

may be associated with biological activity.

Using these tools, MSL would examine martian rocks and soils in greater detail than ever before to determine the geologic processes that formed them; study the martian atmosphere; and determine the distribution and circulation of water and carbon dioxide, whether frozen, liquid, or gaseous.

NASA plans to select a landing site on the basis of highly detailed images sent to Earth by the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter beginning in the fall of 2006, in addition to data from earlier missions.

The MSL EIS will address the purpose and need for the proposed MSL mission in detail and the environmental impacts associated with its implementation. The environmental impacts of this mission are anticipated to be those associated with the normal launch of the mission. Potential consequences of accident situations will also be addressed. Environmental issues to be addressed will include, but not necessarily be limited to air quality, radiological effects, water quality, and flora and fauna.

Written public input and comments on alternatives and potential environmental impacts and concerns associated with the proposed Mars Science Laboratory mission are hereby requested.

Olga M. Dominguez,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Infrastructure and Administration.

[FR Doc. E6-3374 Filed 3-9-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510-13-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Advisory Committee for Computer and Information Science and Engineering; 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 Committee for Computer and Information Science and Engineering—(1115).

Date and Time: April 24, 2006, 7:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

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

Type of Meeting: Open.

Contact Person: Gwen Barber-Blount, Office of the Assistant Director, Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1105, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292-8900.

Minutes: May be obtained from the contact person listed above.

Purpose of Meeting: To advise NSF on the impact of its policies, programs and activities on the CISE community. To provide advice to the Assistant Director/CISE on issues related to long-range planning, and to form ad hoc subcommittees to carry out needed studies and tasks.

Agenda: Report from the Assistant Director, Discussion of research initiatives, education, diversity, workforce issues in IT and long-range funding outlook.

Dated: March 7, 2006.

Susanne Bolton,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 06-2308 Filed 3-9-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Advisory Committee for 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: Advisory Committee for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (#1171).

Date and Time: April 19, 2006 8 a.m.—5 p.m. April 20, 2006 8 a.m.—3 p.m.

Place: National Science Foundation—April 19, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1235, Arlington, VA 22230. National Rural Electric Cooperative Association—April 20, 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203.

Type of Meeting: Open.

Contact Person: Mr. Tyrone Jordan, Office of the Assistant Director, Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 905, Arlington, VA 22230, 703-292-8741.

Summary Minutes: May be obtained from contact person listed above.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and recommendations to the National Science Foundation on major goals and policies pertaining to Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate programs and activities.

Agenda: Discussion on issues, role and future direction of the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences.

Dated: March 7, 2006.

Susanne Bolton,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 06-2309 Filed 3-9-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-271; License No. DPR-28]

Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. Notice of Issuance of Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206

Notice is hereby given that the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, has issued a Director's Decision with regard to a petition dated October 11, 2005, filed by Mr. Jonathan M. Block hereinafter referred to as the "Petitioner." The petition concerns the operation of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee).

The petition requested that the NRC require the temporary emergency closure or de-rating of Vermont Yankee due to flooding conditions on October 8 and 9, 2005.

As a basis for this request, the petitioner stated that evacuations would be impossible as a result of storm damage to existing evacuation routes for Vermont Yankee.

The petition of October 11, 2005, raised immediate concerns regarding emergency evacuation planning for the States of Vermont and New Hampshire due to storm damage to existing evacuation routes through the city of Keene, town of Hinsdale, and other portions of New Hampshire. In a teleconference with the NRC, the Petitioner raised additional concerns regarding the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA) and the State of New Hampshire's plans for an evacuation if an event were to occur at Vermont Yankee simultaneously with a natural disaster. Specific concerns were raised regarding alternative assembly points and decontamination centers for people who would normally evacuate through potentially flooded areas. The Petitioner also requested assurance from the NRC that contingency evacuation plans are in place.

The NRC sent a copy of the proposed Director's Decision to the Petitioner and to the licensee for comment on December 7, 2005 (Accession No. ML053140204). The NRC staff did not receive any comments on the proposed Director's Decision.

The Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation has determined that, The Petitioner's emergency request of October 11, 2005, to shut down or de-rate Vermont Yankee was denied. The reasons for this decision are explained in the director's decision pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206 (DD-06-02), the complete

text of which is available in ADAMS, and is available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, Public File Area O1 F21, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, and from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room). Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should contact the NRC PDR reference staff at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

A copy of the Director's Decision will be filed with the Secretary of the Commission for the Commission's review in accordance with 10 CFR 2.206 of the Commission's regulations. As provided for by this regulation, the Director's Decision will constitute the final action of the Commission 25 days after the date of the decision, unless the Commission, on its own motion, institutes a review of the Director's Decision in that time.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of March 2006.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

J.E. Dyer,

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 06-2320 Filed 3-9-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) will hold its 168th meeting on March 22-24, 2006, NRC Commissioners' Conference Room O-1G16, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The schedule for this meeting is as follows:

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

8:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.: Opening Statement (Open)—The ACNW Chairman will make opening remarks regarding the conduct of today's sessions.

