

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to extend an information collection for three years.

Abstract. Established within the National Science Foundation by the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 § 505, codified in the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended, the National Center for Science & Engineering Statistics (NCSES) serves as a central Federal clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, analysis, and dissemination of objective data on science, engineering, technology, research and development for use by practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and the public. NCSES conducts about a dozen nationally representative surveys to obtain the data for these purposes. The Generic Clearance will be used to ensure that the highest quality data are obtained from these surveys. State of the art methodology will be used to develop, evaluate, and test questionnaires and survey concepts as well as to improve survey methodology. This may include field or pilot tests of questions for future large scale surveys, as needed. The Generic Clearance will also be used to test and evaluate data dissemination tools and methods, in an effort to improve access for data users.

Use of the Information. The purpose of these studies is to use the latest and most appropriate methodology to improve NCSES surveys, evaluate new data collection efforts, and evaluate data dissemination tools and mechanisms. Methodological findings may be presented externally in technical papers at conferences, published in the proceedings of conferences, or in journals. Improved NCSES surveys, data collections, and data dissemination will help policymakers in decisions on research and development funding, graduate education, and the scientific and technical workforce, as well as contributing to reduced survey costs.

Expected Respondents. The respondents will be from industry, academia, nonprofit organizations, members of the public, and State, local, and Federal governments. Respondents will be either individuals or institutions, depending on the topic under investigation. Qualitative procedures will generally be conducted in person, online (using Skype, Webex, or other conferencing tools), or over the phone. Quantitative procedures may be conducted using mail, Web, email, or phone modes, depending on the topic under investigation. Up to 8,680 respondents will be contacted across all

projects. No respondent will be contacted more than twice in one year under this generic clearance. Every effort will be made to use technology to limit the burden on respondents from small entities.

Both qualitative and quantitative methods will be used to improve NCSES's current data collection instruments and processes and to reduce respondent burden, as well as to develop new surveys and new or improved data dissemination tools. Qualitative methods include, but are not limited to expert review; exploratory, cognitive, and usability interviews; focus groups; and respondent debriefings. Cognitive and usability interviews may include the use of scenarios, paraphrasing, card sorts, vignette classifications, and rating tasks. Quantitative methods include, but are not limited to, telephone surveys; behavior coding, split panel tests, and field tests.

Estimate of Burden. NCSES estimates that a total reporting and recordkeeping burden of 11,180 hours will result from activities to improve its surveys. The calculation is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1—POTENTIAL SURVEYS FOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, WITH THE NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS AND BURDEN HOURS

	Number of respondents	Number of hours
Graduate Student Survey	2000	2500
SESTAT Surveys (National Survey of College Graduates; Survey of Doctorate Recipients)	1000	500
Early Career Doctorate Survey	500	1000
Survey of Earned Doctorates	600	600
Higher Education Research & Development Survey	300	540
State Government Research & Development Survey	150	300
Survey of Nonprofit Research Activities	230	415
Business Research & Development and Innovation Survey	50	150
Microbusiness Survey	250	500
Survey of Scientific & Engineering Facilities	400	400
Innovation Survey	1500	3000
Public Understanding of Science & Engineering Survey	550	125
Data dissemination tools and mechanisms	150	150
Other surveys and projects not specified	1000	1000
Total	8,680	11,180

Dated: February 3, 2016.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 2016-03029 Filed 2-12-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 40-38367-ML; ASLBP No. 16-945-01-MLA-BD01]

Rare Element Resources, Inc.; Establishment of Atomic Safety and Licensing Board

Pursuant to delegation by the Commission, *see* 37 FR 28,710 (Dec. 29, 1972), and the Commission's

regulations, *see, e.g.*, 10 CFR 2.104, 2.105, 2.300, 2.309, 2.313, 2.318, 2.321, notice is hereby given that an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (Board) is being established to preside over the following proceeding:

RARE ELEMENT RESOURCES, INC. (Bear Lodge Project)

This proceeding involves an application by Rare Element Resources, Inc. for a license to possess and use source material associated with its Bear

Lodge Project, which includes a mine for the purpose of extracting rare earth element ores in the Black Hills National Forest in Crook County, Wyoming and a rare earth element processing plant in Weston County, Wyoming. In response to a notice filed in the **Federal Register**, see 80 FR 70,846 (Nov. 16, 2015), the Defenders of the Black Hills filed a Request for a Hearing dated January 14, 2016, and received by Office of the Secretary on January 15, 2016.

The Board is comprised of the following Administrative Judges:

William J. Froehlich, Chair, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001

G. Paul Bollwerk, III, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001

Nicholas G. Trikouros, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001

All correspondence, documents, and other materials shall be filed in accordance with the NRC E-Filing rule. See 10 CFR 2.302.

