

enable NSF to identify any prudent conservation practices and mitigation measures that may be applied across the entire program. The site-specific information is required by NMFS (and sometimes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) for purposes of preparing Biological Opinions and Incidental Take Statements required by ESA.

The main focus of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS will be on the seismic operations to be conducted from NSF's primary seismic ship, soon to be the R/V Marcus G. Langseth. The Programmatic EIS/OEIS will address the variety of airgun configurations to be operated from the Langseth, as well as the multi-beam bathymetric sonar, sub-bottom profiler, and other acoustic sources to be deployed as standard equipment. In addition, the Programmatic EIS/OEIS will deal with the generally small airgun sources occasionally operated from other vessels under NSF sponsorship.

Major environmental issues that will be addressed in the Programmatic EIS/OEIS include marine biological resources including Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), acoustic impacts to marine mammals, fish, sea turtles, invertebrates, and threatened and endangered species; cultural resources; human health and safety; socioeconomic and land use (*i.e.*, commercial, private, and recreational uses of the marine environment); and water quality.

NSF is initiating this scoping process for the purpose of determining the extent of issues to be addressed and identifying the significant issues related to this action. NSF will hold public scoping meetings as identified in the **DATES AND ADDRESSES** section of this notice. These meetings will also be advertised in area newspapers. NSF and NMFS representatives will be available at these meetings to receive comments from the public regarding issues of concern to the public. Federal, state, and local agencies and interested individuals are encouraged to take this opportunity to identify environmental concerns that should be addressed during the preparation of the Programmatic EIS/OEIS. Agencies and the public are also invited and encouraged to provide written comments on scoping issues in addition to, or in lieu of, oral comments at the public meeting. To be most helpful, scoping comments should clearly describe issues or topics that the commenter believes the Programmatic EIS/OEIS should address.

We invite you to learn about the NSF seismic research program at an informational open house, and to assist

NSF in defining the alternatives and the scope of environmental issues related to the seismic research program. All our public meeting locations are wheelchair-accessible. If you plan to attend a scoping meeting/open house, and need special assistance such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodation, please notify NSF (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 3 business days in advance. Include your contact information as well as information about your specific needs.

We request public comments or other relevant information on environmental issues related to the NSF seismic research program. The public meetings are not the only opportunity you have to comment. In addition to or in place of attending a meeting, you can submit comments to Dr. Alexander Shor by October 28, 2005 (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). We will consider all comments received during the comment period. We request that you include in your comments:

- Your name and address (especially if you would like to receive a copy of the Draft Programmatic EIS/OEIS upon completion);
- An explanation for each comment; and
- Include any background materials to support your comments as you feel necessary.

You may mail, e-mail, or hand deliver your comments to NSF (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). All comment submissions must be unbound, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, and suitable for copying and electronic scanning. Please note that regardless of the method used for submitting comments or material, all submissions will be publicly available and, therefore, any personal information you provide in your comments will be open for public review. In addition, if you wish to receive a copy of the Draft Programmatic EIS/OEIS, please indicate this in your comment. No decision will be made to implement any alternative until the NEPA process is completed.

Dated: September 19, 2005.

**Alexander Shor**,

*Program Director, Division of Ocean Sciences, National Science Foundation.*

[FR Doc. 05-18962 Filed 9-21-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555-01-M**

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING MEETING:** National Science Foundation, National Science Board and its Subdivisions

**DATE AND TIME:** September 28–29, 2005.

September 28, 2005, 8:15 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sessions:

- 8:15 a.m.–9 a.m., Open;
- 9 a.m.–9:30 a.m., Closed;
- 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m., Open;
- 10:30 a.m.–11 a.m., Open;
- 11 a.m.–11:45 a.m., Open;
- 11:45 a.m.–12:05 p.m., Open;
- 12:05 p.m.–12:15 p.m., Closed;
- 12:45 p.m.–12:55 p.m., Closed;
- 12:55 p.m.–3 p.m., Open;
- 3 p.m.–5 p.m., Open.

September 29, 2005, 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.,

Sessions:

- 8:30 a.m.–10 a.m., Open;
- 10 a.m.–10:30 a.m., Closed;
- 10:30 a.m.–11 a.m., Open;
- 11 a.m.–11:15 a.m., Closed;
- 1 p.m.–1:15 p.m., Executive Closed;
- 1:15 p.m.–1:30 p.m., Closed;
- 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m., Open.

**PLACE:** National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd, Room 1235, Arlington, VA 22230.

**PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE:** All visitors must report to the NSF's visitor's desk at the 9th and N. Stuart Streets entrance to receive a visitor's badge.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Please refer to the National Science Board Web site ([www.nsf.gov/nsb](http://www.nsf.gov/nsb)) for updated schedule. NSB Office: (703) 292-7000.

