

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (01-059)]

NASA Advisory Committees; Renewal of NASA's Advisory Committee Charters**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).**ACTION:** Notice of Renewal of the Charters of NASA's Advisory Committees.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to sections 14(b)(1) and 9(c) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), and after consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat, General Services Administration, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has determined that a renewal of seven Agency-established advisory committees is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed upon NASA by law. The structure and duties of these committees are unchanged. However, the Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications Advisory Committee has been renamed to the Biological and Physical Research Advisory Committee. This change is consistent with the renaming of the Office of Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications to the Office of Biological and Physical Research. The Aero-space Technology Advisory Committee has been renamed the Aerospace Technology Advisory Committee.

The seven advisory committees are:

- NASA Advisory Council
- Aerospace Technology Advisory Council
- Biological and Physical Research Advisory Committee
- Earth System Science and Applications Advisory Committee
- Minority Business Resources Advisory Committee
- Space Science Advisory Committee
- Technology and Commercialization Advisory Committee

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Kathy Dakon, Assistant Advisory Committee Management Officer, Mail Code Z, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington DC 20546, (202) 358-0732.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Information regarding the NASA Advisory Council and its committees is available on the world wide web at: <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/codez/nac.htm>.

Dated: May 3, 2001.

Beth M. McCormick,

*Advisory Committee Management Officer,
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration.*

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (01-058)]

NASA Advisory Committees; Renewal of the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).**ACTION:** Notice of Renewal of the Charter of NASA's Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to sections 14(b)(1) and 9(c) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), and after consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat, General Services Administration, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has determined that a renewal of the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel (ASAP) is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed upon NASA by law. The structure and duties of the ASAP remain unchanged. The charter for the ASAP now includes additional details on the aspects of safety that the Panel should include in their studies and advice to the NASA Administrator. These aspects of safety are fully consistent with the Agency Safety Initiative, a major commitment to safety as NASA's number one priority. The charter also addresses membership terms. In the case of panel members, the Administrator can extend members' service by no more than six years beyond their original 6 year term, thereby limiting service to a total of 12 years. Also, consultants will be appointed for a specific task and will serve no longer than the time required to complete that specific task, but not longer than 1 year. These provisions will ensure that the Panel has balanced representation of membership.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Kathy Dakon, Assistant Advisory Committee Management Officer, Mail Code Z, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546, (202) 358-0732.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Information regarding the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel is available on

the world wide web at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/codeq/codeq-1.htm>

Dated: May 3, 2001.

Beth M. McCormick,

*Advisory Committee Management Officer,
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration.*

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (01-057)]

NASA Advisory Council, Biological and Physical Research Advisory Committee, Commercial Advisory Subcommittee; Meeting**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a meeting of the NASA Advisory Council, Biological and Physical Research Advisory Committee, Commercial Advisory Subcommittee.

DATES: Wednesday, June 13, 2001, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Room MIC-7, 300 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20546.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Candace Livingston, Code UM, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546, 202-358-0697.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public to the seating capacity of the room. Advance notice of attendance to the Executive Secretary is requested.

The agenda for the meeting will include the following topics:

- Maximize Commercial Research within current International Space Station (ISS) accommodations
- Reducing the cost of accessing the ISS
- Commercial Hardware Development for use on the ISS
- Sharing of Commercial Hardware
- Restructure of the ISS Research Program and Priorities

It is imperative that the meeting be held on this date to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitor's register.

Dated: May 3, 2001.

Beth M. McCormick,

*Advisory Committee Management Officer,
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration.*

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-338 and 50-339]

Virginia Electric and Power Company, North Anna Power Station Units 1 and 2; Exemption

1.0 Background

The Virginia Electric and Power Company (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating Licenses NPF-4 and NPF-7, which authorize operation of the North Anna Power Station, Units 1 and 2. The licenses provide, 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 two pressurized-water reactors located in Louisa County in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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 pressure or leak testing conditions. Specifically, 10 CFR part 50, Appendix G states that "[t]he appropriate requirements on * * * the pressure-temperature limits and minimum permissible temperature must be met for all conditions."

