NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Advisory Committee for Geosciences; Notice of Meeting

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

Name and Committee Code: Advisory Committee for Geosciences (1755).

Date and Time: May 7, 2020; 1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m. EDT.

Place: National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314 (Virtual).

Meeting Access: Connection information will be made available on https://www.nsf.gov/geo/advisory.jsp.

Type of Meeting: Open.

Contact Person: Melissa Lane, National Science Foundation, Room C 8000, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; Phone 703–292–8500.

Minutes: May be obtained from the contact person listed above.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice, recommendations, and oversight on support for geoscience research and education including atmospheric, geospace, earth, ocean and polar sciences.

Agenda

Thursday, May 7, 2020

- Review of Charter for an AC GEO Subcommittee on the Division of Earth Sciences Geophysical Facility Portfolio Review
in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this document.

- NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS): You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. To begin the search, select “Begin Web-based ADAMS Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC’s Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, 301–415–4737, or by email to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced (if it is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that it is mentioned in this document. The request for the amendment and exemption was designated License Amendment Request (LAR) 19–017 and submitted by letter dated September 6, 2019, and supplemented by letter dated January 31, 2020 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML19249C738 and ML20031E665, respectively).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
I. Introduction

The NRC is issuing License Amendment Nos. 177 and 176 to COLs NPF–91 and NPF–92, respectively, and is granting an exemption from Tier 1 information in the plant-specific DCD for the AP1000. The AP1000 DCD is incorporated by reference in Appendix D, “Design Certification Rule for the AP1000,” to part 52 of title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR). The exemption, granted pursuant to paragraph A.4 of section VIII, “Processes for Changes and Departures,” of 10 CFR part 52, appendix D, allows the licensee to depart from the Tier 1 information. With the requested amendment, SNC sought proposed changes to remove the preoperational passive residual heat removal (PRHR) heat exchanger natural circulation test from the scope of the VEGP Units 3 and 4 Initial Test Program (ITP). The proposed changes would revise licensing basis documents, including the Updated Final Safety Analyses Report (UFSAR) Subsections 1.9.4.2.1, 3.9.1.1.17, 6.3.6.1.2, and 14.2.9.1.3. In addition, COL Appendix C (and plant-specific Tier 1) Inspections, Tests, Analyses and Acceptance Criteria (ITAA) 2.2.03.08h.01 (No. 175) would be revised to replace the PRHR heat exchanger natural circulation test with the PRHR heat exchanger forced flow test, which is described in UFSAR Subsection 14.2.9.1.3.

Part of the justification for granting the exemption was provided by the review of the amendment. Because the exemption is necessary in order to issue the requested license amendment, the NRC granted the exemption and issued the amendment concurrently, rather than in sequence. This included issuing a combined safety evaluation containing the NRC staff’s review of both the exemption request and the license amendment. The exemption met all applicable regulatory criteria set forth in §§ 50.12, 52.7, and section VIII.A.4 of appendix D to 10 CFR part 52. The license amendment was found to be acceptable as well. The combined safety evaluation is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML20063L482.

Identical exemption documents (except for referenced unit numbers and license numbers) were issued to SNC for VEGP Units 3 and 4 (COLs NPF–91 and NPF–92). The exemption documents for VEGP Units 3 and 4 can be found in ADAMS under Accession Nos. ML20045F061 and ML20045F070, respectively. The exemption is reproduced (with the exception of abbreviated titles and additional citations) in Section II of this document. The amendment documents for COLs NPF–91 and NPF–92 are available in ADAMS under Accession Nos. ML20045F082 and ML20045F124, respectively. A summary of the amendment documents is provided in Section III of this document.

II. Exemption

Reproduced below is the exemption document issued to VEGP Units 3 and Unit 4. It makes reference to the combined safety evaluation that provides the reasoning for the findings made by the NRC (and listed under Item 1) in order to grant the exemption:

1. In a letter dated September 6, 2019, as supplemented by letter dated January 31, 2020, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) requested from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) an exemption to allow departures from Tier 1 information in the certified Design Control Document (DCD) incorporated by reference in 10 CFR part 52, appendix D, “Design Certification Rule for the AP1000 Design,” as part of license amendment request (LAR) 19–017, “Removal of the Preoperational Passive Residual Heat Removal Heat Exchanger Natural Circulation Test.” For the reasons set forth in Section 3.2 of the NRC staff’s Safety Evaluation, which can be found in ADAMS under Accession No. ML20063L482, the Commission finds that:

A. The exemption is authorized by law;
B. the exemption presents no undue risk to public health and safety;
C. the exemption is consistent with the common defense and security;
D. special circumstances are present in that the application of the rule in this circumstance is not necessary to serve the underlying purpose of the rule;
E. the special circumstances outweigh any decrease in safety that may result from the reduction in standardization caused by the exemption; and
F. the exemption will not result in a significant decrease in the level of safety otherwise provided by the design.

