

PLACE: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 580, Arlington, VA 22230.

TYPE OF MEETING: Closed.

CONTACT PERSON: Fred G. Heineken, Program Director, Biotechnology Engineering, Division of Bioengineering and Environmental Systems, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230, Telephone: (703) 306-1318.

PURPOSE OF MEETING: To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

AGENDA: To review and evaluate CAREER proposals as part of the selection process for awards.

REASON FOR CLOSING: The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: October 3, 1997.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-26684 Filed 10-3-97; 2:49 pm]

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Polar Programs; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting.

NAME AND COMMITTEE CODE: Special Emphasis Panel in Polar Programs (#1209).

DATE AND TIME: October 30th and 31st, 1997: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

PLACE: Room 730, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

TYPE OF MEETING: Closed.

CONTACT PERSON: Dr. Odile de La Beaujardiere, Program Director, Arctic Natural Sciences, Office of Polar Programs, Room 740, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 306-1029.

PURPOSE OF MEETING: To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

AGENDA: to review and evaluate Arctic Natural Sciences multidisciplinary

proposals as part of the selection process for awards.

REASON FOR CLOSING: The proposals being reviewed include information of the proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: October 3, 1997.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-26685 Filed 10-3-97; 2:45 pm]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-261]

Carolina Power & Light Company; Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity For a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-23 issued to the Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L or the licensee) for operation of the H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit No. 2 (HBR) located in Darlington County, South Carolina.

By letter dated August 27, 1996, as supplemented by letters dated December 18, 1996, January 17, February 18, March 27, April 6, April 25, April 29, May 30, June 2, June 13, June 18, August 4, August 8, September 10, October 2 (RNP RA/97-0216), and October 2, 1997 (RNP RA/97-0207), the licensee applied for full conversion from the current HBR Technical Specifications (CTS) to a set of improved Technical Specifications (ITS) based on NUREG-1431, "Standard Technical Specifications Westinghouse Plants," Revision 0, dated September 1992 (including approved travellers used in the issuance of Revision 1, dated April 1995). A "Notice of Consideration of Issuance and Opportunity for Hearing" regarding conversion to the ITS was published in the **Federal Register** on October 29, 1996 (61 FR 55830). An "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" regarding the conversion to ITS was published in the **Federal Register** on September 25, 1997 (62 FR 50409).

One of the ITS conversion changes proposed by the licensee in its August 27, 1996, application, and addressed in the April 29, and October 2, 1997, supplements, requires, as a part of ITS Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) 3.6.4, that the pressure in containment be maintained greater than or equal to -0.8 psig. CTS require that containment pressure be maintained greater than or equal -1.0 psig; therefore, the ITS LCO is more restrictive than the CTS with regard to this parameter. This change in minimum allowable containment pressure is needed to make the ITS LCO consistent with a new licensee analysis of an inadvertent containment spray event.

In its letter dated October 2, 1997, the licensee provided justification for Commission issuance of the proposed change in minimum allowable containment pressure on an exigent basis. As defined in 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6), exigent circumstances exist when the licensee and the Commission must act quickly and time does not exist for the Commission to publish a **Federal Register** notice allowing 30 days for prior public comment and the Commission also determines that the proposed amendment involves no significant hazards considerations. The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's October 2, 1997, letter and determined that exigent circumstances exist in that—

(1) Earlier issuance of this more restrictive change would be consistent with the most recent analysis and would enhance safety.

(2) As described below, there appear to be no significant hazards considerations associated with this change.

The licensee's ITS conversion application was prepared in accordance with appropriate industry guidance as provided in Nuclear Energy Institute Guidance document 96-06, "Improved Technical Specifications Conversion Guidance," dated August 1996. That guidance did not address the need for specific no significant hazards discussions other than for less restrictive changes. Therefore, the exigent circumstances could not reasonably have been avoided in that the licensee was not aware of the need for a specific no significant hazards discussion regarding the change in minimum allowable containment pressure.

Before issuance of the ITS conversion amendment, including the proposed change to ITS 3.6.4, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended