

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Public Workshop to Discuss Current Issues Associated with the Design and Placement of Erosion Protection

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of public workshop.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a Public Workshop to discuss current issues associated with the design and placement of erosion protection. The goal of the workshop will be to provide a forum for NRC staff to discuss, with the NRC licensees and other interested stakeholders, NRC's process for evaluating the erosion protection aspects of reclamation plans, decommissioning plans, and completion reports. Other erosion protection issues associated with the closure and reclamation of radioactive waste sites will also be discussed.

DATES: The workshop will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Grand Junction, Colorado on October 3–4, 2000, beginning at 8:15 a.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Over the past 15 years, various licensees and the Department of Energy (DOE) have completed reclamation activities at over 20 uranium mill tailings sites across the United States. At most of these sites, a significant amount of rock riprap erosion protection was placed to protect the reclaimed tailings piles from erosion. NRC staff review of construction activities at these sites indicated that some were deficient in meeting construction specifications, particularly in the placement of the rock layers and in achieving the proper in-place gradations. The NRC staff has determined that some of the placement problems were related to inadequate quality assurance and testing programs, inexperience of contractor construction personnel with rock placement, an insufficient knowledge of standard industry practice, and an insufficient understanding of the quality of rock placement expected by the NRC staff to meet regulatory requirements.

The NRC staff held a rock placement workshop in 1999 for the benefit of agreement states to discuss various technical issues associated with rock placement. As part of our continuing efforts to involve the regulated community and other stakeholders in our reclamation approval activities, we will hold an expanded workshop on October 3–4, 2000 to discuss current issues related to riprap design and placement at various types of waste disposal facilities. The workshop will

focus primarily on riprap placement, with recommendations for improving rock placement by using proper placement techniques and specific design techniques. The staff seeks to obtain perspectives from other regulators, agreement states, licensees, consultants, and other interested stakeholders.

The workshop will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Grand Junction, Colorado on October 3–4, 2000, beginning at 8:15 a.m. The preliminary agenda for the first day includes presentations by:

(1) NRC staff, discussing experiences, regulatory requirements, expectations, and recommendations for achieving acceptable rock placement;

(2) NRC consultants, presenting the history and development of design guidance, including videotapes of prototype flume studies that simulate large flood flows over riprap layers;

(3) regulators from agreement states, providing their perspectives and experiences with rock placement;

(4) NRC licensees, discussing their perspective and experiences in meeting regulatory requirements;

(5) licensee contractors, discussing actual construction techniques that have been used to achieve acceptable rock placement and providing recommendations for designers;

(6) DOE representatives discussing the history of the DOE Title I program, the long-term surveillance and maintenance program, and the evolution and development of successful rock placement techniques;

(7) licensee consultants, discussing their experiences with riprap design and placement; and

(8) other interested parties, who may wish to provide input.

On October 4, 2000, site tours will be conducted at several sites where rock placement has been reviewed and approved by the NRC staff. These sites include Grand Junction (Cheney Reservoir) and Naturita (Umetco Upper Burbank). In addition, rock placement at the Umetco Title II site, regulated by the State of Colorado, will be observed.

The workshop is free and will be open to the public. Hotel accommodations and transportation are the responsibility of each participant. A block of rooms has been set aside at the Adam's Mark Hotel, (970) 241-8888, until September 22, 2000. These rooms are available at the government rate of \$55 plus tax, and reservations should be made as early as possible. Rental cars are available from major rental car companies at the Grand Junction airport.

The NRC staff strongly encourages all interested stakeholders to attend and

participate in this workshop. It will offer a unique opportunity for NRC staff and the industry to provide insights, perspectives, and information that is important for the NRC staff to consider as it seeks ways to improve its regulatory program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ted Johnson, Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS/FCSS/FCLB), at (301) 415-6658 or e-mail at TLJ@NRC.GOV. In addition, to obtain an approximate estimate of the total number of participants and equipment needed, please contact Mr. Johnson if you plan to attend the workshop or if you have specific audio-visual requirements.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 24th day of August, 2000.

For the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Philip Ting,

Chief, Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 00-22157 Filed 8-29-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATE: Weeks of August 28, September 4, 11, 18, 25, and October 2, 2000.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of August 28

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of August 28.

Week of September 4—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of September 4.

Week of September 11—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of September 11.

Week of September 18—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of September 18.

Week of September 25—Tentative

Friday, September 29

9:25 a.m.

Affirmative Session (Public Meeting)
(If needed)

9:30 a.m.

Briefing on Risk-Informing Special Treatment Requirements (Public Meeting) (Contact: Tim Reed, 301-415-1462)

1:30 p.m.