Rockville, Maryland.

Dated: February 9, 2016.

E. Roy Hawkens,

Chief Administrative Judge, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel.

[FR Doc. 2016-03055 Filed 2-12-16; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 52-043-ESP; ASLBP No. 15-943-01-ESP-BD01]

Atomic Safety And Licensing Board; Before Administrative Judges: Paul S. Ryerson, Chairman, Dr. Gary S. Arnold, Dr. Craig M. White; In the Matter of PSEG Power, LLC and PSEG Nuclear, LLC (Early Site Permit Application); Notice of Hearing

February 8, 2016.

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board gives notice that, pursuant to section 189a(1)(A) of the Atomic Energy Act, 42 U.S.C. 2239(a)(1)(A), and 10 CFR 52.21, it will convene an uncontested mandatory hearing on March 24, 2016 to receive testimony and exhibits regarding an application from PSEG Power, LLC and PSEG Nuclear, LLC (collectively PSEG) for a 10 CFR part 52, subpart A Early Site Permit (ESP).¹ In its ESP application, PSEG proposes a site for a potential nuclear power facility adjacent

to two existing facilities in Salem County, New Jersey (the PSEG Site).² This mandatory hearing will concern safety and environmental matters relating to the proposed issuance of the requested ESP.³

I. Hearing Date, Time, and Location

The evidentiary hearing will commence on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. EDT, and, if necessary, will continue day-to-day thereafter until concluded. The evidentiary hearing will take place in the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel's hearing room, located within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's headquarters at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852. Members of the public who wish to observe the mandatory hearing are advised to arrive early. Security measures will include searches of handcarried items such as briefcases or backpacks.

II. Limited Appearance Statements

No petition was received in response to the NRC's notice in the **Federal Register** of an opportunity to seek to intervene.⁴ Participation in the evidentiary hearing will be limited to the designated witnesses and counsel for the parties.

Prior to the evidentiary hearing, any person (other than a party or the representative of a party to this proceeding) may nonetheless submit a written limited appearance statement pursuant to 10 CFR 2.315(a) that sets forth a position on matters related to this proceeding. Limited appearance statements should be emailed to hearing.docket@nrc.gov. As provided by NRC regulations, however, no limited appearance statement shall be considered as evidence.⁵

III. Document Availability

Documents relating to this proceeding (including any updated or revised scheduling information regarding the evidentiary hearing) are available for public inspection electronically on the NRC's Electronic Hearing Docket (EHD). EHD is accessible from the NRC Web site at <https://adams.nrc.gov/ehd>. For additional information regarding the EHD please see <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/>

² The existing nuclear power facilities are Salem Generating Station Units 1 and 2 and Hope Creek Generating Station Unit 1. Safety Evaluation of the Early Site Permit Application in the Matter of PSEG Power, LLC and PSEG Nuclear, LLC for the PSEG Early Site Permit Site (Sept. 29, 2015) at 1-1 (ADAMS Accession No. ML14302A447).

³ See Licensing Board Order (Initial Scheduling Order) (Nov. 16, 2015) at Attach. A (unpublished).

⁴ See 75 FR 68,625.

⁵ 10 CFR 2.315(a).

[adjudicatory.html#ehd](#). Persons who do not have access to the internet or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located on the NRC's Web site may contact the NRC Public Document Room reference staff by email to pdr@nrc.gov or by telephone at (800) 397-4209 or (301) 415-4737. Reference staff are available Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. ET, except federal holidays. For additional information regarding the NRC Public Document Room please see <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/pdr.html>.

It is so ordered.

For The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Rockville, Maryland.

Dated: February 8, 2016.

Paul S. Ryerson,

Chairman, Administrative Judge.

[FR Doc. 2016-03054 Filed 2-12-16; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2016-0026]

Biweekly Notice; Applications and Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses and Combined Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Considerations

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Biweekly notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 189a. (2) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (AEA), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is publishing this regular biweekly notice. The Act requires the Commission to publish notice of any amendments issued, or proposed to be issued, and grants the Commission the authority to issue and make immediately effective any amendment to an operating license or combined license, as applicable, upon a determination by the Commission that such amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, notwithstanding the pendency before the Commission of a request for a hearing from any person.

This biweekly notice includes all notices of amendments issued, or proposed to be issued from January 16, 2016, to February 1, 2016. The last biweekly notice was published on February 2, 2016.

DATES: Comments must be filed by March 17, 2016. A request for a hearing must be filed by April 18, 2016.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods (unless

¹ See 75 FR 68,624, 68,624 (Nov. 8, 2010).