

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**I. Background**

Section 503 of ERISA provides that, pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Labor, each employee benefit plan must provide adequate notice in writing to any participant or beneficiary whose claim for benefits under the plan has been denied. This notice must set forth the specific reasons for the denial and must be written in a manner calculated to be understood by the claimant. Each plan must also afford a reasonable opportunity for any participant or beneficiary whose claim has been denied to obtain a full and fair review of the denial by the appropriate named fiduciary of the plan.

The Department previously issued a regulation pursuant to section 503 that establishes certain minimum requirements for employee benefit plan procedures pertaining to claims. The ICR included in the claims procedure regulation generally requires timely written disclosures to participants and beneficiaries of employee benefit plans of information concerning the plan's claims procedures, the basis for the denial of a claim, and time limits for addressing or appealing the denial of a claim. These requirements are intended to ensure that plan administrators provide for a full and fair review of claims, and that plan participants and beneficiaries have information which is sufficient to allow them to exercise their rights under the plan.

**II. Current Actions**

The Office of Management and Budget's approval of this ICR will expire on September 30, 1998. On September 8, 1997, the Department published a Request for Information (September 8 RFI) (62 FR 47261) concerning the advisability of amending the existing regulation that establishes minimum requirements for employee benefit plan claims procedures. In the Department's Semiannual Regulatory Agenda published on April 27, 1998, the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration indicated its intention to publish a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking with respect to employee benefit plan claims procedures in June, 1998 (63 FR 22240). While certain modifications to the claims procedure ICR may be anticipated in connection with proposed revision of these rules, estimates of burden associated with modifications currently under consideration are not yet available. The burden estimates shown in this notice are, therefore, based on the existing ICR.

To avoid unnecessary duplication of public comments, however, those

comments received in response to the September 8 RFI that address burden associated with the claims procedure regulation will be treated as comments on this ICR.

*Agency:* Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

*Title:* Benefit Claims Procedure regulation pursuant to 29 CFR 2560.503-1.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*OMB Numbers:* 1210-0053.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

*Total Respondents:* 23,454.

*Total Responses:* 23,454.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Total Annual Burden:* 7,063 hours.

Comments submitted in response to this comment request will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 22, 1998.

**Gerald B. Lindrew,**

*Deputy Director, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Office of Policy and Research.*

[FR Doc. 98-16939 Filed 6-24-98; 8:45 am]

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**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION****Special Emphasis Panel in Social, Behavioral, and Economic 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 Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (1766).

*Dates:* July 27-29, 1998 and August 3-5, 1998.

*Time:* 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Place:* National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230, Room 1235.

*Type of Meeting:* Closed.

*Contact Person:* Mike McCloskey, Program Director, Division of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 995, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 306-1732.

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

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate proposals submitted to the Knowledge and Distributed Intelligence (KDI) Program Solicitation 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 USC 552b(c) (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: June 22, 1998.

**M. Rebecca Winkler,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-16926 Filed 6-24-98; 8:45 am]

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**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[Docket No. 50-410]

**Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation (Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2); Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of an Order approving, under 10 CFR 50.80, an application regarding a transfer of control of possessory rights held by Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation (Applicant) under the operating license for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit No. 2 (NMP2). The transfer would be to a holding company, not yet named, to be created over Applicant in accordance with a New York State Public Service Commission order, issued and effective February 19, 1998 (Case 96-E-0909), and related documents entitled "Amended and Restated Settlement Agreement" dated January 2, 1998, and "Modifications to Amended and Restated Settlement Agreement" dated February 26, 1998 (see Exhibits G-G2 in the application). Applicant is licensed by the Commission to own and possess a 9 percent interest in NMP2, located in the town of Scriba, Oswego County, New York.

