

Dated: July 9, 1999.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**

*Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-18016 Filed 7-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering, and Technology Development, Notice of Meeting

In accordance with Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-473, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting:

*Name:* Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering, and Technology Development (5270).

*Date/Time:* July 19 (3:00-5:00 pm) July 20-Public Hearing (8:00 am-5:00 pm) and July 21, 1999 (8:30-11:30 am).

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

*Type of Meeting:* Open.

*Contact Person:* Kay Rison, Executive Secretary, CAWMSET, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA, 22230. Phone (703) 306-1004.

*Minutes:* May be obtained from the Executive Secretary at the above address.

*Purpose of Meeting:* CAWSET was established by Congress on October 14, 1998 to research and recommend ways to improved the recruitment, retention, and representation of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities in science, engineering and technology education and employment. The Public Hearing will serve to inform the Commission of best practices for recruiting, developing, utilizing, promoting, and retaining women, members of racial and ethnic minority groups traditionally underrepresented in the SET enterprise, and persons with disabilities.

#### Agenda

*Monday, July 19*

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Preparation for Public Hearing

*Tuesday, July 20—Public Hearing*

8:00 a.m.

Welcome—Rita R. Colwell, Director, National Science Foundation

8:00 a.m.

Keynote speaker: Martha A. Krebs, Director, Office of Science, U.S. Department of Energy "Women in Science and Technology: The President's Interagency Council on Women"

9:00 a.m.

Panel 1: SET Recruitment and Hiring Initiatives

10:00 a.m.

Panel 2: SET Education and Career Development

11:00 a.m.

Public Comment

12:35 p.m.

Keynote speaker: Kenneth J. Disken, Vice President, Human Resources, Electronics Sector, Lockheed Martin Corporation

1:50 p.m.

Panel 3: Utilization of SET Students and Professionals

2:50 p.m.

Panel 4: Advancement of Individuals in Science, Engineering, and Technology

4:00 p.m.

Topic 5: Retention Initiatives in SET Education and Employment

5:00 p.m.

Public Comment

*Wednesday, July 21*

8:30-11:30 a.m.

Follow up for Public Hearing

Dated: July 9, 1999.

**Karen J. York,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-18014 Filed 7-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. STN 50-528, STN 50-529 and STN 50-530]

### Arizona Public Service Company, (Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3); Exemption

#### I

Arizona Public Service Company (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-41, NPF-51, and NPF-74, which authorize operation of Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (Palo Verde), Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3. The licenses provide, among other things, that the licensee is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

These facilities consist of three pressurized water reactors located at the licensee's site in Maricopa County, Arizona.

#### II

Section 50.71 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), "Maintenance of records, making of reports," paragraph (e)(4) states, in part, that "Subsequent revisions [to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR)] must be filed annually or 6 months after each refueling outage provided the interval between successive updates [to the FSAR] does not exceed 24 months." The three Palo Verde units share a common UFSAR; therefore, this rule requires the licensee to update the same document annually or within 6 months after a refueling outage for each unit.

#### III

Section 50.12(a) of 10 CFR, "Specific exemptions," states that

The Commission may, upon application by any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the requirements of the regulations of this part, which are:

(1) Authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security.

(2) The Commission will not consider granting an exemption unless special circumstances are present.

Section 50.12(a)(2)(ii) of 10 CFR states that special circumstances are present when "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...." The underlying purpose of the rule was to relieve licensees of the burden of filing annual FSAR revisions while assuring that such revisions are made at least every 24 months. The Commission reduced the burden, in part, by permitting a licensee to submit its FSAR revisions 6 months after refueling outages for its facility; but the rule did not provide for multiple unit facilities sharing a common FSAR. Rather, the Commission stated that "With respect to...multiple facilities sharing a common FSAR, licensees will have maximum flexibility for scheduling updates on a case by case basis" (57 FR 39355 (1992)).

By letter dated June 9, 1998, as supplemented December 21, 1998, the licensee requested an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) to allow revisions to the UFSAR, changes to the quality assurance program made in accordance with 10 CFR 50.54(a)(3), and reports of changes, tests, and experiments made in accordance with 10 CFR 50.59(b)(2) to be submitted to the Commission on a 24-month periodicity.

As noted in the staff's safety evaluation, the licensee's proposed schedule for UFSAR updates will ensure that the Palo Verde UFSAR and quality assurance program will be maintained current within 24 months of the last revision and the interval for submission of the 10 CFR 50.59 design change report will not exceed 24 months. The proposed schedule fits within the 24-month duration specified by 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4). Revising the UFSAR annually or 6 months after refueling outages for each unit, therefore, is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that special circumstances

are present as defined in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii).

