is for purposes of moving research personnel and supplies from the ship to shore via zodiac, tasks associated with station opening and closing, and maintenance and servicing of station facilities and equipment. Landings at the site will be conducted via zodiac, with personnel transiting from the shoreline to the hut on foot.

Location: ASPA #128—Western Shore of Admiralty Bay, King George Island.

Dates: January 1, 1999–April 1, 2000.

Permit Application No. 99–016

4. *Applicant:* Donal T. Manahan, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California 90089–0371.

Activity for Which Permit is Requested: Introduction of a Non-indigenous Species into Antarctica. The applicant proposes to introduce cultures of *E. coli* which are a component of several molecular biology DNA cloning kits that will be used in a course in Integrative Biology and Adaptation of Antarctic Marine Organisms. *E. coli* will be used to replicate DNA during gene cloning and the bacterial stocks will be transported, with other kit reagents, frozen on dry ice (−80°). All experiments will be conducted in the Crary laboratory facilities at McMurdo Station.

Immediately after an experiment, using *E. coli* cultures, all media and materials coming into contact with the bacteria will be sterilized by autoclaving. Standard P–2 containment guidelines will be followed for the subsequent disposal of all materials and supplies. All *E. coli* cultures will be sterilized and killed at the end of the project.

Location: Crary Science and Engineering Laboratory, McMurdo Station, Antarctica Island.

Dates: December 29, 1998–February 15, 1999.

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Permit Officer, Office of Polar Programs.

[FR Doc. 98–30995 Filed 11–19–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

NATIONAL SKILL STANDARDS BOARD

Notice of Open Meeting

AGENCY: National Skill Standards Board.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Skill Standards Board was established by an Act of Congress, the National Skill Standards Act, Title V, Pub. L. 103–227. The 27-member National Skill Standards Board serves as a catalyst for the development and implementation of a national system of voluntary skill standards and certification through voluntary partnerships. These partnerships will have the full and balanced participation of business, industry, labor, education and other key groups.

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m to approximately 12:30 p.m. on Friday, December 11, in the Hotel Washington located at 515 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC.

AGENDA: The agenda for the Board Meeting will include: an update on the Board's Strategic Plan; reports from the Board's committees; presentations from the Voluntary Partnerships—Manufacturing, Installation and Repair (Manufacturing Skill Standards Council) and Retail Trade, Wholesale Trade, Real Estate & Personal Services (Sales and Services); and reports from Convening Groups representing the following industry clusters: Business & Administrative Services; Construction; Education and Training; Finance & Training; Restaurants, Lodging, Hospitality & Tourism, and Amusement & Recreation; and Telecommunications, Computers, Arts & Entertainment, and Information.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: The meeting is open to the public. Seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. (Seats will be reserved for the media.) If special accommodations are needed contact Michele Russo at (202) 254–8628 extension 10.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracy Marshall, Director of Operations at (202) 254–8628 extension 13.

Signed in Washington, DC, this 13th day of November 1998.

Edie West,

Executive Director, National Skill Standards Board.

[FR Doc. 98–31080 Filed 11–19–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510–23–M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–269, 50–270, and 50–287]

Duke Energy Corporation (Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3); Exemption

I

The Duke Energy Corporation (Duke/the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License Nos. DPR–38, DPR–47, and DPR–55, that authorize operation of the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 (Oconee), respectively. The licenses provide, among other things, that the facilities are subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

The facilities consist of pressurized water reactors located on Duke's Oconee site in Seneca, Oconee County, South Carolina.

II

Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 50, § 50.46(a)(1)(i), requires that each pressurized light-water nuclear power reactor must be provided with an emergency core cooling system (ECCS) that is designed so that its calculated cooling performance following postulated loss-of-coolant accidents conforms to the criteria set forth in paragraph 50.46(b). ECCS cooling performance must be calculated in accordance with an acceptable evaluation model and must be calculated for a number of postulated loss-of-coolant accidents (LOCAs) of different sizes, locations, and other properties sufficient to provide assurance that the most severe postulated small and large break LOCAs are calculated that will ensure adequate long-term cooling.

By letter dated September 17, 1998, the licensee described a modification that would add voltage and frequency protection for the Oconee loads when they are supplied from a Keowee hydro unit. The protection would separate Oconee loads from a Keowee unit if that unit's voltage or frequency becomes greater than 110 percent or less than 90 percent of rated value at any time after loading. The planned design would also delay energizing the Oconee loads on the underground power path until the Keowee unit reaches greater than 90 percent voltage and frequency. The existing design allows early loading of the underground path Keowee unit at approximately 60 percent voltage. During the design phase of this modification, while considering the frequency overshoot that the Keowee units normally experience during an emergency start, questions arose concerning whether the emergency power system should be loaded at 60 percent or 90 percent. To provide needed data to resolve this question, the Keowee Emergency Power and Engineered Safeguards Functional (KEP/ESF) Test is planned.

The test is scheduled during the Unit 3 outage, will be performed on the Keowee underground path, and will consist of two parts. One part will load the Keowee unit at its present design of approximately 60 percent rated voltage