energetic studies, providing trophic information.

In addition the applicant proposes to salvage bones and carcasses of dead seals and other cetacean species found on shore for importation to the U.S. These materials will be stored at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center for education and research purposes.

Location: Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island (SSSI #32), Byers Peninsula (SSSI #6), South Shetland Island, Antarctic Peninsula.

Dates: October 31, 1998 to April 1, 2001.

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Permit Officer, Officer of Polar Programs.

[FR Doc. 98–23040 Filed 8–26–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Earth Sciences Proposal Review Panel; 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: Earth Sciences Proposal Review Panel (1569).

Date: September 16, 17, & 18, 1998.

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day.

Place: Rooms 365, 370, 390, 730 and 770, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Person: Dr. