to subsections (c)(4), and (6) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code.

1. *Date:* October 28, 1999.

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

Room: 315.

Program: This meeting will review applications for NEH/Dodge Humanities Scholar in Residence, submitted to the Division of Education at the October 15, 1999 deadline.

2. *Date:* October 29, 1999.

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

Room: 315.

Program: This meeting will review applications for NEH/Dodge Humanities Scholar in Residence, submitted to the Division of Education at the October 15, 1999 deadline.

Laura S. Nelson,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-26250 Filed 10-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7536-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414 and 50-370]

Duke Energy Corporation et al. (Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2) (McGuire Nuclear Station, Unit 2); Exemption

I

Duke Energy Corporation et al. (the licensee, Duke) is the holder of Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-35 and NPF-52, for the Catawba Nuclear Station (CNS), Units 1 and 2, and NPF-9 and NPF-17, for the McGuire Nuclear Station (MNS), Units 1 and 2. The licenses provide, among other things, that the licensee is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

Each of these facilities consists of two pressurized water reactor units located at the licensee's Catawba site in York County, South Carolina, and McGuire site in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

II

Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), Part 54, addresses the various requirements for renewal of operating licenses for nuclear power plants. Section 54.17(c) of Part 54 specifies:

An application for a renewed license may not be submitted to the Commission earlier than 20 years before the expiration of the operating license currently in effect.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 54.15, the Commission may grant an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 54

in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.12, which in turn specifies that the exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. The Commission will not consider granting an exemption unless special circumstances are present. Special circumstances are considered to be present under Section 50.12(a)(2)(ii) where application of the regulation would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule.

III

By letter dated June 22, 1999, the licensee requested an exemption from 10 CFR 54.17(c) for McGuire, Unit 2, and Catawba, Units 1 and 2.

In initially promulgating Section 54.17(c) in 1991, the Commission stated that the purpose of the time limit was "to ensure that substantial operating experience is accumulated by a licensee before it submits a renewal application" (56 FR 64963). At that time, the Commission found that 20 years of operating experience provided a sufficient basis for renewal applications. However, in issuing the amended Part 54 in 1995, the Commission indicated it would consider an exemption to this requirement if sufficient information was available on a plant-specific basis to justify submission of an application to renew a license before completion of 20 years of operation (60 FR 22488).

The 20-year limit was imposed by the Commission to ensure that sufficient operating experience was accumulated to identify any plant-specific aging concerns. As set forth below, McGuire, Unit 2, and both Catawba units are sufficiently similar to McGuire, Unit 1, such that the operating experience for McGuire, Unit 1, should apply to the other three units. In addition, the other three units have accumulated significant operating experience. Accordingly, under the requested exemption, sufficient operating experience will have been accumulated to identify any plant-specific aging concerns for all four units.

McGuire and Catawba are two-unit stations comprised of four-loop Westinghouse pressurized water reactors with ice-condenser containments and a rated power of 3411 megawatts. The licensee states that it will use the combined experience it has gained by operation of the McGuire and Catawba units to perform the evaluations required to support the license renewal applications. The licensee also states that the two McGuire units and the two Catawba

units are similar in design, operation, and maintenance. This statement is supported by a review of the McGuire and Catawba Updated Final Safety Analysis Reports (UFSARs). In particular, Section 1.3 of the Catawba UFSAR describes the similarities in design between McGuire and Catawba. Table 1-2 of the Catawba UFSAR lists significant similarities between systems, structures, and components installed at Catawba and McGuire, including elements of the reactor system, the reactor coolant system, the engineered safety features, and the auxiliary systems. Additionally, Duke indicates that the current aging management programs and activities are also similar at each of the four units.

The licensee also stated that there are "regular and systematic exchanges of information on plant-specific operating experience among all three Duke nuclear stations" (McGuire, Catawba, and Oconee). An example provided was peer communications that occurred on an ongoing basis during the normal course of operation and maintenance of the units. Additionally, during certain infrequent occurrences at any one station, peer observers from the other Duke plants participate to gain firsthand experience and to provide input based on their own experiences. These communications provide the means to continually improve plant programs. Additionally, peer group meetings are held regularly throughout the year to discuss topics of mutual interest. The effectiveness of programs and activities is reviewed, and program changes are often discussed. This sharing of plant-specific operating experience among the Duke nuclear stations is part of Duke's normal process to maintain the effectiveness of plant programs and activities and to continually improve the performance of Duke's nuclear stations.

Given these similarities, the operating experience at McGuire, Unit 1, should be applicable to McGuire, Unit 2, and also to the Catawba units for purposes of the license renewal review. At the earliest date for submitting an application, McGuire, Unit 1, will have achieved the required 20 years of operation and its operating experience will be applicable to Unit 2 which will have almost met the 20-year requirement with 18.3 years of operating experience. At this time, the Catawba units will have operated for a substantial period of time (approximately 16.5 years for Unit 1 and 15.3 years for Unit 2) which provides additional plant-specific operating experience to supplement the McGuire operating experience. The actual twenty