

Nadene G. Kennedy, Permit Office,
Office of Polar Programs, Rm. 755,
National Science Foundation, 4201
Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 26, 1997 (62 FR 14448), the National Science Foundation published a notice in the **Federal Register** of a permit application received. A permit was issued on April 29, 1997 to the following applicant: Ron Koger, Permit #98-001.

Nadene G. Kennedy,
Permit Office.
[FR Doc. 97-11753 5-5-97; 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 Goals 2000: Educate America Act of 1994, Title V, Public Law 103-227. The 27-member National Skill Standards Board will serve as a catalyst and be responsible for the development and implementation of a national system of voluntary skill standards and certification through voluntary partnerships which have the full and balanced participation of business, industry, labor, education and other key groups.

TIME & PLACE: The meeting will be held from 8:00 a.m. to approximately 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 30, 1997, in the Ballroom at the Ritz-Carlton located at 2100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.

AGENDA: The agenda for the Board Meeting will include: a strategic plan update, progress on Voluntary Partnership start-up, proposed NSSB recognition programs, and a Web Site presentation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: The meeting, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 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. Individuals with disabilities should contact Pat Warfield at (202) 254-8628, if special accommodations are needed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Majorie Haas, Director of Communications, at (202) 254-8628.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 30th day of April, 1997.

Edie West,
Executive Director, National Skill Standards Board.

[FR Doc. 97-11709 Filed 5-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-23-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[50-388]

Pennsylvania Power and Light Company; Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 2; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-22, issued to Pennsylvania Power and Light Company (the licensee), for operation of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, located in Luzerne County, PA.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would change the Technical Specifications for the unit to permit the use of ATRIUM-10 fuel in the reactor. The changes include core flow dependent minimum critical power ratio (MCPR) Safety Limits in Sections 2.1.2 and 3.4.1.1.2, addition of Siemens Power Corporation (SPC) methodology topical report references in Section 6.9.3.2, changes in Section 5.3.1 to reflect new fuel design features, changes in definitions in Section 1 to reflect the new fuel design, and changes to the Bases to correspond to the above changes as appropriate.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated December 18, 1996, as supplemented by letters dated February 26, 1997, March 12 and 27, April 3, 9, 16, 18, and 24, 1997.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action will enable the licensee to complete its maintenance and refueling outage on this unit and begin a new fuel cycle which will include a portion of the core consisting of the new ATRIUM-10 nuclear fuel.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that it is acceptable. The safety considerations associated with the use of the ATRIUM-10 fuel in the

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 2, have been evaluated by the NRC staff and the staff has concluded that this change in the reactor fuel design would not adversely affect plant safety. The proposed change to the fuel design has no adverse effect on the probability of any accident previously analyzed. The increase in fuel enrichment from 4.0% versus 4.5% for an increased fuel cycle of 24 months results in an increase in the projected maximum burnup rate or discharge exposure from the current 45 to 48 MWd/kgU. This increased burnup may slightly change the mix of fission products that might be released in the event of a serious accident, but such changes would not significantly affect the consequences of serious accidents. Routine radiological effluents are not affected. As a result, there is no increase in individual or cumulative radiation exposure.

The environmental impacts of transportation resulting from the use of higher enrichment and extended irradiation are discussed in the staff assessment entitled, "NRC Assessment of the Environmental Effects of Transportation Resulting from Extended Fuel Enrichment and Irradiation." This assessment was published in the **Federal Register** on August 11, 1988 (53 FR 30355), as corrected on August 24, 1988 (53 FR 32322), in connection with the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1: Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact. As indicated therein, the environmental cost contribution of an increase in fuel enrichment of up to 5 weight percent U-235 and irradiation limits of up to 60 Gigawatt Days per Metric Ton (GWd/MT) are either unchanged, or may in fact be reduced from those summarized in Table S-4 as set forth in 10 CFR 51.52(c). These findings are applicable to the proposed increase in the allowable exposure of SPC ATRIUM-10 fuel for Susquehanna, Unit 2. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed change will in no way affect environs located outside the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed change in the fuel exposure limit and the use of the new fuel design.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on May 1, 1997, NRC staff consulted with the Pennsylvania State official, R. Maiers of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated December 18, 1996, as supplemented by letters dated February 26, 1997, March 12 and 27, April 3, 9, 16, 18, and 24, 1997, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Osterhout Free Library, Reference Department, 71 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 2nd day of May 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John F. Stolz,

