

pathways to successful careers. Standards help people bridge the gap between their current skills and abilities and the workplace needs of the future.

- Is user-driven: The system must serve a wide range of users: employers seeking a skilled workforce; individuals who want to build their knowledge, skills and abilities; and educators and trainers who will meet the needs of both employers and learners.

- Offers users flexible, timely, high quality service delivery options: A flexible, adaptive and user-driven system is one that is easily accessed and can be tailored to meet an individual's requirements. Such a system offers users a variety of service providers that can assure timely, high quality education and training. Through the use of skill standards, individuals can "shop around" for the best training, and continue to learn and improve their earnings throughout their lifetimes.

- Communicates skill requirements clearly: An effective workforce development system enables employers, educators, trainers, workers, job seekers, students, parents and others to speak a common language, so that skill needs are clearly understood and effectively translated into relevant training and educational programs.

- Is based upon an effective, objective assessment of knowledge and skills.

In today's economy, individuals pursue extremely varied paths from school to work, and from one job or career to another. Academic and skill attainment should link clearly and easily with voluntary skill standards, so that individuals understand how to apply their knowledge and skills to different career areas. An effective, user-driven skill standards system should be responsive to different paths to careers, so that no one is excluded from well-paid jobs solely because he or she took a different path to acquiring the needed knowledge and skills.

Basing a workforce development system upon voluntary skill standards would permit more flexibility with respect to where instruction is offered, instructional methods, the education or training provider, and the duration of the program. Thus the same results can be achieved by a variety of paths. The integration of skill standards into a workforce development system will facilitate access to better jobs for people from all backgrounds, by redefining access and creating a more level playing field.

Training might be acquired on the job, in the classroom, or some combination of both. For example, adults could pursue more advanced skills in

vocational schools, or in programs offered by their employers and/or unions either in-house or under contract with a third party provider. Training might also take place in postsecondary educational institutions or through alternative education providers. In all cases, adults would have the information and access to the resources they need to keep their skills continuously refreshed.

A successful workforce development system requires a high level of coordination and communication among education and training providers, government agencies, employers, labor unions, and community members. In some countries, workforce development success is governed by long-standing partnerships of industry, education and organized labor, and is based on an understanding of their common interests in assuring a society made up of well-educated, highly-skilled individuals. If the United States is to maintain and improve its competitive edge, these parties must work together to promote a thriving society that offers meaningful careers, enviable living standards, and long-term employability to every American.

#### Questions

We invite employers, employer associations, organized labor, educators and trainers, community organizations, parents, state and local governments, and all other interested individuals or organizations to respond to the following questions:

1. How have you used voluntary skill standards to improve, coordinate, and streamline education and training at the state and/or local levels? What lessons can you offer the NSSB based on these experiences?

2. What have been the challenges, opportunities and lessons you have learned about the *roles and responsibilities* of employers, organized labor, educators, workers, students, parents, public agencies and others? How can these groups best work together to support a voluntary skill standards system?

3. How can voluntary skill standards most effectively support states and local communities (including all partners in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors) in:

- a. responding to the challenge of block grants,
- b. coordinating and improving the following initiatives:

- One-stop career centers,
- Welfare-to-work programs,
- School-to-work programs,

- Job training and employment programs,
- Employment services,
- Literacy and basic skills programs,
- High school equivalency degree and alternative education programs, and/or
- Union and/or employer-sponsored training.

- c. linking the state's academic requirements to the future skill needs of the economy?

4. How can voluntary skill standards most effectively support a strong role for industry in a national workforce development system?

5. How can voluntary skill standards help enhance a national workforce development system that improves services for individuals from all backgrounds, and enables them to transfer their skills across occupations, firms, industries, and across the country?

- a. How do your activities fit into the national workforce development system?

- b. What is the proper role for the NSSB within a workforce development system that prepares youth and adults for the challenges of continuously evolving workplaces?

- c. What is your vision of an ideal national workforce development system and what are the critical elements of such a system?

Signed at Washington, D.C. this 4th day of June 1996.

