

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION**

[Docket No. 030-31373-CivP; ASLBP No. 98-735-01-CivP; EA 97-207]

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board; In the Matter of Conam Inspection, Inc., Itasca, Illinois (License No. 12-16559-01), Order Imposing Civil Monetary Penalty; Notice of Hearing

December 18, 1997.

Notice is hereby given that, by Memorandum and Order (Granting Request for Hearing and Scheduling Prehearing Conference), dated December 17, 1997, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has granted the request of Conam Inspection, Inc. (Conam or Licensee), for a hearing in the above-titled proceeding. The hearing concerns the Order Imposing a Civil Monetary Penalty in the amount of \$16,000, issued by the NRC Staff on November 5, 1997 (published at 62 FR 60923 (November 13, 1997)). The parties to the proceeding are Conam and the NRC Staff. The issues to be considered at the hearing are (a) whether the Licensee was in violation of the Commission's requirements as set forth in Violations I.B and I.C of the Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty (NOV), dated June 9, 1997; and (b) whether, on the basis of such violations and the additional violations set forth in the NOV that the Licensee admitted, the Order Imposing a Civil Monetary Penalty should be sustained.

Materials concerning this proceeding are on file at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555, and at the Commission's Region III Office, 801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351.

During the course of this proceeding, the Licensing Board, as necessary, will conduct one or more prehearing conferences and evidentiary hearing sessions. The time and place of these sessions will be announced in Licensing Board Orders. The first prehearing conference is scheduled for January 14, 1998, and is to be conducted through a telephone conference call. Except for conferences conducted by telephone conference calls (which are in any event to be transcribed), members of the public are invited to attend any such sessions.

Dated: December 18, 1997 at Rockville, Maryland.

For the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

Charles Bechhoefer,

Chairman Administrative Judge.

[FR Doc. 97-33551 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

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**NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION**

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Fire Protection; Notice of Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Fire Protection will hold a meeting on January 22, 1998, Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The meeting will be open to public attendance.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

Thursday, January 22, 1998-8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business.

The Subcommittee will review the staff's schedule and status for the development of the proposed Fire Protection Rule. The purpose of this meeting is to gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committee.

Oral statements may be presented by members of the public with the concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman; written statements will be accepted and made available to the Committee. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked only by members of the Subcommittee, its consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the cognizant ACRS staff engineer named below five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

During the initial portion of the meeting, the Subcommittee, along with any of its consultants who may be present, may exchange preliminary views regarding matters to be considered during the balance of the meeting.

The Subcommittee will then hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff, and other interested persons regarding this review.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been canceled or rescheduled, the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefor can be obtained by contacting the cognizant

ACRS staff engineer, Mr. Amarjit Singh (telephone 301/415-6899) between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. (EST). Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual one or two working days prior to the meeting to be advised of any potential changes to the agenda, etc., that may have occurred.

Dated: December 17, 1997.

Gail H. Marcus,

Acting Deputy Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 97-33552 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

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**NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION**

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee Meeting on Human Factors; Revised

The meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Human Factors scheduled to be held on January 20, 1998, Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland *has been rescheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 1998, 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.* Notice of this meeting was previously published in the **Federal Register** on Tuesday, December 16, 1997. (62 FR 65824). All other items pertaining to this meeting remain the same as previously published.

For further information please contact the cognizant ACRS staff engineer, Mr. Noel F. Dudley (telephone 301/415-6888) between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. (EST).

Dated: December 17, 1997.

Gail H. Marcus,

Acting Deputy Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 97-33553 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

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**NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION**

[Docket No. 40-08968]

Hydro Resources, Inc.; Issuance of the Safety Evaluation Report for the Crownpoint Uranium Solution Mining Project, Crownpoint, NM

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has issued its Safety Evaluation Report (SER), dated December 1997, for Hydro Resources, Inc.'s (HRI's) proposed Crownpoint Uranium Solution Mining Project at Crownpoint, NM. The SER documents the NRC staff's safety review of the project. The SER and the Crownpoint

Uranium Mining Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), dated February 1997 (NUREG-1508), provide the basis for NRC's decision to issue a 10 CFR Part 40 source material license to HRI. The staff will issue a license to HRI 30 days from issuance of the SER. The license will authorize HRI to construct and operate in situ leach (ISL) mining facilities at the Crownpoint Project for a period of five years. In preparing the SER, the NRC staff reviewed HRI's license application submittals and its Consolidated Operations Plan, Revision 2.0 (dated August 15, 1997), against the applicable regulations in 10 CFR parts 19, 20, 40, and 71. The SER supports the NRC staff's finding that issuing the license to HRI will be in accordance with the aforementioned regulations, and with all applicable safety requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (AEA), as amended.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert D. Carlson of the Uranium Recovery Branch, Mail Stop TWFN 7- J9, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555. Telephone (301) 415-8165; e-mail RDC@NRC.GOV.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 25, 1998, HRI submitted an application to NRC proposing to construct and operate an ISL uranium mining facility in McKinley County, near Church Rock, New Mexico. HRI later amended its application to include additional ISL operations in McKinley County, near an area of land referred to as Unit 1, and Crownpoint, NM. Together, the three sites comprise HRI's Crownpoint Uranium Solution Mining Project.

