

interdisciplinary science and engineering research and the requisite interdisciplinary education and workforce development.

A program that exemplified the integration of interdisciplinary training for undergraduates was the Interdisciplinary Training for Undergraduates in Biological and Mathematical Sciences (UBM), a program aimed to enhance undergraduate education and training at the intersection of the biological and mathematical sciences to better prepare undergraduate students to pursue careers in fields that integrated the mathematical and biological sciences <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08510/nsf08510.htm>. Since the end of the UBM program, there has been an increasing amount of digital data that necessitates education and training in not just mathematics but also in computer science. We note here, for instance, the Data Science Corps program, <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21523/nsf21523.htm>, one of the components of the HDR ecosystem enabling education and workforce development by building capacity for harnessing the data revolution in the service of science and society.

NSF is interested in developing a new program that starts with the core of the UBM program and expands into computer science as well as emerging areas in biology and mathematics. This is in recognition of the explosion of knowledge in instrumentation, computational abilities, information systems, mathematical tools, and biological systems from the nano to the macro regimes. NSF is interested in input from a variety of stakeholders on the interdisciplinary areas proposed for this program. We envision stakeholders to be faculty from both 2-yr and 4-yr institutions as well as industry, NGOs, and others.

Response(s) to the question(s) below should focus on effective models with specific efforts in at least one of the following:

- Multiple entry and exit points along a career pathway.
- Use of technologies including virtual to enhance training
- Cohort development in cross-disciplinary research and/or course experiences.
- Workforce needs in converging areas considering the breadth from the skilled technical workforce to Ph.D. level scientists

### Questions To Address

Respondents can answer any of the questions #1–#8; responses to all questions are not required.

1. What are the biggest needs and challenges faced by institutions working to develop interdisciplinary courses/programs in the converging areas of biology, mathematics, and computer science?

2. What are the biggest needs and challenges faced by industries in these rapidly evolving and converging areas of STEM?

3. What topics might be included in an NSF program solicitation aimed at supporting these rapidly evolving converging areas?

4. Should a new program include the opportunity for research experiences for undergraduates in these converging areas? If so, what areas might be specifically targeted? Where (early, later, throughout) should these experiences be incorporated in a student's educational pathway and why? Is there a place for industry-based internships as well as institutional research experiences?

5. What are effective ways to promote interdisciplinary work within a broad range of institutions and disciplinary faculty? What might be challenges that a solicitation might address?

6. Whether you are currently part of a consortium-based model or would be interested in participating in one, describe the benefits and drawbacks of such a partnership. What type of consortium structure maximized the creation of effective and lasting relationships within distinct disciplinary areas of institutions and between institutions in regard to promoting interdisciplinary STEM education? What would the role of the management entity look like, and what partners would be involved?

7. What efforts might support STEM participation by a diverse set of students, especially those from groups underrepresented in STEM, through the creation of accessible, inclusive STEM learning opportunities and promoting STEM careers in these converging areas?

8. What are effective ways in assessing program impact relative to topics mentioned above?

*Requirement:* All qualified, experienced, and capable sources are welcome to respond to this RFI. Large-scale and small-scale examples of programs are of equal interest. Your capabilities should cover any and all areas of focus delineated above. There is no target years of relevant experience provided a program has evidence-based effectiveness and proven results.

In addition, please provide the following Point of Contact information for all responses:

Company:  
Address:  
Point of Contact:  
Phone Number:  
Email Address:  
Business Size:

Dated: October 21, 2021.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**  
*Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-244; NRC-2020-0110]

### Issuance of Exemption in Response to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Exemption; issuance.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued one exemption in September 2021 in response to a request from one licensee for relief due to the coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19) public health emergency (PHE). The exemption affords the licensee temporary relief from certain requirements under NRC regulations.

**DATES:** On September 28, 2021, the NRC granted one exemption in response to a request submitted by one licensee on September 21, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2020-0110 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2020-0110. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Stacy Schumann; telephone: 301-415-0624; email: [Stacy.Schumann@nrc.gov](mailto:Stacy.Schumann@nrc.gov). For technical questions, contact the individual listed 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 <https://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](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov). For the convenience of the reader, instructions about obtaining materials referenced in this document are provided in the “Availability of Documents” section.

- **Attention:** The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of public documents, is currently closed. You may submit your request for copies of documents to the PDR via email at [pdr.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov) or call 1–800–397–4209 or 301–415–4737, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James Danna, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001; telephone: 301–415–7422, email: [James.Danna@nrc.gov](mailto:James.Danna@nrc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Introduction**

On September 28, 2021, the NRC granted one exemption in response to a

request submitted by one licensee dated September 21, 2021. The exemption temporarily allows the licensee to deviate from certain requirements of chapter I of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), part 26, “Fitness for Duty Programs,” section 26.205, “Work hours.”

The exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR part 26 for Exelon Generation Company, LLC (for R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant), affords this licensee temporary relief from the work-hour control requirements under 10 CFR 26.205(d)(1) through (d)(7). The exemption from 10 CFR 26.205(d)(1) through (d)(7) ensures that the control of work hours and management of worker fatigue does not unduly limit license flexibility in using personnel resources to most effectively manage the impacts of the COVID–19 PHE on maintaining the safe operation of this facility. Specifically, this licensee has stated that its staffing levels are affected or are expected to be affected by the COVID–19 PHE, and it can no longer meet or likely will not meet the work-hour controls of 10 CFR 26.205(d)(1)

through (d)(7). This licensee has committed to effecting site-specific COVID–19 PHE fatigue-management controls for personnel specified in 10 CFR 26.4(a).

The table in this notice provides transparency regarding the number and type of exemptions the NRC has issued. Additionally, the NRC publishes tables of approved regulatory actions related to the COVID–19 PHE on its public website at <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/covid-19/reactors/licensing-actions.html>.

**II. Availability of Documents**

The table in this notice provides the facility name, docket number, document description, and ADAMS accession number for the exemption issued. Additional details on the exemption issued, including the exemption request submitted by the licensee and the NRC’s decision, are provided in the exemption approval listed in the table in this notice. For additional directions on accessing information in ADAMS, see the **ADDRESSES** section of this document.

**R.E. GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**  
Docket No. 50–244

Document description	ADAMS accession No.
R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant—COVID–19 Related Request for Exemption from 10 CFR part 26 Work Hours Requirements, dated September 21, 2021 .....	ML21265A159
R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant—Exemption from Specific Requirements of 10 CFR part 26 (EPID L–2021–LLE–0042 [COVID–19]), dated September 28, 2021 .....	ML21267A013

Dated: October 21, 2021.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**James G. Danna,**

*Chief, Plant Licensing Branch I, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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**NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD**

**Board Meeting**

The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board will hold a virtual public meeting on November 3–4, 2021.

*Board meeting: November 3–4, 2021—The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board will hold a virtual public meeting to review information on the U.S. Department of Energy’s research and development activities related to the geologic disposal safety assessment framework.*

Pursuant to its authority under section 5051 of Public Law 100–203, Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act (NWPAA) of 1987, the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board will hold a virtual public meeting on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, and Thursday, November 4, 2021, to review information on the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) research and development activities related to the geologic disposal safety assessment framework.

The meeting will begin on both days at 12:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) and is scheduled to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. EDT. On the first day, the initial speaker, from the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy, will provide an update on DOE’s Spent Fuel and Waste Disposition Program. The remaining speakers representing the national laboratories conducting the work for DOE will report on DOE’s activities to support the development of a capability to model the post-closure performance of a repository for spent nuclear fuel

(SNF) and high-level radioactive waste (HLW). Speakers will describe DOE’s program including its objectives, research thrusts, and recent accomplishments. They will describe advanced simulation capabilities, including the Geologic Disposal Safety Assessment (GDSA) Framework and PFLOTRAN, as well as examples of how features and processes are integrated into the GDSA Framework.

On the second day, a final example of how features and processes are integrated into the GDSA Framework will be described by a speaker from the national laboratories. Speakers from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the United Kingdom’s Radioactive Waste Management organization will present their perspectives on development of a performance assessment capability to model the post-closure performance of a repository. Speakers from the national laboratories will present work on the development of uncertainty and sensitivity analysis tools for GDSA Framework and the