Judy Gray,

*Executive Director, National Skill Standards Board.*

[FR Doc. 96-14603 Filed 6-7-96; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-483

### Union Electric Company, Callaway Plant, Unit 1; Consideration of Transfer of Control of Ownership of Licensee and Opportunity for Public Comment on Antitrust Issues

Notice is hereby given that the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering approval under 10 CFR 50.80 of the transfer of control of the license for the Callaway Plant, Unit 1, that would result from the consummation of the proposed merger agreement between Union Electric Company, the licensee for Callaway Plant, Unit 1, and CIPSCO Incorporated. By letter dated February 23, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated April 24, 1996, Union Electric

Company informed the Commission that Union Electric Company has entered into a merger agreement with CIPSCO Incorporated which provides for Union Electric Company to become a wholly-owned operating company of Ameren Corporation ("Ameren"), a registered public utility holding company under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as amended. Callaway is a nuclear powered generating facility which is solely-owned and operated by Union Electric Company in accordance with the Facility Operating License No. NPF-30. As a result of the merger, the common shareholders of Union Electric Company and CIPSCO, immediately prior to the merger (except for the holders of Union Electric dissenting shares), will all be common shareholders of Ameren immediately upon the consummation of the merger. The merger will have no effect on the operation of Callaway or the provisions of its operating license. Union Electric Company will continue to own and operate Callaway after the merger, as required by the operating license.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80, the Commission may approve the transfer of control of a license after notice to interested persons. Such approval is contingent upon the Commission's determination that the holder of the license following the transfer is qualified to hold the license and that the transfer is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders of the Commission.

By this notice, the Commission is seeking public comment on this proposed transfer of control of the license. Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of

Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this Federal Register notice. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555.

#### Antitrust Issues

Any person who wishes to submit comments or information relating to any antitrust issues believed to be raised by this transfer request should submit said comments or information within 30 days of the initial publication of this notice in the Federal Register to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001 Attention: Chief, Generic Issues and Environmental Projects Branch, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. The Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation will issue a finding whether significant changes in the licensee's activities or proposed activities have occurred since the completion of the previous antitrust review.

Although the staff is providing the opportunity for comments concerning the competitive aspects of the proposed transfer, the staff notes that it is aware of and is closely following a related proceeding at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The NRC will consider the FERC proceeding to the maximum extent possible in resolving issues brought before the NRC.

For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the application from Union Electric Company dated February 23, 1996, and supplemental letter dated April 24, 1996, which are available for public inspection at the

Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, and at the local public document room located at the Callaway County Public Library, 710 Court Street, Fulton, Missouri 65251.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of June 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
Kristine M. Thomas,  
*Project Manager, Project Directorate IV-2,  
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV, Office of  
Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 96-14558 Filed 6-7-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

#### Application for a License To Export Heavy Water (D<sub>2</sub>O)

Pursuant to 10 CFR 110.70(b) "Public notice of receipt of an application", please take notice that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received the following application for an export license. Copies of the application are on file in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Public Document Room located at 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

A request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene may be filed within 30 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register. Any request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene shall be served by the requestor or petitioner upon the applicant, the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555; the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555; and the Executive Secretary, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

The information concerning the application follows.

#### NRC EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION

Name of Applicant, Date of Application, Date Received, Application Number	Description of Material			
	Material type	Total qty	End use	Country
Cambridge Isotope Labs, April 19, 1996, April 25, 1996, XMAT0392.	Deuterium Oxide (D <sub>2</sub> O) "Heavy Water".	22,500 Kgs	As a "mud tracer" in oil exploration.	United Arab Emirates.

Dated this 31st day of May 1996 at Rockville, Maryland.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
Ronald D. Hauber,  
*Director, Division of Nonproliferation,  
Exports and Multilateral Relations, Office of  
International Programs.*

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#### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 22001; 812-10096]

#### Sierra Asset Management Trust, et al.; Notice of Application

June 3, 1996.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

**ACTION:** Notice of Application for an Order under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act").

**APPLICANTS:** Sierra Asset Management Trust (the "Trust"); Sierra Trust Funds ("Sierra Trust"); Sierra Investment Advisors Corporation ("SIAC"); and Sierra Investment Services Corporation ("SISC").

**RELEVANT ACT SECTIONS:** Order requested under section 6(c) of the Act from