

actions that 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: May 1, 2001.

**Susanne Bolton,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-11286 Filed 5-3-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555-01-M**

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Special Emphasis Panel in Chemical and Transport Systems; 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 Chemical and Transport Systems (1190).

*Date/Time:* May 17-18, 2001; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Place:* National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Rm. 360, Arlington, VA

*Type of Meeting:* Closed.

*Contact Persons:* Drs. Chaun F. Chen & Thomas W. Chapman, Program Directors, Division of Chemical & Transport Systems, NSF, 4201 Wilson Blvd. Room 525, Arlington, VA 22230. (703) 292-8371.

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

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate nominations for the FY 2001 Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Panel of 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 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: May 1, 2001.

**Susanne Bolton,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Special Emphasis Panel in Experiment and Integrative Activities; 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 Experimental & Integrative Activities (1193).

*Date/Time:* June 11, 2001; 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

*Place:* National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA.

*Type of Meeting:* Closed.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Caroline Wardle, CISE Information Technology Workforce (ITWF), Experimental and Integrative Activities, Room 1160, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, VA 22230 Telephone: (703) 292-8980.

*Purpose of Meeting:* To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation for financial support.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate CISE Information Technology Workforce (ITWF) proposals submitted in response to the program announcement (NSF 01-33).

*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: May 1, 2001.

**Susanne Bolton,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Special Emphasis Panel for Geosciences; Notice of Meeting

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

*Name:* Special Emphasis Panel for Geosciences (1756).

*Date/Time:* May 21-24, 2001; 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

*Place:* Room 515 Stafford-II, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA.

*Type of Meeting:* Closed.

*Contact Person:* Ms. Jewel Prendeville, Staff Associate for Diversity and Education, Office of the Assistant Director, Room 705, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA 22230, (703) 292-8500.

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

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate GeoDiversity 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 individuals associated with proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: May 1, 2001.

**Susanne Bolton,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Special Emphasis Panel for Geosciences; 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 for Geosciences (1756).

*Date/Time:* May 21-25, 2001; 8:30 am-5:00 pm.

*Place:* National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA.

*Type of Meeting:* Closed.

*Contact Person:* Mr. Lawrence Clark, Section Head, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292-8582.

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

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate the proposals submitted to the Ocean Science Research Programs 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: May 1, 2001.

**Susanne Bolton,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-11292 Filed 5-3-01; 8:45 am]

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Proposal Review; Notice of Meetings

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation (NSF) announces its intent to hold proposal review meetings throughout the year. The purpose of these meetings is to provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to the NSF for financial support. The agenda for each of these meetings is to review and evaluate proposals as part of the selection process for awards. The majority of these meetings will take place at NSF, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia 22230.

All of these meetings will be closed to the public. 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. NSF will continue to review the agenda and merits of each meeting for overall compliance of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

These closed proposal review meetings will no longer be announced on an individual basis in the **Federal Register**. NSF intends to publish a notice similar to this on a quarterly basis. For an advance listing of the closed proposal review meetings that include the names of the proposal review panel and the time, date, place, and any information on changes, corrections, or cancellations, please visit the NSF web-site: [www.nsf.gov/home/pubinfo/advisory.htm](http://www.nsf.gov/home/pubinfo/advisory.htm). This information may also be requested by telephoning 703/292-8182.

Dated: May 1, 2001.

**Susanne Bolton,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[50-301]

### Nuclear Management Company, LLC Duane Arnold Energy Center; Exemption

#### 1.0 Background

Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC, the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-49 which authorizes operation of the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC). The license provides, among other things, that the facility is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

The facility consists of a boiling water reactor located on NMC's DAEC site, which is located in Linn County, Iowa.

#### 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) during normal operating and hydrostatic or leak rate testing conditions. Specifically, 10 CFR part 50, appendix G states that, "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 must meet the safety margin requirements specified in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (Code), Section XI, Appendix G.

To address provisions of the proposed amendments to the technical specification (TS) P-T limits, the licensee requested in its submittal dated October 16, 2000, that the staff exempt DAEC from application of specific requirements of 10 CFR part 50, § 50.60(a) and 10 CFR part 50, Appendix G, 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. The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption contained in the October 16, 2000, submittal, and is needed to support the TS amendment request that is contained in the same submittal. The proposed amendment will revise the P-T limits for heatup, cooldown, and inservice test limitations for the reactor coolant system (RCS) to 25 and 32 effective full power years (EFPYs).

#### Code Case N-640

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 that the P-T limits meet the underlying intent of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations.

The proposed amendment to revise the P-T limits for DAEC relies in part on the requested exemption. These revised P-T limits have been developed using the  $K_{Ic}$  fracture toughness curve shown in ASME Section XI, Appendix A, Figure A-2200-1, in lieu of the  $K_{Ia}$  fracture toughness curve of ASME Section XI, Appendix G, Figure G-2210-1, as the lower bound for fracture toughness. The other margins involved with the ASME Section XI, Appendix G process of determining P-T limit curves remain unchanged.

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 the  $K_{Ia}$  curve. The  $K_{Ic}$  curve appropriately implements the use of static initiation fracture toughness behavior to evaluate the controlled heatup and cooldown process of a reactor vessel. The licensee has determined that the use of the initial conservatism of the  $K_{Ia}$  curve when the curve was codified in 1974 was justified. This initial conservatism was necessary due to the limited knowledge of RPV materials. Since 1974, additional knowledge has been gained about RPV materials, which demonstrates that the lower bound on fracture toughness provided by the  $K_{Ia}$  curve is well beyond the margin of safety required to protect the public health and safety from potential RPV failure. In addition, P-T curves based on the  $K_{Ic}$  curve will enhance overall plant safety by opening the P-T operating window with the greatest safety benefit in the region of low temperature operations. The operating window through which the operator heats up and cools down the RCS is determined by the difference between the maximum allowable pressure determined by Appendix G of ASME Section XI, and the minimum required pressure for the reactor coolant pump seals adjusted for instrument uncertainties.

Since the RCS P-T operating window is defined by the P-T operating and test limit curves developed in accordance with the ASME Section XI, Appendix G procedure, continued operation of DAEC with these P-T curves without the relief provided by ASME Code Case N-640 may unnecessarily restrict the P-