Accordingly, SNC is granted an exemption from the certified DCD Tier 1 information, with corresponding information in COL Appendix C of the Facility Combined License as described in the licensee’s request dated September 6, 2019, as supplemented by letter dated January 31, 2020. This exemption is related to, and necessary for the granting of License Amendment No. 177 [for Unit 3, 176 for Unit 4] which is being issued concurrently with this exemption.

As explained in Section 6.0 of the NRC staff’s Safety Evaluation (ADAMS Accession No. ML20063L482), this exemption meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment needs to be prepared in connection with the issuance of the exemption.

4. This exemption is effective as of the date of its issuance.

III. License Amendment Request

By letter dated September 6, 2019, as supplemented by letter dated January 31, 2020 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML19249C738 and ML20031E665, respectively), SNC requested that the NRC amend the COLs for VEGP, Units 3 and 4, COLs NPF–91 and NPF–92. The proposed amendment is described in Section I of this Federal Register notice.

The Commission has determined for these amendments that the application complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission’s rules and regulations. The Commission has made appropriate findings as required by the Act and the Commission’s rules and regulations in 10 CFR chapter I, which are set forth in the license amendment.
A notice of consideration of issuance of amendment to facility operating license or COL, as applicable, proposed no significant hazards consideration determination, and opportunity for a hearing in connection with these actions, was published in the Federal Register on February 11, 2020 (85 FR 7796). No comments were received during the 30-day comment period.

The Commission has determined that these amendments satisfy the criteria for categorical exclusion in accordance with 10 CFR 51.22. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared for these amendments.

IV. Conclusion

Using the reasons set forth in the combined safety evaluation, the staff granted the exemption and issued the amendment that SNC requested on September 6, 2019 and January 31, 2020.

The exemption and amendment were issued on March 19, 2020, as part of a combined package to SNC (ADAMS Accession No. ML20045F029).


For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Victor E. Hall,
Chief, Vogtle Project Office, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations: New York Stock Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Add Commentary .03 to Rule 7.35A To Provide That, for a Temporary Period, the Exchange Would Permit a DMM Limited Entry To the Trading Floor To Effect Manually a Core Open Auction in Connection With A Listed Company’s Post-IPO Public Offering

April 2, 2020.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1)1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”),2 and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,3 notice is hereby given that on April 2, 2020, New York Stock Exchange LLC (“NYSE” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to add Commentary .03 to Rule 7.35A to provide that, for a temporary period that begins April 2, 2020, and ends on the earlier of the reopening of the Trading Floor facilities or after the Exchange closes on May 15, 2020, the Exchange would permit a DMM limited entry to the Trading Floor to effect manually a Core Open Auction in connection with a listed company’s post-IPO public offering. The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange’s website at www.nyse.com, at the principal office of the Exchange, and at the Commission’s Public Reference Room.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of those statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant parts of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization’s Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to add Commentary .03 to Rule 7.35A to provide that, for a temporary period that begins April 2, 2020, and ends on the earlier of the reopening of the Trading Floor facilities or after the Exchange closes on May 15, 2020, the Exchange would permit a DMM limited entry to the Trading Floor to effect manually a Core Open Auction in connection with a listed company’s post-IPO public offering.

Background

Since March 9, 2020, markets worldwide have been experiencing unprecedented market-wide declines and volatility because of the ongoing spread of COVID–19. Beginning on March 16, 2020, to slow the spread of COVID–19 through social-distancing measures, significant limitations were placed on large gatherings throughout the country.

On March 18, 2020, the CEO of the Exchange made a determination under Rule 7.1(c)(3) that, beginning March 23, 2020, the Trading Floor facilities located at 11 Wall Street in New York City would close and the Exchange would move, on a temporary basis, to fully electronic trading.4 Pursuant to Rule 7.1(e), the CEO notified the Board of Directors of the Exchange of this determination.

On March 26, 2020, the Exchange amended Rule 7.35A to add Commentary .02,5 which provides:

For a temporary period that begins on March 26, 2020 and ends on the earlier of the reopening of the Trading Floor facilities or after the Exchange closes on May 15, 2020, the Exchange will permit a DMM limited entry to the Trading Floor to effect an IPO Auction manually. For such an IPO Auction, the Exchange will disseminate the following Auction Imbalance Information provided by the DMM via Trader Update: The Imbalance Reference Price; the Paired Quantity; the Unpaired Quantity; and the Side of the Unpaired Quantity. The Exchange will publish such Trader Update(s) promptly after each publication by the DMM of a pre-opening indication for such security. The Trader Update will also include the pre-opening indication range.

As described in the Rule 7.35A Filing, the Exchange added this Commentary because, while the Trading Floor is temporarily closed, Designated Market Makers (“DMMs”) cannot engage in any manual actions, such as facilitating an Auction manually or publishing pre-opening indications before a Core Open or Trading Halt Auction. Commentary .02 to Rule 7.35A permits entry to the Trading Floor to a single employee from the DMM member organization assigned to such security so that this DMM can access the Floor-based system used to effect an Auction manually, and specifies the information that would be included in a Trader Update in advance of such IPO Auction.

On March 27, 2020, the Exchange effected an IPO Auction pursuant to Commentary .02 to Rule 7.35A.
