

U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: March 20, 2001.

**Susanne Bolton,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Special Emphasis Panel in Mathematical Sciences; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting:

*Name:* Special Emphasis Panel in Mathematical Sciences (1204).

*Date/Time:* April 26-27, 2001, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

*Place:* Room 1020, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA.

*Type of Meeting:* Closed.

*Contact Person:* Dr. William B. Smith, Program Director, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 1025, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292-4882.

*Purpose of Meeting:* To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate proposals concerning the Information Technology Research (ITRDMs), as part of the selection process for awards.

*Reason for Closing:* The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: March 20, 2001.

**Susanne Bolton,**

*Committee Manager Officer.*

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Special Emphasis Panel in Undergraduate Education; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting:

*Name:* Special Emphasis Panel in Undergraduate Education (1214).

*Date/Time:* May 21-24, 200a; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Place:* Rooms 130, 220, 360, 365, 370 and 380 National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA.

*Type of Meeting:* Closed.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Lee L. Zia, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292-8670.

*Purpose of Meeting:* To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate NSDL proposals as part of the selection process for awards.

*Reason for Closing:* The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individual associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: March 20, 2001.

**Susanne Bolton,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-353]

### Exelon Generation Company, Limerick Generating Station, Unit 2

#### 1.0 Background

The Exelon Generation Company (Exelon, the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. NPF-85 which authorizes operation of the Limerick Generating Station, Unit 2 (Limerick Unit 2). The license provides, among other things, that the facility is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC, the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

The facility consists of a boiling water reactor located in Montgomery and Chester Counties in Pennsylvania.

#### 2.0 Purpose

Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 50, Appendix G, requires that pressure-temperature (P-T) limits be established for reactor pressure vessels (RPVs) for normal operating and hydrostatic or leak rate testing conditions. Specifically, 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G, section IV.A.2.a, states, "The appropriate requirements on both the pressure-temperature limits and the minimum permissible temperature must be met for all conditions." Appendix G of 10 CFR Part 50 specifies that the P-T limits identified as "ASME [American Society of Mechanical Engineering Pressure and

Vessel Code (ASME Code)] Appendix G limits" in Table 1 require that the limits must be at least as conservative as the limits obtained by following the methods of analysis and the margins of safety of Appendix G of section XI of the ASME Code.

To address provisions of a proposed license amendment to the technical specification P-T limits for the Limerick facility, the licensee requested in its submittal of November 20, 2000, as supplemented December 20, 2000, that the staff exempt Limerick Unit 2 from application of specific requirements of Appendix G to 10 CFR Part 50, and substitute use of ASME Code Case N-640. Code Case N-640 permits the use of an alternate reference fracture toughness ( $K_{Ic}$  fracture toughness curve instead of  $K_{Ia}$  fracture toughness curve) for reactor vessel materials in determining the P-T limits. Since the  $K_{Ic}$  fracture toughness curve of ASME Section XI, Appendix A, Figure A-2200-1 (the  $K_{Ic}$  fracture toughness curve,  $K_{Ic}$  curve) provides greater allowable fracture toughness than the corresponding  $K_{Ia}$  fracture toughness curve of ASME Section XI, Appendix G, Figure G-2210-1 (the  $K_{Ia}$  curve), using Code Case N-640 for establishing the P-T limits would be less conservative than the methodology currently endorsed by 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G. The regulations (10 CFR 50.60(b)) state that proposed alternatives to the requirements in Appendix G to 10 CFR Part 50 may be used when an exemption is granted by the Commission under 10 CFR 50.12.

#### 3.0 Discussion

*Code Case N-640 (formerly Code Case N-626)*

The licensee has proposed an exemption to allow use of ASME Code Case N-640 in conjunction with ASME section XI, 10 CFR 50.60(a) and 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G, to determine P-T limits.

The proposed license amendment to revise the P-T limits for Limerick Unit 2 relies in part on the requested exemption. These revised P-T limits have been developed using the  $K_{Ic}$  fracture toughness curve, in lieu of the  $K_{Ia}$  fracture toughness curve, as the lower bound for fracture toughness.

Use of the  $K_{Ic}$  curve in determining the lower bound fracture toughness in the development of P-T operating limits curve is more technically correct than use of the  $K_{Ia}$  curve, since the rate of loading during a heatup or cooldown is slow and is more representative of a static condition than a dynamic condition. The  $K_{Ic}$  curve appropriately