

Resolution, 110 South Church, Ste, 3350, Tucson, AZ 85701.

The matters to be considered will include (1) A report on the U.S. Institute of Environmental Conflict Resolution, and (2) A report from the Udall Center for Studies and Public Policy; (3) Program Reports, and (4) Approval of 2001 budget. The meeting is open to the public.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Christopher L. Helms, 110 South Church, Ste, 3350, Tucson, Arizona 85701. Telephone: (520) 670-5608.

Dated this 10th day of October, 2000.

Christopher L. Helms,

Executive Director, Morris K. Udall Foundation Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy.

[FR Doc. 00-26713 Filed 10-17-00; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts; National Council on the Arts 141st Meeting

Pursuant to section 10 (a) (2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463), as amended, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the National Council on the Arts will be held on November 15, 2000 from 9:00 a.m.-400 p.m. in Room M-09 at the Nancy Hanks Center, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20506.

The meeting will be open to the public on a space available basis. Following opening remarks and announcements, there will be an update on agency appropriations and introduction of the meeting theme—The Arts & Livable Communities—and guest speaker Robert Putnam, author of *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. Mr. Putnam's presentation will be followed by guest presentations from Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson and from representatives of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation: Alan Cooper, Abel Lopez, and Rebecca Klein. Congressional and Budget updates will follow. The meeting will also include presentations by Rick Lowe of Project Row Houses and Ken Burns on his public TV series *Jazz*. Other topics tentatively will include: Application Review for Creativity, Organizational Capacity, Literature Fellowships, and Leadership Initiatives; a briefing on the Artists in American Life Colloquia, including a report from participant David Henry Hwang; review of Guidelines for Grants to Organizations

and Literature Fellowships; and general discussion.

If, in the course of discussion, it becomes necessary for the Council to discuss non-public commercial or financial information of intrinsic value, the Council will go into closed session pursuant to subsection (c)(4) of the Government in the Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. 552b. Additionally, discussion concerning purely personal information about individuals, submitted with grant applications, such as personal biographical and salary data or medical information, may be conducted by the Council in closed session in accordance with subsection (c) (6) of 5 U.S.C. 552b.

Any interested persons may attend, as observers, Council discussions and reviews that are open to the public. If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Office of AccessAbility, National Endowment for the Arts, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20506, 202/682-5532, TTY-TDD 202/682-5429, at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Further information with reference to this meeting can be obtained from the Office of Communications, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C. 20506, at 202/682-5570.

Dated: October 13, 2000.

Kathy Plowitz-Worden,

Panel Coordinator, Office of Guidelines and Panel Operations.

[FR Doc. 00-26756 Filed 10-17-00; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts; Combined Arts Advisory Panel

Pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463), as amended, notice is hereby given that two meetings of the Combined Arts Advisory Panel to the National Council on the Arts will be held at the Nancy Hanks Center, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, 20506 as follows:

Folk & Traditional Arts section (B) (Access, Education, and Heritage/Preservation categories): October 30-31, 2000, Room 716. A portion of this meeting, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on October 31st, will be open to the public for policy discussion. The remaining portions of this meeting, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on October 30th and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on October 31st, will be closed.

Dance section (Access, Education, and Heritage/Preservation categories): November 6-8, 2000, Room 730. A

portion of this meeting, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on November 8th, will be open to the public for policy discussion. The remaining portions of this meeting, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on November 6th and 7th, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on November 8th, will be closed.

The closed portions of these meetings are for the purpose of Panel review, discussion, evaluation, and recommendation on applications for financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including information given in confidence to the agency by grant applicants. In accordance with the determination of the Chairman of May 12, 2000, these sessions will be closed to the public pursuant to (c)(4)(6) and (9)(B) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code.

Any person may observe meetings, or portions thereof, of advisory panels that are open to the public, and, if time allows, may be permitted to participate in the panel's discussions at the discretion of the panel chairman and with the approval of the full-time Federal employee in attendance.

If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Office of AccessAbility, National Endowment for the Arts, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20506, 202/682-5532, TDY-TDD 202/682-5496, at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Further information with reference to this meeting can be obtained from Ms. Kathy Plowitz-Worden, Office of Guidelines & Panel Operations, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC 20506, or call 202/682-5691.

Dated: October 13, 2000.

Kathy Plowitz-Worden,

Panel Coordinator, Panel Operations, National Endowment for the Arts.

[FR Doc. 00-26755 Filed 10-17-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-368]

In the Matter of Entergy Operations, Inc. (Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2); Exemption

I.

Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy, or the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. NPF-6, which authorizes operation of the Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 (ANO-2). The license provides, among other things,

that the licensee is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

II.

Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) part 50, appendix J, Option B requires, in part, that licensees of all power reactors conduct integrated leakage rate tests (ILRT) under conditions representing design basis loss-of-coolant accident (DBLOCA) containment peak pressure. The regulation at 10 CFR 50.12 states, in part, that in order for the Commission to consider granting an exemption, special circumstances must be present.