**Environmental Assessment****Identification of the Proposed Action**

The proposed action would consent to the transfer of control of the license to the extent effected by Applicant becoming a subsidiary of the newly formed holding company in connection with a proposed plan of restructuring. Under the restructuring plan, the outstanding shares of Applicant's common stock are to be exchanged on a share-for-share basis for common stock of the holding company, such that the holding company will own all of the outstanding common stock of Applicant. In addition, the holding

company will own, directly or indirectly, the stock of any current non-utility subsidiaries of applicant except that Applicant will continue to own one unregulated subsidiary. Under this restructuring, Applicant will sell at auction its fossil-fueled electric generation facilities at its Danskammer Steam Generating Plant and its partial interest in the Roseton Electric Generation Plant (hereafter, collectively referred to as "Generation Assets"). However, Applicant will continue to be an "electric utility" as defined in 10 CFR 50.2 engaged in the transmission, distribution, and generation of electricity at NMP2, combustion turbine facilities, hydroelectric facilities, and (until structurally separated or divested), the Generation Assets. Applicant would retain its ownership interest in NMP2 and continue to be a licensee of NMP2. No direct transfer of the operating license or ownership interests in the station will result from the proposed restructuring. The transaction would not involve any change to either the management organization or technical personnel of Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, which is responsible for operating and maintaining NMP2 and is not involved in the restructuring of Applicant. The proposed action is in accordance with Applicant's application dated April 8, 1998, as supplemented April 22, 1998.

#### *The Need for the Proposed Action*

The proposed action is required to enable Applicant to restructure as described above.

#### *Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed corporate restructuring and concludes that it is an administrative action unrelated to plant operation; therefore, there will be no resulting physical or operational changes to NMP2. The corporate restructuring will not affect the qualifications or organizational affiliation of the personnel who operate and maintain the facility, as NMPC will continue to be responsible for the maintenance and operation of NMP2 and is not involved in the restructuring of NYSEG.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in occupational or offsite radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological

environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the restructuring would not affect nonradiological plant effluents and would have no other nonradiological environmental impact.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

#### *Alternatives to the Proposed Action*

Since the Commission has concluded there are no significant environmental impacts that would result from 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 Statements Related to the Operation of Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit No. 2, (NUREG-1085) dated May 1985.

#### *Agencies and Persons Contacted*

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 19, 1998, the staff consulted with the New York State official, Mr. Jack Spath, 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 Applicant's application dated April 8, as supplemented by letter dated April 22, 1998, 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 Reference and Documents Department, Penfield Library, State University of New York, Oswego, New York 13126.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 19th day of June 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Guy S. Vissing,**

*Acting Director, Project Directorate I-1, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 98-16909 Filed 6-24-98; 8:45 am]

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## **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**[Docket No. 50-010]**

### **Commonwealth Edison Co.; Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1; Notice of Public Meeting**

The NRC will conduct a public meeting at Grundy County Administration Center, 1320 Union Street, Morris, Illinois, on July 23, 1998, to discuss plans developed by Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd, the licensee) to decommission the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1, near Morris, Illinois. The meeting is scheduled for 7:00–9:00 p.m. and will be chaired by Mr. Donald Kauffman, Chairman, Grundy County Board. The meeting will include a short presentation by the NRC staff on the decommissioning process and NRC programs for monitoring decommissioning activities, with attention being given to the licensee's updated Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR) dated June 1, 1998. There will be a presentation by ComEd on their planned decommissioning activities, and there will be an opportunity for members of the public to make comments and question the NRC staff and ComEd representatives. The meeting will be transcribed.

The licensee's update to the PSDAR provides a short discussion of the plant history, and a description and schedule of planned decommissioning activities. The PSDAR update also comments briefly on anticipated decommissioning costs and environmental impacts.

The PSDAR update is available for public inspection at the local public document room, located at the Morris Area Public Library District, 604 Liberty Street, Morris, Illinois 60450, and the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20037. The NRC document accession number is 9806080055.

For more information, contact Mr. Ronald A. Burrows, Project Manager, Non-Power Reactors and Decommissioning Project Directorate, Division of Reactor Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555–