**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be open to the public up to the capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting includes the following:

—Associate Administrator's Budget Presentation
—Division and Program Directors' Reports
—Subcommittee Reports
—Education and Public Outreach Program Update

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

**Sylvia K. Kraemer,**

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

[FR Doc. 02–3391 Filed 2–12–02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7510–01–M**

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

**[Notice (02–020)]**

## NASA Advisory Council (NAC), Space Science Advisory Committee (SScAC), Solar System Exploration Subcommittee (SSES) 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 forthcoming meeting of the NASA Advisory Council, Space Science Advisory Committee, Astronomical Search for Origins Planetary Systems Subcommittee.

**DATES:** Wednesday, February 27, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday, February 28, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday, March 1, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Holiday Inn Capitol, Columbia II Meeting Room, 500 C Street, SW, Washington, DC 20546.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Marian Norris, Code SB, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546, (202) 358–4452.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be open to the public up to the capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting includes the following topics:

—Solar System Program Update
—Space Science Update
—Mars Program
—Outer Planets Program
—Inner Planets Program
—Technology Issues
—in Space Propulsion
- In-Space Power
- Delta II Launch Vehicle Availability

—Research and Analysis and Data Analysis
—Roadmap

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

**Sylvia K. Kraemer,**

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

[FR Doc. 02–3392 Filed 2–12–02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7510–01–P**

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

**[Notice (02–022)]**

## NASA Advisory Council (NAC); Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92–463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces an open meeting of the NASA Advisory Council (NAC).

**DATES:** Tuesday, February 26, 2002, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m; and Wednesday, February 27, 2002, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** NASA Johnson Space Center, 2101 NASA Road 1, Building 1, Room 966, Houston, TX 77058.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Philip Cleary, Code IC, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546–0001, 202/358–4461.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be open to the public up to the seating capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

—Receive a status of NASA's restructuring of the International Space Station program
—An evaluation of NASA's Strategic Resources Review
—A discussion on NASA's communication plan for the International Space Station
—Hear Committee reports

Due to increased security measures at the NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC), interested members of the media must contact the JSC newsroom no later than Monday, February 25, 2002, by 12 noon CST (281–483–5111) to make arrangements for transportation onsite and escort while at the Center. Any other interested persons must contact Ms. Abby Cassell no later than Monday, February 25, 2002, by 12 noon CST (281–483–2467) to make arrangements for badging, parking and escort while at the Center. Any requests for access to this meeting received after the cutoff time will not be accommodated due to limited staffing and security issues. Access to JSC will be limited to those who show proper photo identification and who have made prior arrangements to attend as stipulated herein.

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants.

**Sylvia K. Kraemer,**

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

[FR Doc. 02–3486 Filed 2–12–02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7510–01–P**

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

**[Notice (02–021)]**

## Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel 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 forthcoming meeting of the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel.

**DATES:** Thursday, March 7, 2002, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

**ADDRESSES:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration Headquarters, 300 E Street, SW, Room 9H40, Washington, DC 20546.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. David M. Lengyel, Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel Executive Director, Code Q–1, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546, (202) 358–0391.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel will present its annual report to the NASA Administrator. This presentation is pursuant to carrying out its statutory duties for which the Panel reviews, identifies, evaluates, and advises on those program activities, systems, procedures, and management activities that can contribute to program risk. Priority is given to those programs that

involve the safety of human flight. The major subjects covered will be: Space Shuttle Program, International Space Station Program, Workforce, Mishap Investigation, Medical Operations, Extravehicular Activity, Aero-Space Technology, and Computer Hardware/Software. The Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel is currently chaired by Mr. Richard D. Blomberg and is composed of nine members and nine consultants. The meeting will be open to the public up to the capacity of the room (approximately 60 persons including members of the Panel).

Members of the public should contact Ms. Vickie Smith on (202) 358–1650 if you plan to attend. Upon arrival, you will be required to sign-in with Security where you will be issued a temporary visitor's badge. While you are in the building, you must be escorted by a NASA employee at all times.

**Sylvia K. Kraemer,**

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

[FR Doc. 02–3393 Filed 2–12–02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7510–01–P**

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**[Docket Nos. 50–387 and 50–388]**

## PPL Susquehanna, LLC, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2; Exemption

### 1.0 Background

PPL Susquehanna, LLC (PPL, the licensee), is the holder of Facility Operating License Nos. NPF–14 and NPF–22 which authorize operation of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2 (SSES–1 and 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 two boiling-water reactors located in Luzerne County in Pennsylvania.

### 2.0 Request/Action

Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), part 50, Section 50.60(a), requires nuclear power reactors to meet the fracture toughness requirements set forth in 10 CFR part 50, Appendix G. Appendix G of 10 CFR part 50 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 ''[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.

To address provisions of amendments to the technical specification (TS) P–T limits in the submittal dated July 17, 2001, as supplemented July 26 and October 15, 2001, the licensee requested, pursuant to 10 CFR part 50, section 50.60(b), that the NRC staff exempt SSES–1 and 2, from application of specific requirements of 10 CFR part 50, section 50.60(a), and Appendix G, and substitute use of ASME Code Case N–640 as the basis for establishing the P–T limit curves. 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. Because use of the $K_{Ic}$ fracture toughness curve results in the calculation of less conservative P–T limits than the methodology currently required by 10 CFR part 50, Appendix G, an exemption to apply the Code Case would be required by 10 CFR 50.60.

The licensee proposed to revise the P–T limits for SSES–1 and 2, 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 limit curves is more technically correct than the $K_{Ia}$ curve because 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 initial conservatism of the $K_{Ia}$ curve since 1974 when the curve was codified. 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. Additionally, P–T curves based on the $K_{Ic}$ curve will enhance overall plant safety by opening the operating window, with the greatest safety benefit in the region of low-temperature operations.

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 NRC staff concurs that this increased knowledge permits relaxation of the ASME Section XI, Appendix G requirements by applying the $K_{Ic}$ fracture toughness, as permitted by Code Case N–640, while maintaining, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), the underlying purpose of the ASME Code and the NRC regulations to ensure an acceptable margin of safety.

### 3.0 Discussion

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the Commission may, upon application by any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50, when (1) the exemptions are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health or safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security; and (2) when special circumstances are present. Special circumstances include, but are not limited to, the following case:

- Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), the circumstance that application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule.

The NRC staff accepts the licensee's determination that an exemption would be required to approve the use of Code Case N–640. The staff examined the licensee's rationale to support the exemption request and concurred that the use of the Code Case would meet the underlying intent of these regulations. Based upon a consideration of the conservatism that is explicitly incorporated into the methodologies of 10 CFR part 50, Appendix G; Appendix G of the Code; and Regulatory Guide 1.99, Revision 2, the staff concluded that application of Code Case N–640 as described would provide an adequate margin of safety against brittle failure of the RPV. Since strict compliance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.60(a) and 10 CFR part 50, Appendix G, is not necessary to serve the overall intent of the regulations, the NRC staff concludes that application of Code Case N–640 to the P–T limit curves meets the special circumstance provision of 10 CFR