Briefing on Threat Environment Assessment (Closed—Ex. 1)

Week of October 2—Tentative

Friday, October 6

9:25 a.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (If needed)

9:30 a.m.

Meeting with ACRS (Public Meeting) (Contact: John Larkins, 301-415-7360)

* THE SCHEDULE FOR COMMISSION MEETINGS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE ON SHORT NOTICE. TO VERIFY THE STATUS OF MEETINGS CALL (RECORDING)—(301) 415-1292. CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Bill Hill (301) 415-1661.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: By a vote of 5-0 on August 21, the Commission determined pursuant to U.S.C. 552b(e) and § 9.107(a) of the Commission's rules that "Affirmation of HYDRO RESOURCES, INC. Motion for Partial Reconsideration of CLI-00-08" be held on August 21, and on less than one week's notice to the public.

By a vote of 5-0 on August 21, the Commission determined pursuant to U.S.C. 552b(e) and § 9.107(a) of the Commission's rules that "Discussion of Intragovernmental Issues (Closed Ex. 4 and 9)" be held on August 21, and on less than one week's notice to the public.

By a vote of 5-0 on August 24, the Commission determined pursuant to U.S.C. 552b(e) and § 9.107(a) of the Commission's rules that "Affirmation of Proposed License to Export Highly Enriched Uranium to the Netherlands for Use as Fuel in the High Flux Reactor in Petten (Application No. XSNM02611—Revised)" be held on August 24, and on less than one week's notice to the public.

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The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm>

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This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to it, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations Branch, Washington, D.C. 20555 (301-

415-1661). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to wmh@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: August 25, 2000.

William M. Hill, Jr.,
SECY Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-22320 Filed 8-28-00; 1:12 pm]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Rel. No. IC-24619; File No. 812-11942]

Nationwide Separate Account Trust, et al., Notice of Application

August 23, 2000.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission").

ACTION: Notice of Application for an order of exemption under Section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("the Act") for exemptions from the provisions of Sections 9(a), 13(a), 15(a) and 15(b) of the Act and Rules 6e-2(b)(15) and 6e-3(T)(b)(15) thereunder.

Summary of Application

Applicants seek an order to the extent necessary to permit shares of any current or future series of Nationwide Separate Account Trust ("NSAT") and shares of any investment company or series thereof now or in the future registered under the Act that is designed to fund insurance products and for which Villanova Mutual Fund Capital Trust, or any of its affiliates ("VMF"), may serve as investment adviser, administrator, manager, principal underwriter or sponsor (NSAT and such other investment companies are referred to collectively as "NSAT"), to be sold to and held by (1) variable annuity and variable life insurance separate accounts of both affiliated and unaffiliated life insurance companies; and (2) qualified pension and retirement plans.

Applicants

Nationwide Separate Account Trust and Villanova Mutual Fund Capital Trust. NSAT and VMF are, collectively, referred to herein as the "Applicants."

Filing Date

The application was filed on May 16, 2000.

Hearing or Notification of Hearing

An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders

a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing on the application by writing to the Secretary of the SEC and serving Applicants with a copy of the request, in person or by mail. Hearing requests must be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on September 18, 2000, and accompanied by proof of service on the Applicants in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Person may request notification of the date of a hearing by writing to the Secretary of the SEC.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, SEC, 450 5th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Applicants, c/o Dina A. Tantra, Counsel, Nationwide Insurance, One Nationwide Plaza, 1-35-13, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rebecca A. Marquigny, Senior Counsel, or Keith Carpenter, Branch Chief, Office of Insurance Products, Division of Investment Management, (202) 942-0670.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Following is a summary of the application. The complete application is available for a fee from the SEC's Public Reference Branch, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0102 (tel. (202) 942-8090).

Applicants' Representations

1. NSAT is an open-end investment company organized under the laws of Massachusetts by Declaration of Trust. NSAT currently is comprised of 21 separate series, not all of which have yet commenced operations; additional series may be added in the future.

2. VMF is a registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") and is an indirect, majority-owned subsidiary of Nationwide Financial Services, Inc., a provider, through its subsidiaries and affiliates of diversified financial services. VMF serves as the investment adviser for each current series of NSAT.

3. NSAT currently offers its shares to affiliated insurance companies' separate accounts to fund the benefits under variable contracts and variable life insurance policies. NSAT also proposes to offer its shares to both affiliated and unaffiliated insurance companies for their separate accounts as the underlying investment vehicle to fund either variable annuity or variable life insurance policies or contracts (collectively, "Variable Contracts"). Affiliated and unaffiliated separate accounts owning shares of NSAT and their insurance company depositors are