#### IV

The Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Arizona Public Service Company an exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) to submit updates to the Palo Verde UFSAR annually or within 6 months of each unit's refueling outage. The licensee will be required to submit updates to the Palo Verde UFSAR, the quality assurance program, and the 10 CFR 50.59 safety evaluation summary reports to the NRC no later than 24 months from the previous revision.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (64 FR 36410).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of July 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**John A. Zwolinski,**

*Director, Division of Licensing and Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 99-18057 Filed 7-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-250 and 50-251]

### Florida Power and Light Company, Turkey Point Nuclear Plant, Units 3 and 4; Confirmatory Order Modifying License Effective Immediately

#### I

Florida Power and Light Company (FPL or the Licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating Licenses, Nos. DPR-31 and DPR-41, which authorize operation of Turkey Point, Units 3 and 4, located in Dade County, Florida.

#### II

The staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC, the Commission) has been concerned that Thermo-Lag 330-1 fire barrier systems installed by licensees may not provide the level of fire endurance intended and that licensees that use Thermo-Lag 330-1 fire barriers may not be meeting

regulatory requirements. During the 1992 to 1994 timeframe, the NRC staff issued Generic Letter 92-08, "Thermo-Lag 330-1 Fire Barriers" and subsequent requests for additional information that requested licensees to submit plans and schedules for resolving the Thermo-Lag issue. The NRC staff has obtained and reviewed all licensees' corrective plans and schedules. The staff is concerned that some licensees may not be making adequate progress toward resolving the plant-specific issues, and that some implementation schedules may be either too tenuous or too protracted. For example, several licensees informed the NRC staff that their completion dates had slipped by 6 months to as much as 3 years. For plants that have completion action scheduled beyond 1997, the NRC staff has met with these licensees to discuss the progress of the licensees' corrective actions and the extent of licensee management attention regarding completion of Thermo-Lag corrective actions. In addition, the NRC staff discussed with licensees the possibility of accelerating their completion schedules.

FPL was one of the licensees with which the NRC staff held meetings. Based on the information submitted by FPL in its December 9, 1998, letter, the NRC staff has concluded that the schedules presented by FPL are reasonable. This conclusion is based on (1) the amount of installed Thermo-Lag, (2) the complexity of the plant-specific fire barrier configurations and issues, (3) the need to perform certain plant modifications during outages as opposed to those that can be performed while the plant is at power, and (4) integration with other significant, but unrelated issues that FPL is addressing at its plant. In order to remove compensatory measures such as fire watches, it has been determined that resolution of the Thermo-Lag corrective actions by FPL must be completed in accordance with current FPL schedules. By letter dated January 29, 1999, the NRC staff notified FPL of its plan to incorporate FPL's schedule commitment into a requirement by issuance of an order and requested consent from the Licensee. By letter dated February 8, 1999, as modified by letter dated May 27, 1999, the Licensee provided its consent to issuance of a Confirmatory Order.

#### III

The Licensee's commitment as set forth in its letter of February 8, 1998, as modified by letter dated May 27, 1999, is acceptable and is necessary for the NRC to conclude that public health and safety are reasonably assured. To

preclude any schedule slippage and to assure public health and safety, the NRC staff has determined that the Licensee's commitment in the February 8, 1999 letter, as modified by letter dated May 27, 1999, be confirmed by this Order. The Licensee has agreed to this action by letter dated May 27, 1999. Based on the above, and the Licensee's consent, this Order is immediately effective upon issuance.

#### IV

Accordingly, pursuant to sections 103, 161b, 161i, 161o, 182, and 186 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 2.202 and 10 CFR Part 50, *it is hereby ordered*, effective immediately, that:

FPL shall complete final implementation of Thermo-Lag 330-1 fire barrier corrective actions at Turkey Point Plant, Units 3 and 4, described in the FPL submittal to the NRC dated December 9, 1998, by December 31, 2001.

The resolution of any new Thermo-Lag corrective actions resulting from a potential Fire Protection Functional Inspection or the on-going Fire Protection Functional Inspection Self-Assessment at Turkey Point Units 3 and 4, are not considered part of this confirmatory order.

The Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, may relax or rescind, in writing, any provisions of this Confirmatory Order upon a showing by the Licensee of good cause.

#### V

Any person adversely affected by this Confirmatory Order, other than the Licensee, may request a hearing within 20 days of its issuance. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extending the time to request a hearing. A request for extension of time must be made in writing to the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and include a statement of good cause for the extension. Any request for a hearing shall be submitted to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Attention: Chief, Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff, Washington, DC 20555. Copies of the hearing request shall also be sent to the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, to the Assistant General Counsel for Materials Litigation and Enforcement at the same address, to the Regional Administrator, NRC Region II, Atlanta Federal Center, M/S 23T85, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303-3415 and to the Licensee. If such a person requests a hearing, that person