

calling the National Endowment for the Humanities, Assistant Director, Grants Office, Susan G. Daisey (202-606-8494) or may be requested by email to sdaisey@neh.fed.us. Comments should be sent to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for the National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202-395-7316), within 30 days from the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed above as soon as possible.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is particularly interested in comments which:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond.

Agency: National Endowment for the Humanities.

Title of Proposal: My History is America's History Website.

OMB Number: To be assigned.

Frequency of Collection: Continual.

Affected Public: General Public.

Number of Respondents:

Approximately 100,000 per year.

Estimated Time per Respondent:

Approximately one hour per response.

Estimated Total Burden Hours:

350,000.

Total Annualized capital/startup costs: 0.

Total annual costs (operating/maintaining systems or purchasing services): 0.

Description: This submission requests expedited clearance from OMB in thirty days.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Susan G. Daisey, Assistant Director, Grants Office, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 311, Washington, D.C. 20506, or by email to:

sdaisey@neh.fed.us. Telephone: 202-606-8494.

Juan Mestas,

Deputy Chairman.

[FR Doc. 99-1314 Filed 1-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7536-01-M

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Public Hearing

The National Transportation Safety Board will convene a public hearing beginning at 9:00 a.m., local time on Wednesday, February 17, 1999, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 400 SE 2nd Avenue, Miami, Florida 33131-2197 concerning the Fire Aboard Cruise Ship *Ecstasy* on July 20, 1998. For more information, contact Donald Tyrrell, NTSB Office of Marine Safety at (202) 314-6455 or Ted Lopatkiewicz, NTSB Office of Public Affairs at (202) 314-6100.

Dated: January 14, 1999.

Rhonda Underwood,

Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-1290 Filed 1-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7533-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-295/304-LA]

Commonwealth Edison Company (Zion Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2); Notice of Appointment of Adjudicatory Employee

Pursuant to 10 CFR 2.4, notice is hereby given that Mr. Ronald A. Burrows, a Commission employee in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Division of Reactor Program Management, has been appointed as a Commission adjudicatory employee within the meaning of section 2.4, to advise the Commission regarding issues related to the pending appeal of LBP-98-27. Mr. Burrows has not previously performed any investigative or litigating function in connection with this or any factually-related proceeding. Until such time as a final decision is issued in this matter, interested persons outside the agency and agency employees performing investigative or litigating functions in this proceeding are required to observe the restrictions of 10 CFR 2.780 and 2.781 in their communications with Mr. Burrows.

It is so *Ordered*.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 14th day of January 1999.

For the Commission.

Annette Vietti-Cook,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 99-1358 Filed 1-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Notice of Informal 10 CFR 2.206 Public Hearing

[Docket No. 50-458; License No. NPF-47] Entergy Operations, Inc.

[Docket No. 50-440; License No. NPF-58] FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will hold an informal public hearing regarding two petitions submitted pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206 involving the River Bend Station (RBS), operated by Entergy Operations, Incorporated, (the RBS licensee), and Perry Nuclear Power Plant (PNPP), Unit 1, operated by FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (the PNPP licensee). The hearing will be held on February 22, 1999. The location for the hearing will be at the NRC, room T-2B3. The NRC is located at 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The hearing will be open to public attendance and will be transcribed.

The structure of the hearing shall be as follows: Monday, February 22, 1999:

1:00 p.m.—NRC opening remarks
1:15 p.m.—Petitioner's presentation
2:00 p.m.—NRC questions
2:15 p.m.—RBS licensee's presentation
2:45 p.m.—NRC questions
3:00 p.m.—PNPP licensee's presentation
3:30 p.m.—NRC questions
3:45 p.m.—Public comments
4:30 p.m.—Licensees/Petitioner's final statements

4:45 p.m.—Meeting concludes

Note: All times are Eastern Standard Time (EST)

By letter dated September 25, 1998, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS or Petitioner) submitted a Petition pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206 requesting that the River Bend Station be immediately shut down and its operating license suspended or modified until the facility's design and licensing basis were updated to permit operation with failed fuel assemblies, or until all failed fuel assemblies were removed from the reactor core. The Petitioner also requested that a public hearing be held to discuss this matter in the Washington, D.C. area.