**STATUS:** Part of this meeting will be closed to the public. Part of this meeting will be open to the public.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

**Wednesday, September 28, 2005**

*Open*

Committee on Programs and Plans

Subcommittee on Polar Issues (8:15 a.m.–9 a.m.), Room 1235

- Chair's Remarks and Approval of Minutes
- OPP Director's Report
- Update on Icebreaker Issues
- Antarctic Geological Drilling Project
- Collaboration of Researchers with Native Communities: King Island, Alaska

Education and Human Resources

Subcommittee on S&E Indicators (9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.), Room 1235

- Approval of Minutes
- Chairman's Remarks
- Brief Progress Report on Science and Engineering Indicators 2006
- Discussion of Draft Companion Piece
- Contractor Presentation on Indicators

Committee on Programs and Plans Task

Force on Transformative Research (10:30 a.m.–11 a.m.), Room 1235

- Approval of Minutes
- Brief Overview of Workshop I: August 12, 2005

- Discussion on Workshop II: December 16, 2005
- Joint Session: Committee on Strategy and Budget and Committee on Programs and Plans (11 a.m.–11:45 a.m.), Room 1235
- Centers and the NSF Portfolio
  - Funding Rates, Award Size and Duration
  - FY 2004 Funding for Highly Successful PIs
- Committee on Strategy and Budget (11:45 a.m.–12:05 p.m.), Room 1235
- Approval of August 2005 Minutes
  - Discussion of CSB Contribution to Vision for NSF Document
  - Status of FY 2006 Budget Request to Congress
- Committee on Programs and Plans (12:55 p.m.–3 p.m.), Room 1235
- Approval of Minutes
  - Charge to the International Science Effort
  - Status Reports
  - Long-Lived Digital Data Collections: Enabling Research and Education in the 21st Century
  - Transformative Research Task Force
  - Subcommittee on Polar Issues
  - Process for Sending Information and Actions to CPP and NSB—Revised Guidelines
  - Major Research Facilities:
  - Setting Priorities for Large Research Facilities Projects Supported by the National Science Foundation: Final document
  - Facilities Plan
  - Timeline
  - Cyberinfrastructure Vision: Continuing Discussion
  - Hurricane Research and the Federal Government
  - Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
- Committee on Education and Human Resources (3 p.m.–5 p.m.), Room 1235
- Approval of August 2005 Minutes
  - CEOSE Summary: Decennial and 2004 Biennial Reports to Congress
  - NSF Integration of Research and Education
  - NSB Commission on Education
  - NSB/EHR Committee's Contribution to Board's Vision for NSF
  - NSB Items
  - Subcommittee on Science and Engineering Indicators
  - Update on Workshop on "Engineering Workforce Issues and Engineering Education: What are the Linkages?"

*Closed*

- Committee on Programs and Plans Subcommittee on Polar Issues (9 a.m.–9:30 a.m.), Room 1235

- NSB Action Item
- Committee on Strategy and Budget (12:05 p.m.–12:15 p.m.), Room 1235
- Status of FY 2007 Budget Submission to OMB
- Committee on Programs and Plans (12:45 p.m.–12:55 p.m.), Room 1235
- NSB Action Item

**Thursday, September 29, 2005***Open*

- Committee on Audit and Oversight (8:30 a.m.–10 a.m.), Room 1235
- Approval of August 2005 Minutes
  - Discussion and Committee Approval of NSF Merit Review System Review
  - Discussion of NSF Vision Document: NSB Roles and Responsibilities
  - Committee Approval of NSB Policy Statement on Respective Roles of the OIG and NSF Management in the Pursuit and Settlement of Administrative Investigatory Matters
  - CFO Update
  - OIG FY 2006 Audit Plan
- Executive Committee (10:30 a.m.–11 a.m.), Room 1235
- Approval of August 2005 Minutes
  - Updates or New Business from Committee Members
  - Update on 2006 NSB Retreat and Off-Site Visit
  - Presentation on NSF Sexual Harassment Policies

*Closed Session*

- Committee on Audit and Oversight (10 a.m.–10:30 a.m.), Room 1235
- Pending Investigations
- Executive Committee (11 a.m.–11:15 a.m.), Room 1235
- Board Member Proposal
  - Director's Items
  - Specific Personnel Matters
  - Future Budgets

*Plenary Session of the Board (1 p.m.–3:30 p.m.)*

- Executive Closed Session (1 p.m.–1:15 p.m.), Room 1235
- Approval of August 2005 Executive Closed Minutes
  - Board Member Proposal
- Closed Session (1:15 p.m.–1:30 p.m.), Room 1235
- Approval of August 2005 Closed Session Minutes
  - Closed Committee Reports
  - Awards and Resolutions
- Open Session (1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.), Room 1235
- Approval of August 2005 Minutes
  - Resolution to Close November–December 2005
  - Chairman's Report

- Director's Report
- NSF Congressional Update
- Committee Reports

**Michael P. Crosby,**

*Executive Officer and NSB Office Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 7555–01–P**

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**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[Docket No. 50–285]

**Omaha Public Power District; Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted the request of Omaha Public Power District (the licensee) to withdraw its July 25, 2003, application for proposed amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR–40 for the Fort Calhoun Station, Unit No. 1 (FCS), located in Washington County, Nebraska.

The proposed amendment would have revised the facility technical specifications pertaining to FCS Technical Specification Section 3.0.2, Table 3–2, Table 3–5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, and the Definitions Section. This proposed change would have provided a risk-informed alternative to the existing surveillance interval for the integrated Engineered Safety Features (ESF) and Loss-of-Offsite Power testing required to be performed on each ESF equipment train during each outage. The proposed change would have modified the surveillance interval requirement for these refueling interval surveillance requirements to go to a staggered test basis scheme. Using a staggered test basis, only one train would be tested each refueling outage. Omaha Public Power District stated that this amendment was modeled after the Improved Standard Technical Specifications and is based on a study conducted by the Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC on behalf of the Combustion Engineering Owners Group in topical report WCAP–15830–P, "Staggered Integrated ESF Testing," and Technical Specification Task Force 450.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment published in the **Federal Register** on August 19, 2003 (68 FR 49818). However, by letter dated September 9, 2005, the licensee withdrew the proposed change.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated July 25, 2003, and the