

MEDICARE PAYMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION**Notice of Meeting**

AGENCY: Medicare Payment Advisory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Commission will hold its next public meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2000 and Friday, April 14, 2000 at the Ronald Reagan Building, International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The meeting is tentatively scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. on April 13, and 9 a.m. on April 14.

Topics for discussion include: payments to teaching hospitals and DRG refinement, improving quality assurance for institutional providers, financial performance and payment update for hospitals covered by PPS, hospital financial performance and payment update for facilities exempt from PPS, work plan on mandated study on medical savings accounts, improving payment policy for hospital outpatient departments and physicians' services, criteria for evaluating proposals to reform Medicare, prescription drug coverage issues, and an update on proposed refinements to the SNF PPS.

Agenda will be mailed on April 4, 2000. The final agenda will be available on the Commission's website (www.MedPAC.gov).

ADDRESSES: MedPAC's address is: 1730 K Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20006. The telephone number is (202) 653-7220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Ellison, Office Manager, (202) 653-7220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you are not on the Commission mailing list and wish to receive an agenda, please call (202) 653-7220.

Murray N. Ross,
Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 00-8068 Filed 3-31-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-321 and 50-366]

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, Notice of Acceptance for Docketing of the Application, and Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing Regarding Renewal of License, Nos. DPR-57 and NPF-5, for an Additional Twenty-Year Period

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering an application for the renewal of Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-57 and NPF-5, which authorize Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC) to operate Units 1 and 2 of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (Hatch 1 and Hatch 2, respectively), at 2,763 megawatts thermal. The renewed license would authorize the applicant to operate Hatch 1 and Hatch 2 for an additional 20 years beyond the period specified in the current licenses. The current operating licenses for Hatch 1 and Hatch 2 expire on August 6, 2014 and June 13, 2018, respectively.

SNC submitted an application to renew the operating licenses for Hatch 1 and Hatch 2 on March 1, 2000. A Notice of Receipt of Application, "Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2; Notice of Receipt of Application for Renewal of Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-57 and NPF-5, for an Additional Twenty-Year Period," was published in the **Federal Register** on March 10, 2000 (65 FR 13061).

The Commission's staff has determined that SNC has submitted information in accordance with 10 CFR 54.19, 54.21, 54.22, 54.23, and 51.53(c) that is complete and acceptable for docketing. The current Docket Nos. 50-321 for Operating License No. DPR-57 and 50-366 for Operating License No. NPF-5, will be retained. The docketing of the renewal application does not preclude requesting additional information as the review proceeds, nor does it predict whether the Commission will grant or deny the application.

Before issuance of the requested license renewal, the NRC will have made the findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the NRC's rules and regulations. In accordance with 10 CFR 54.29, the NRC will issue a renewed license on the basis of its review and findings that actions have been identified and have been or will be taken with respect to (1) managing the effects of aging during the period of

extended operation on the functionality of structures and components that have been identified as requiring aging management review, and (2) time-limited aging analyses that have been identified as requiring review such that there is reasonable assurance that the activities authorized by the renewed license will continue to be conducted in accordance with the current licensing basis (CLB) and that any changes made to the plant's CLB comply with the Act and the Commission's regulations.

Additionally, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.95(c), the NRC will prepare an environmental impact statement that is a supplement to the Commission's NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants," (May 1996). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.26, and as part of the environmental scoping process, the staff intends to hold a public scoping meeting. Detailed information regarding this meeting will be included in a future **Federal Register** notice. The Commission also intends to hold public meetings to discuss the license renewal process and the schedule for conducting the review. The Commission will provide prior notice of these meetings. As discussed further herein, in the event that a hearing is held, issues that may be litigated will be confined to those pertinent to the foregoing.

By 30 days after publication date, the applicant may file a request for a hearing, and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene with respect to the license renewal in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 2.714. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714, which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037. If a request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel will rule on the request(s) and/or petition(s), and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of a hearing or an appropriate order. In the event that no request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the NRC may, upon completion of its evaluations and upon making the findings required under 10 CFR Parts 54 and 51, renew the license without further notice.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, taking into consideration the limited scope of matters that may be considered pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 54 and 51. The petition must specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) The nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order that may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition must also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the board up to 15 days before the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days before the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene that must include a list of the contentions that the petitioner seeks to have litigated in the hearing. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of each contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or the expert opinion that supports the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. The petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the action under consideration. The contention must be one that, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement that satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one

contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington DC 20037, by the above date. A copy of the request for a hearing and the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to Mr. H.L. Sumner, Vice President—Hatch Project, Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. 40 Inverness Center Parkway, P.O. Box 1295, Birmingham, AL 35201-1295.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions, and/or requests for a hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer, or the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1) (i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

Detailed information about the license renewal process can be found under the nuclear reactors' icon of the NRC's Web page <<http://www.nrc.gov>>.

A copy of the application to renew the Hatch 1 and Hatch 2 licenses is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037, and on the NRC's Web page <<http://www.nrc.gov>>. In addition, the Appling County Library, 242 East Parker Street, Baxley, Georgia 31513, has agreed to make a copy of the application and related information available to the public.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of March 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Pao-Tsin Kuo,

Acting Chief, License Renewal and Standardization Branch, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00-8108 Filed 3-31-00; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Request For Public Comment

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549

Extension:

Rule 17f-1, SEC File No. 270-236, OMB Control No. 3235-0222
Form N-17f-1, SEC File No. 270-316, OMB Control No. 3235-0359
Rule 17f-2, SEC File No. 270-233, OMB Control No. 3235-0223
Form N-17f-2, SEC File No. 270-317, OMB Control No. 3235-0360

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is publishing for public comment the following summaries of previously approved information collection requirements. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") for extension and approval.

Rule 17f-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") is entitled: "Custody of Securities with Members of National Securities Exchanges." Rule 17f-1 provides that any registered management investment company ("fund") that wishes to place its assets in the custody of a national securities exchange member may do so only under a written contract that must be ratified initially and approved annually by a majority of the fund's board of directors. The written contract also must contain certain specified provisions. In addition, the rule requires an independent public accountant to examine the fund's assets in the custody of the exchange member at least three times during the fund's fiscal year. The rule requires the written contract and the certificate of each examination to be transmitted to the Commission. The purpose of the rule is to ensure the safekeeping of fund assets.

Commission staff estimates that approximately five funds maintain their assets with a national securities exchange number.¹ The annual burden of the rule's requirements is estimated to be approximately 4.5 hours for each of these funds.² Commission staff

¹ The Commission's records show that five funds filed Form N-17f-1 during calendar year 1999.

² The Commission staff estimates, based upon the experience of staff familiar with the information collection requirements of the rule, that each fund spends approximately 4.5 hours annually in complying with the rule's requirements: 4 hours of