

Foundation announces the following meeting.

*Name:* Special Emphasis Panel in Experimental & Integrative Activities (1193).  
*Date and Time:* May 6, 1998 from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

*Place:* Room 310, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230.

*Type of Meeting:* Closed.

*Contact Person:* Dragana Brzakovic, Major Research Instrumentation, Experimental & Integrative Activities, Room 1160, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 306-1981.

*Purpose of Meeting:* To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation for financial support.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate CISE Major Research Instrumentation 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: April 13, 1998.

**M. Rebecca Winkler,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-10163 Filed 4-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Advisory Panel for Genetics; 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:* Advisory Panel for Genetics (1149) (Panel A).

*Date and Time:* Monday, May 4 and Tuesday, May 5, 1998, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

*Place:* National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Rm. 380, Arlington, VA 22230.

*Type of Meeting:* Closed.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Philip Harriman, Program Director for Microbial Genetics, Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences, Room 655, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. (703) 306-1439.

*Purpose of Meeting:* To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate research proposals submitted to the Microbial Genetics Program 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: April 13, 1998.

**M. Rebecca Winkler,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-10166 Filed 4-15-98; 8:45 am]

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Special Emphasis Panel in Mathematical Sciences; 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:* Special Emphasis Panel in Mathematical Sciences (1204).

*Date and Time:* May 7-8, 1998, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

*Place:* Room 1020 National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

*Type of Meeting:* Closed.

*Contact Person:* Alvin I. Thaler, Program Officer, Infrastructure Program, Room 1025 National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 306-1880.

*Purpose of Meeting:* To provide advice and recommendations concerning applications submitted to NSF for financial support.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate proposals concerning the Scientific Computing Research Environments for the Mathematical Science (SCREMS) program 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: April 13, 1998.

**M. Rebecca Winkler,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-10161 Filed 4-15-98; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-286]

### In the Matter of Power Authority of the State of New York; (Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3); Exemption

#### I

The Power Authority of the State of New York (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-64, which authorizes operation of the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 (IP3). The license provides that the licensee is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

The facility is a pressurized water reactor located in Westchester County, New York.

#### II

The *Code of Federal Regulations* 10 CFR 50.60, states that the reactor coolant pressure boundaries for light water reactors must meet the fracture toughness and material surveillance program requirements set forth in Appendices G and H to 10 CFR Part 50.

By letter dated January 28, 1998, the licensee requested an exemption from 10 CFR 50.60 to allow the use of an alternate methodology for the development of pressure-temperature (P-T) curves. As an alternative, the licensee proposed to use a methodology by ABB Combustion Engineering Nuclear Operations (the CE methodology).

References in 10 CFR 50.60 and Appendix G require the use of a methodology at least as conservative as that found in Appendix G to the 1989 Edition of Section XI of the ASME Code (the 1989 ASME Appendix G methodology or the 1989 methodology); therefore, the staff must review and approve the use of the CE methodology. The staff has reviewed the licensee's request and approves the use of the CE methodology in place of the 1989 methodology for the construction of reactor vessel pressure-temperature (P-T) limits as described in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G. The CE methodology was used in the licensee's P-T limit amendment submittal dated February 27, 1998.

#### III

The NRC has established requirements in 10 CFR Part 50 to protect the integrity of the reactor coolant system pressure boundary. As a part of these, 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix

G requires that P-T limits be established for reactor pressure vessels (RPVs) during normal operation and vessel hydrostatic testing. In particular, 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G, Section IV.2.b., requires that these limits must be "at least as conservative as limits obtained by following the methods of analysis and the margins of safety of Appendix G of Section XI of the ASME Code." The *Code of Federal Regulations* at 10 CFR 50.55(a) specifies that the applicable ASME Code is the 1989 Edition. The *Code of Federal Regulations* at 10 CFR 50.60, which broadly addresses the establishment of criteria for fracture prevention, states that "proposed alternatives to the described requirements in Appendices G and H of this part or portions thereof may be used when an exemption is granted by the Commission under § 50.12." The licensee used the CE methodology for constructing its P-T limits in place of the 1989 ASME Appendix G methodology approved by the staff in the regulations; therefore, the licensee applied for an exemption to use the CE methodology.

#### IV

In the submittal, the exemption was requested under the special circumstances given in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii). The provisions of this section state that special circumstances are present whenever "Application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule." In the application, the licensee stated that "The use of ABB-CE alternate methodology requested by this exemption provides greater operational flexibility while still maintaining reactor vessel integrity. In addition, the use of the ABB-CE methodology to generate pressure-temperature curves yields comparable results to the use of the ASME Appendix G methodology. Therefore, the reactor vessel is protected against nonductile failure and the underlying purpose of the rule is achieved."

The staff reviewed the licensee's application and the CE methodology and has concluded that this alternative method meets the underlying intent of the regulations. The thermal analysis method of the CE methodology consists of a plant-specific thermal analysis and a fracture mechanics analysis based on influence coefficients from finite element analyses under thermal loading. The staff review determined that this thermal analysis method is more rigorous than that of the 1989 methodology and that the rest of the CE

methodology is the same as the 1989 ASME Appendix G methodology. The staff concludes, therefore, that an exemption under the special circumstances of 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii) is appropriate, and that the application of the CE methodology meets the underlying intent of the regulations.

#### V

For the foregoing reasons, the NRC staff has concluded that the licensee's proposed use of the alternative methodology in determining the P-T limits will not present an undue risk to public health and safety and is consistent with the common defense and security. The NRC staff has determined that there are special circumstances present, as specified in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), in that application of 10 CFR 50.60 is not necessary in order to achieve the underlying purpose of this regulation.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, this exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security.

Therefore, the Commission hereby grants the following exemption:

The Power Authority of the State of New York is exempt from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.60 in that they are permitted to use the CE methodology detailed in their application for exemption dated January 28, 1998, for developing P-T limits for the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Station Unit No. 3.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment (63 FR 17902).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of April 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Samuel J. Collins,**

*Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 98-10102 Filed 4-15-98; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-286]

### In the Matter of Power Authority of the State of New York; (Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3); Exemption

#### I

The Power Authority of the State of New York (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-64, which authorizes operation of the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 (IP3). The license provides that the licensee is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

The facility is a pressurized water reactor located in Westchester County, New York.

#### II

The *Code of Federal Regulations*, 10 CFR 50.60, states that the reactor coolant pressure boundaries for light water reactors must meet the fracture toughness and material surveillance program requirements set forth in Appendices G and H to 10 CFR Part 50.

By letter dated November 3, 1997, the licensee requested an exemption from 10 CFR 50.60 to allow the use of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code Case N-514 for the determination of the low temperature overpressurization system (LTOP) parameters in place of the margins required by Appendix G to 10 CFR Part 50. The Code Case limits the overpressurization system (OPS) curve to not greater than 110% of the pressure determined to satisfy Appendix G, paragraph G-2215 of ASME Code, Section XI, Division 1, further reduced to allow for static head due to elevation differences and dynamic head effect of the operation of the four reactor coolant pumps. The Code Case also allows some latitude in determining the OPS enable temperature.

#### III

The NRC has established requirements in 10 CFR Part 50 to protect the integrity of the reactor coolant system pressure boundary. As a part of these, 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G, requires that P-T limits be established for reactor pressure vessels (RPVs) during normal operation and vessel hydrostatic testing and as stated in Appendix G, "The appropriate requirements on \* \* \* the pressure-temperature limits \* \* \* must be met for all conditions." The *Code of Federal*