By letter dated November 9, 1998, the UCS also submitted a Petition pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206 requesting that the Perry Nuclear Power Plant be immediately shut down and its

operating license suspended or modified until the facility's design and licensing basis were updated to permit operation with failed fuel assemblies, or until all failed fuel assemblies were removed from the reactor core. The Petitioner also requested a public hearing in the Washington, D.C. area.

The purpose of this informal public hearing is to obtain additional information from the Petitioner, the licensees, and the public for NRC staff use in evaluating the Petitions. Therefore, this informal public hearing will be limited to information relevant to issues raised in the two Petitions. The staff will not offer any preliminary views on its evaluation of the Petitions. The informal public hearing will be chaired by a senior NRC official who will limit presentations to the above subject.

The format of the informal public hearing will be as follows: opening remarks by the NRC regarding the general 10 CFR 2.206 process, the purpose of informal public hearing, and a brief summary of the Petitions (15 minutes); time for the Petitioner to explain the basis of the Petitions (45 minutes); time for the NRC to ask the Petitioner questions for the purposes of clarification (15 minutes); time for the licensees to address the issues raised in the petition (30 minutes for each licensee); time for the NRC to ask the licensees questions for the purposes of clarification (15 minutes each, following licensees' presentations); time for public comments relative to the Petition (45 minutes); and time for the licensees' and Petitioner's final statements (15 minutes).

Members of the public who are interested in presenting information relative to the Petitions should notify the NRC official named below, 5 working days prior to the hearing. A brief summary of the information to be presented and the time requested should be provided in order to make appropriate arrangements. Time allotted for presentations by members of the public will be determined based upon the number of requests received and will be announced at the beginning of the hearing. The order for public presentations will be determined on a first received—first to speak basis. Written statements should be mailed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mailstop O-13H03, Attention: Robert Fretz, Washington, D.C. 20555.

Requests for the opportunity to present information can be made by contacting Robert Fretz, Project Manager, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV (telephone 301-415-1324)

between 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (EST), Monday–Friday. Persons planning to attend this informal public hearing are urged to contact the above NRC representative 1 or 2 working days prior to the informal public hearing to be advised of any changes that may have occurred.

In order to assist participation in the informal hearing by interested members of the public, the NRC may also provide video conferencing services at a public location in the vicinity of the River Bend and Perry facilities. A subsequent notice in the **Federal Register** will be published at least 10 days prior to the date of the informal public hearing to announce the location of the video conferencing site, if made available.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 14th day of January 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Elinor G. Adensam,

Acting Director, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99-1359 Filed 1-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-155]

Consumers Energy Company (Big Rock Point Nuclear Plant); Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations to Facility Operating License No. DPR-6, issued to Consumers Energy Company (Consumers or the licensee) for the possession of the Big Rock Point Nuclear Plant (BRP) located in Charlevoix County, Michigan.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption would reduce or remove selected physical security requirements of 10 CFR part 73.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated November 12, 1998.

Need for the Proposed Action

On June 26, 1997, Consumers certified that it would permanently cease reactor power operations at its BRP facility. On August 30, 1997, the reactor was shut down. By letter dated September 23, 1997, the licensee certified the permanent removal of all fuel from the reactor vessel. In accordance with 10

CFR 50.82(a)(2), upon docketing of the certifications, Facility Operating License No. DPR-6 no longer authorizes operation of the reactor or emplacement or retention of the fuel in the reactor vessel. In this permanently shutdown and defueled condition, the facility poses a reduced risk to public health and safety.

The proposed action is required to allow the licensee to implement physical security plans appropriate to the permanently shutdown and defueled condition of the BRP facility.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the granting of the exemption from selected portions of 10 CFR part 73 is acceptable, as described in the safety evaluation accompanying issuance of the exemption.

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 off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historical sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

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

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. Further, the "no-action" alternative would require Consumers to maintain and implement physical security plans required of an operating reactor plant. Such a plan would represent a burden on the licensee and not enhance the protection of the environment. 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.