The NRC staff's environmental review of the Crownpoint Project is documented in the FEIS, pursuant to CFR Part 51. The NRC staff concluded that HRI's proposed Crownpoint Project was environmentally acceptable, and that potential impacts of the proposed project could be mitigated. These mitigative measures will be enumerated as conditions in HRI's source materials license. Additionally, the NRC staff completed its safety evaluation of the Crownpoint Project and documented its review in the SER. Based on its review, the NRC staff concluded that issuance of a source material license, with certain conditions specified in the license, would not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the public's health and safety, and otherwise meets the requirements of 10 CFR parts 19, 20, 40, and 71, and the AEA. The NRC staff's conclusions in the FEIS and SER

provide the bases for NRC's decision to issue a source material license to HRI 30 days from issuance of the SER.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of December 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Joseph J. Holonich,

Chief, Uranium Recovery Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 97-33549 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

Notice of Meeting

Board Meeting: January 20 (beginning at 1 p.m.) & 21, 1998—Amargosa Valley, Nevada: Department of Energy (DOE) program update, public input to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, the DOE thermal testing program, saturated zone hydrology, and the saturated zone expert elicitation project.

Pursuant to its authority under section 5051 of Public Law 100-203, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board will hold its winter meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 20-21, 1998, in Amargosa Valley, Nevada. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Longstreet Inn and Casino, HCR 70, Box 559, Amargosa Valley, Nevada 89020; Tel (702) 372-1777; Fax (702) 372-1280.

The meeting will include an update on the DOE's nuclear waste management program and activities at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, and sessions on the DOE's thermal testing program, saturated zone flow and transport modeling, and the saturated zone expert elicitation project. A session also will be held concerning the board's activities under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). A detailed agenda will be available approximately two weeks prior to the meeting by fax or e-mail, or at the Board's website, www.nwtrb.gov.

In 1993, the Congress passed the Government Performance and Results Act, intending to improve confidence in government by holding agencies accountable for activities that affect taxpayers lives. The law requires every federal agency to develop a strategic plan, including the critical component of a statement addressing how the agency plans to conduct itself while carrying out its mission. During the GPRA session at the winter meeting in Amargosa Valley, Nevada, the Board would like to solicit comments from the

public concerning the Board's value statement, which follows.

The Board takes very seriously its role as a major source of technical and scientific peer review of the nation's program to package, transport, and dispose of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. To that end, the Board will:

- Ensure Board practices and procedures are conducted with integrity and objectivity that are beyond reproach.

- Produce timely, complete, comprehensive, and thoughtful scientific and technical analyses.

- Communicate the Board's findings and recommendations at least twice a year clearly, and in a timely manner that is most beneficial to the Congress, the Department of Energy, and the public.

- Ensure the Board's findings and recommendations are based on current and accurate information.

- Ensure the Board conducts itself in an open and accessible manner.

The Board will ask those present to answer three questions:

1. Does the Board conduct its meetings in an open, objective, and fair manner? For example, are members of the public treated with respect and consideration when participating in the meetings?

2. Given the technical and often detailed nature of the Board's work, does the Board explain its major points and positions in reports and letters so that they are understandable? For example, is there a general understanding of the reasons for the Board's recommendation to construct an east-west crossing of the potential repository block at Yucca Mountain?

3. Most important, to what extent is the Board a credible source of scientific and technical advice to the Department of Energy and the Congress? In general, what is the basis for your opinion?

In responding to these questions, those present will be asked to keep in mind that the scope of the Board's work is defined specifically in federal law. That law, P.L. 100-203, December 22, 1987, mandates that the Board is to evaluate the scientific and technical work of the Department of Energy in its commercial nuclear waste disposal program, including waste packaging and transportation activities.

Time has been set aside for oral comments from the public on these issues. Depending on the number of speakers, time limits may have to be imposed. Preprinted comment sheets will be available at the meeting for use in submitting written comments.

Also, additional time has been set aside on both days for the public to