

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting**

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) will hold its 118th meeting on March 27–29, 2000, Room T–2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance.

The schedule for this meeting is as follows:

Monday, March 27, 2000—8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

A. 8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.: *Preparation of ACNW Reports* (Open)—The Committee will discuss planned reports on the following topics: the NRC's proposed high-level waste regulation 10 CFR Part 63; a joint letter with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards on the Defense In-Depth philosophy; the ACNW Year 2000 Action Plan and Self Assessment; and comments on the NRC staff's Strategy for Site Characterization Sufficiency Comments (tentative).

B. 10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.: *ACNW Planning and Procedures* (Open)—The Committee will consider topics proposed for future consideration by the full Committee and Working Groups. The ACNW will discuss planned tours and ACNW-related activities of individual members.

C. 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.: *Activities of NRC's Spent Fuel Project Office* (Open)—The Committee will hear a review of the activities underway in NRC's Spent Fuel Project Office. Special emphasis will be placed on transportation issues associated with radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel as well as an update on the modal study. The interrelationship between the Department of Transportation and NRC related to the shipment of radioactive material will be reviewed.

D. 3:45 p.m.–5 p.m.: *Continue Preparation of ACNW Reports* (Open)—Continue preparation of ACNW reports noted in item A.

Tuesday, March 28, 2000—8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

E. 8:30 a.m.–10 a.m.: *NRC Strategy for Site Sufficiency* (Open)—The ACNW will review the NRC staff's plans for the development of a strategy to produce site characterization sufficiency comments on the Department of Energy's Yucca Mountain Site Recommendation.

F. 10:15 a.m.–12 Noon: *DOE–NRC Technical Exchange* (Open)—The NRC

staff will present a summary of a March 14–15, 2000 DOE–NRC technical exchange on the path forward for resolution of Yucca Mountain key technical issues and sub-issues.

G. 1 p.m.–2 p.m.: *Yucca Mountain Review Plan* (Open)—The NRC staff will present a periodic briefing on the development of a Yucca Mountain Review Plan. Emphasis will be on the post-closure sections of the plan.

H. 2 p.m.–3 p.m.: *Radionuclide Content of Slag* (Open)—The ACNW will review a project by NRC's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research on the radioactive content of slag which is produced as byproduct of the manufacture of metals.

I. 3 p.m.–5 p.m.: *Continue Preparation of ACNW Reports* (Open)—Continue preparation of ACNW reports noted in item A.

Wednesday, March 29, 2000—8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

J. 8:30 a.m.–9:30 a.m.: *Meeting with the Director of the Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards* (Open)—The Committee will meet with the Director to discuss items of mutual interest.

K. 9:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.: *Complete ACNW Reports* (Open)—Complete preparation of ACNW reports noted in item A.

L. 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.: *Miscellaneous* (Open)—The Committee will discuss miscellaneous matters related to the conduct of Committee and organizational activities and complete discussion of matters and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings, as time and availability of information permit.

Procedures for the conduct of and participation in ACNW meetings were published in the **Federal Register** on September 28, 1999 (64 FR 52352). In accordance with these procedures, oral or written statements may be presented by members of the public, electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked only by members of the Committee, its consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify Richard K. Major, ACNW, as far in advance as practicable so that appropriate arrangements can be made to schedule the necessary time during the meeting for such statements. Use of still, motion picture, and television cameras during this meeting will be limited to selected portions of the meeting as determined by the ACNW Chairman. Information regarding the time to be set aside for taking pictures

may be obtained by contacting the ACNW office, prior to the meeting. In view of the possibility that the schedule for ACNW meetings may be adjusted by the Chairman as necessary to facilitate the conduct of the meeting, persons planning to attend should notify Mr. Major as to their particular needs.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been canceled or rescheduled, the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefore can be obtained by contacting Mr. Richard K. Major, ACNW (Telephone 301/415–7366), between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST. ACNW meeting notices, meeting transcripts, and letter reports are now available for downloading or reviewing on the internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/ACRSACNW>.

Videoteleconferencing service is available for observing open sessions of ACNW meetings. Those wishing to use this service for observing ACNW meetings should contact Mr. Theron Brown, ACNW Audiovisual Technician (301/415–8066), between 7:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. EST 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.

Dated: March 3, 2000.

Andrew L. Bates,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00–5748 Filed 3–8–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

PEACE CORPS**Information Collection Requests Under OMB Review**

[OMB NUMBER: 0420–0001]

AGENCY: Peace Corps.

ACTION: Notice of public use of form review request to the Office of Management and Budget

SUMMARY: The Associate Director of Management invites comments on information collection requests as required pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35). This notice announces that the Peace Corps has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request seeking Emergency Clearance from the Office of Management and Budget to approve the reinstatement of the

National Agency Check Questionnaire for Peace Corps Volunteer Background Investigation [OMB Number 0420-0001]. The Agency will also seek an expiration date starting after the 90 day Emergency Clearance and ending three years from that approval date. Section 22 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.) mandates that "all persons employed or assigned to duties under the Act shall be investigated to ensure employment or assignment is consistent with national interest in accordance with standards and procedures established by the President."