ACNW Working Group Meeting (WGM) on Draft Final Guidance to Implement NRC's License Termination Rule (Open)—Representatives from NRC's Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) will brief the ACNW and the ACNW's panel of invited subject matter experts on public comments received on draft proposed

NUREG-1757 (Supplement 1)—“Consolidated NMSS Decommissioning Guidance: Updates to Implement the License Termination Rule Analysis: Draft Report for Comment.” The NRC staff also intend to brief the Committee on their conceptual plans for addressing the public comments received. A copy of this NUREG is available at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1757/s1/>.

8:45 a.m.-9 a.m.: Opening Remarks by the WGM Chairman—The WGM Chairman will make opening remarks and introduce the ACNW's panel of invited subject matter experts for this working group meeting.

9 a.m.-9:30 a.m.: Update on Status of NUREG-1757 Development (Open)—Presentation by NMSS Representative(s).

9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.: Summary of Public Comments on the Proposed Treatment of Realistic Scenarios, Intentional Mixing, and Removal of Material after License Termination Provisions of Draft NUREG-1757 (Open)—Presentation by NMSS Representative(s).

10:45 a.m.-12 Noon: Summary of Public Comments on the Onsite Disposal Provisions of Draft NUREG-1757 (Open)—Presentation by NMSS Representative(s).

1:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m.: Summary of Public Comments on the Engineered Barrier Provisions of Draft NUREG-1757 (Open)—Presentation by NMSS Representative(s).

2:45 p.m.-4 p.m.: Summary of Public Comments on the Institutional Controls/Restricted Release Provisions of Draft NUREG-1757 (Open)—Presentation by NMSS Representative(s).

4:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m.: Roundtable Discussion (Open)—The WGM Chairman will lead a discussion among the panel of invited subject matter experts on the technical material presented and discuss the content of a possible Committee letter report to the Commission concerning potential changes to NUREG-1757 that might be proposed as a result of the public comment process.

Thursday, March 23, 2006

8:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.: Opening Remarks by the ACNW Chairman (Open)—The Chairman will make opening remarks regarding the conduct of today's sessions.

9 a.m.-1 p.m.: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science and Technology and International Waste Safety-Related Research (Open)—Representatives of the Department of Energy's Office of Science and Technology and International (OST&I)

will discuss work being carried out under OST&I's science and technology research programs. These programs are directed toward enhancing the understanding and optimizing the performance of the proposed Yucca Mountain repository. The topics to be discussed will include materials performance, source term, natural barriers, radioactive getters, and use of advanced technologies.

2 p.m.-3 p.m.: Briefing by the Director of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) (Open)—Dr. Carl Paperiello, the RES Office Director, will brief the Committee on recent activities of interest in the area of radioactive waste management.

Friday, March 24, 2006

8:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.: Opening Remarks by the ACNW Chairman (Open)—The Chairman will make opening remarks regarding the conduct of today's sessions.

Recent Developments Related to Modeling the Igneous Activity in the Yucca Mountain Region (Open)

8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.: Modeling the Long-Term Fluvial Redistribution of Volcanic Tephra in Forty Mile Wash, Yucca Mountain—Representatives from the NRC staff and the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses will discuss a hypothetical scenario in which a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain is intersected by a volcanic vent, resulting in dispersal of contaminated ash. The speakers will discuss how the NRC staff will model the fluvial redistribution of this ash in the Forty Mile Wash drainage basin adjacent to the Yucca Mountain site.

9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.: “Potential Igneous Processes Relevant to the Yucca Mountain Repository: Intrusive-Release Scenario”—Representatives of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) will brief the Committee on their most recent independent study related to the potential consequences of an igneous event in the Yucca Mountain region. A copy of this report is available at <http://www.epriweb.com/public/000000000001011165.pdf>.

11 a.m.-12 Noon: Discussion of Draft Letters and Reports (Open)—The Committee will discuss prepared draft letters and determine whether letters would be written on topics discussed during the meeting.

12 Noon-12:30 p.m.: Miscellaneous (Open)—The Committee will discuss matters related to the conduct of ACNW activities and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings, as time and availability of