Director, Project Directorate I-2, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 97-11868 Filed 5-5-97; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) will hold its 92nd meeting on May 20-22, 1997, in Room T-2B3, at 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance.

The schedule for this meeting is as follows:

Tuesday, May 20, 1997—8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21, 1997—8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 22, 1997—8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

During this meeting, the Committee plans to consider the following:

A. Planning for and Meeting with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission—The Committee will prepare for and meet with the Commission to discuss items of mutual interest. Topics will include the ACNW priority list and past Committee reports on the reference biosphere and critical group, flow and transport models for Yucca Mountain, coupled processes in NRC's high-level waste precicensing program, igneous activity at Yucca Mountain, and risk informed, performance based regulations. The Committee is currently scheduled to meet with the Commission on May 20, 1997 at 2:00 p.m.

B. Generic Methodology for Decommissioning Performance Assessment (PA)—The Committee will review the use of PA in the decommissioning of various facilities.

C. Meeting with NRC's Director, Division of Waste Management, MSS—The Committee will hold a current events discussion with the Director of NMSS. Topics might include the status of work at the Yucca Mountain site, and high-level waste standards and regulations.

D. Meeting with Representatives of the DOE and NRC—The Committee will meet with representatives of the Department of Energy and the NRC staff to discuss DOE's Performance Integrated Safety Assessment (PISA), experience with the use of expert elicitation in the high-level waste repository program, and comments on the defense-in-depth philosophy.

E. Spent Fuel Dry Storage Facilities—The Committee will review a draft version of the NRC staff's Standard Review Plan for a spent fuel dry storage facility.

F. Central Interim Storage Facility—The Committee will review DOE's non-

site-specific Topical Safety Analysis Report (TSAR) for a Central Interim Storage Facility (CISF).

G. Federal Guidance Report 13—The Committee will review the Proposed Federal Guidance Report 13, Health Risk for Environmental Exposure to Radionuclides (tentative).

H. Waste Classification at Hanford, Washington, and Savannah River, South Carolina—The Committee will discuss the waste classification methodology used by the DOE for wastes resulting from HLW treatment and from bulk HLW removal and cleaning of tanks (tentative).

I. Preparation of ACNW Reports—The Committee will discuss potential reports, including igneous activity related to the proposed Yucca Mountain Repository, and other topics discussed during the meeting as the need arises.

J. Committee Activities/Future Agenda—The Committee will consider topics proposed for future consideration by the full Committee and Working Groups. The Committee will discuss ACNW-related activities of individual members.

K. Miscellaneous—The Committee will discuss miscellaneous matters related to the conduct of Committee activities and organizational activities and complete discussion of matters and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings, as time and availability of information permit.

Procedures for the conduct of and participation in ACNW meetings were published in the **Federal Register** on October 8, 1996 (61 FR 52814). In accordance with these procedures, oral or written statements may be presented by members of the public, 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 Committee, its consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the Chief, Nuclear Waste Branch, Mr. Richard K. Major, as far in advance as practicable so that appropriate arrangements can be made to schedule the necessary time during the meeting for such statements. Use of still, motion picture, and television cameras during this meeting will be limited to selected portions of the meeting as determined by the ACNW Chairman. Information regarding the time to be set aside for this purpose may be obtained by contacting the Chief, Nuclear Waste Branch, prior to the meeting. In view of the possibility that the schedule for ACNW meetings may be adjusted by the Chairman as necessary to facilitate the conduct of the meeting, persons planning to attend