Appendix G of 10 CFR part 50 specifies that the requirements for these limits are the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code, Section XI, Appendix G Limits. RG 1.99, Rev. 2, provides guidance for implementing 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G. In GL 88-11, the NRC staff advised licensees that the staff would use RG 1.99, Rev. 2, to review P-T limit curves. RG 1.99, Rev. 2, contains conservative methodologies for determining the increase in transition temperature and the decrease in upper-shelf energy resulting from neutron radiation.

To address provisions of amendments to the technical specifications (TS) regarding the P-T limits, low temperature overpressure protection (LTOP) system setpoints, and LTOP system effective temperature (T_{enable}),

the licensee requested in its submittal dated June 22, 2000, as supplemented by letters dated September 19, 2000, and January 4, February 14, March 13, March 22, and April 11, 2001, that the staff exempt North Anna Units 1 and 2 from application of specific requirements of 10 CFR part 50, appendix G, and substitute use of ASME Code Case N-641. Code Case N-641 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, LTOP system setpoints and T_{enable} , and provides for plant-specific evaluation of T_{enable} . Since the K_{IC} fracture toughness curve shown in ASME Section XI, Appendix A, Figure A-2200-1 (the K_{IC} fracture toughness 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} fracture toughness curve) and a plant-specific evaluation of T_{enable} would give lower values of T_{enable} than use of a generic bounding evaluation for T_{enable} , use of Code Case N-641 for establishing the P-T limits, LTOP system setpoints and T_{enable} would be less conservative than the methodology currently endorsed by 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G and, therefore, an exemption to apply the Code Case would be required by 10 CFR 50.60. Although the use of the K_{IC} fracture toughness curve in ASME Code Case N-641 was recently incorporated into appendix G to Section XI of the ASME Code, an exemption is still needed because 10 CFR part 50, appendix G requires the licensee's analysis to use an edition and addenda of Section XI of the ASME Code incorporated by reference into 10 CFR 50.55a, i.e., the editions through 1995 and addenda through the 1996 addenda (which do not include the provisions of Code Case N-641).

The proposed amendments submitted by the licensee will revise the P-T limits of TS 3/4.4.9 related to the heatup and cooldown of the reactor coolant system (RCS), the LTOP system setpoints and T_{enable} for the LTOP system, for operation to 32.3 effective full power years (EFPY) for Unit 1 and 34.3 EFPY for Unit 2.

ASME Code Case N-641

The licensee has proposed an exemption to allow use of ASME Code Case N-641 in conjunction with ASME Section XI, 10 CFR 50.60(a) and 10 CFR part 50, appendix G, to determine the P-T limits, LTOP system setpoints and T_{enable} .

The proposed amendments to revise the P-T limits, LTOP system setpoints and T_{enable} for North Anna Units 1 and 2 rely in part on the requested exemption. The revised P-T limits, LTOP system setpoints and T_{enable} 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 of the RPV materials.

Use of the K_{IC} curve in determining the lower bound fracture toughness of RPV steels 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 implements the use of static initiation fracture toughness behavior to evaluate the controlled heatup and cooldown process of a reactor vessel. The staff has required use of the conservatism of the K_{Ia} curve since 1974, when the curve was adopted by the ASME Code. This conservatism was initially necessary due to the limited knowledge of the fracture toughness of RPV materials at that time. 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 greatly exceeds the margin of safety required to protect the public health and safety from potential RPV failure. In addition, P-T curves, LTOP setpoints, and T_{enable} 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.

Since an unnecessarily reduced P-T operating window can reduce operator flexibility without just basis, implementation of the proposed P-T curves, LTOP setpoints, and T_{enable} as allowed by ASME Code Case N-641 may result in enhanced safety during critical plant operational periods, specifically heatup and cooldown conditions. Thus, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), the underlying purpose of 10 CFR 50.60 and appendix G to 10 CFR part 50 will continue to be served.

In summary, the ASME Section XI, Appendix G, procedure was conservatively developed based on the level of knowledge existing in 1974 concerning RPV materials and the estimated effects of operation. Since 1974, the level of knowledge about these topics has been greatly expanded. The staff concurs that this increased knowledge permits relaxation of the ASME Section XI, Appendix G requirements by application of ASME Code Case N-641, while maintaining,