By letter dated June 29, 2000, Entergy requested that the NRC exempt ANO-2 from the application of the specific requirements of 10 CFR part 50, appendix J, Option B. Specifically, appendix J, Option B requires that licensees of all power reactors conduct ILRTs under conditions representing DBLOCA containment peak pressure. The DBLOCA containment peak pressure at ANO-2 is 58 psig, however, Entergy would like an exemption in order to conduct the test at 68 psig. Entergy also addresses special circumstances in its June 29, 2000, application.

III.

The ANO-2 steam generators (SGs) are scheduled for replacement during the fall of 2000. The replacement SGs (RSGs) will require that an access opening be cut in the containment building structure. Upon closure of the structure, an ILRT will be required to test for primary containment leakage integrity.

The ANO-2 containment building was originally designed and tested for an internal pressure of 54 psig. The ANO-2 containment building has recently been reevaluated, to address the containment post-accident response resulting from the RSGs, for an increase in accident pressure to 58 psig with a design pressure of 59 psig, and shown to be acceptable as discussed in a letter to the NRC dated November 3, 1999, as revised by a letter dated June 29, 2000. As a result of this increase, a structural integrity test (SIT) will be performed to evaluate the ANO-2 containment building for the change in containment design pressure. The purpose of the SIT is to verify that the containment building structure can safely carry design loads and that the structural behavior is similar to that predicted by analysis. The post-RSG SIT will be performed at 68 psig (1.15 times the revised design pressure). The licensee

desires to also perform the ILRT concurrently with the post-RSG SIT, at the SIT pressure of 68 psig, in order to recover approximately 30 hours of projected plant outage time. However, Appendix J, Option B requires that the ILRT be conducted at a pressure representing DBLOCA containment peak pressure, which is 58 psig.

Entergy cited special circumstances regarding achievement of the underlying purpose of the regulation as part of its basis for requesting this exemption [10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii)]. Entergy noted in support of the 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii) criteria that the application of the current regulation is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule. Entergy stated that the underlying purpose of 10 CFR part 50, appendix J, Option B is still achieved in that the ILRT will continue to measure the containment system's overall integrated leakage rate under conditions representing DBLOCA containment peak pressure and that leakage through the primary reactor containment will not exceed the allowable leakage rate values as specified in the Technical Specifications (TSs) or associated Bases. The 68-psig SIT pressure is performed at a pressure that is greater than the DBLOCA containment peak pressure of 58 psig. Therefore, performing the ILRT at 68 psig meets and exceeds the requirement for performing the ILRT at a pressure representing the DBLOCA containment peak pressure (58 psig). In addition, meeting the TS requirement for acceptable leakage at a higher test pressure is conservative and well within the intent of appendix J, Option B. Entergy concluded that the above information demonstrates that there is reasonable assurance that performing the post-RSG ILRT at the SIT test pressure of 68 psig will provide continued validation of the leak integrity of the containment structure.

Entergy also cited additional special circumstances as part of its basis for requesting this exemption, namely that compliance would result in undue costs [10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(iii)]. Entergy stated that the proposed exemption meets the criteria for special circumstances in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(iii) in that approximately 30 hours of plant outage time could be recovered, resulting in substantial savings. Entergy added that since performance of the ILRT at the SIT pressure is conservative, they believe that realizing this benefit is acceptable.

IV.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's application. Regarding assurance of safe operation, the staff

finds that since the use of the higher SIT pressure is conservative and since the licensee will be following the applicable regulations and guidance for performing the ILRT, the use of the SIT pressure for the ILRT is technically acceptable. Regarding compliance with 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), the staff finds that since the licensee will still perform an ILRT, and it will be performed at a pressure which is conservative with respect to that required by 10 CFR part 50, Appendix J, Option B, the underlying purpose of the rule, to ensure an essentially leak tight containment, is satisfied and this special circumstance applies. Regarding compliance with 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(iii), the staff disagrees that this special circumstance applies. Since ANSI/ANS 56.8-1994 (section 5.4) recognizes the situation in which an ILRT is performed after an SIT, this situation cannot be considered as an undue hardship or a burden significantly in excess of that which might be incurred by other licensees in similar circumstances. The staff's detailed Safety Evaluation (and this exemption) are enclosures in the letter to the licensee dated

V.

The Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, this exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, is consistent with the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Entergy Operations, Inc. a one-time exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50, appendix J, Option B in order to provide a one-time allowance to conduct the containment ILRT at the same pressure that is used for the SIT.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will have no significant effect on the quality of the human environment (65 FR 59216, dated October 4, 2000).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th October, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

John A. Zwolinski,

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

[FR Doc. 00-26761 Filed 10-17-00; 8:45 am]

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