DATES: The Peace Corps invites comments until May 8, 2000.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the information collection may be obtained from Paul Davis, Manager Placement Unit, Peace Corps, 1111 20th Street NW, Washington, DC 20526. Mr. Davis may be contacted by telephone at (202) 692-1836. Comments on these forms should be addressed to Mr. David Rostker, Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, NEOB, Washington, DC 20523.

Dated: February 29, 2000.

Michael J. Kole,

Director of Administrative Services and Certifying Official.

[FR Doc. 00-5715 Filed 3-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6051-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 35-27144]

Filings Under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as Amended ("Act")

March 1, 2000.

Notice is hereby given that the following filing(s) has/have been made with the Commission pursuant to provisions of the Act and rules promulgated under the Act. All interested persons are referred to the application(s) and/or declaration(s) for complete statements of the proposed transaction(s) summarized below. The application(s) and/or declaration(s) and any amendment(s) is/are available for public inspection through the Commission's Branch of Public Reference.

Interested persons wishing to comment or request a hearing on the application(s) and/or declaration(s) should submit their views in writing by March 23, 2000, to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C. 20549-0609, and serve a copy on the relevant applicant(s) and/or declarant(s) at the address(es)

specified below. Proof of service (by affidavit or, in the case of an attorney at law, by certificate) should be filed with the request. Any request for hearing should identify specifically the issues of facts or law that are disputed. A person who so requests will be notified of any hearing, if ordered, and will receive a copy of any notice or order issued in the matter. After March 23, 2000, the applicant(s) and/or declaration(s), as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

Northeast Utilities (70-9563)

Notice of Proposal to Amend Declaration of Trust; Order Authorizing Solicitation of Proxies

Northeast Utilities ("NU"), a registered holding company, located at 174 Brush Hill Avenue, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01090-0010, has filed a declaration under sections 6(a)(2), 7(e) and 12(e) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as amended ("Act"), and rules 62(d) and 65 under the Act.

NU has entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger ("Merger Agreement"), dated October 13, 1999, amended and restated January 11, 2000, with Consolidated Edison, Inc. ("CEI"), a New York electric and gas public utility holding company exempt from registration under section 3(a)(1) of the Act under rule 2, Consolidated Edison, Inc. ("New CEI"),¹ a Delaware corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of CEI, and N Acquisition LLC ("N Acquisition"), a Massachusetts limited liability company, which is directly and indirectly owned by New CEI. Under the Merger Agreement, CEI will be merged with and into New CEI, with New CEI as the surviving corporation, and N Acquisition will be merged with and into NU, with NU as the surviving entity ("Merger"). On January 20, 2000, NU and CEI filed a separate application-declaration (file no. 70-9613) with this Commission requesting authority to consummate the Merger.

NU proposes to make certain amendments ("Amendments") to its Declaration of Trust ("Trust Agreement"). The Amendment would specifically authorize NU to consummate a merger with one or more domestic limited liability companies under Massachusetts law.² The

¹New CEI was originally incorporated as CWB Holdings, Inc.

²The Trust Agreement already authorizes the NU board of trustees to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any part or parts of the properties of NU to the extent permitted by law. Under Massachusetts law, however, for a business trust to merge with another

Amendments would also allow the number of trustees resulting from the merger to be fixed by the agreement providing for the merger.

NU also proposes to solicit proxies from its common shareholders for the purposes of obtaining required shareholder approvals related to the merger. Specifically, NU proposes to solicit proxies from its common shareholders to approve the Amendments and the Merger Agreement at a special meeting, which is expected to be held in the spring of 2000.

The proposed Amendments, which will be effected regardless of whether the Merger is consummated, and the Merger Agreement must be approved by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all NU shareholders eligible to vote. The Amendments and the Merger have already been approved by the unanimous vote of the NU board of trustees.

NU requests that an order authorizing the solicitation of proxies be issued as soon as practicable under rule 62(d). It appears to the Commission that NU's declaration regarding the proposed solicitation of proxies should be permitted to become effective immediately under rule 62(d).

Fees, commissions, and expenses to be incurred in connection with the transactions described in the declaration are expected not to exceed \$500,000. NU states that no state or federal commission, other than this Commission, has jurisdiction over the proposed transactions.

It is ordered, under rule 62 under the Act, that the declaration regarding the proposed solicitation of proxies can become effective immediately, subject to the terms and conditions contained in rule 24 under the Act.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-5645 Filed 3-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Pub. L. 94-409, that the Securities and Exchange Commission

entity, its declaration of trust must explicitly authorize such a transaction. The Trust Agreement currently does not authorize NU to merge with another entity.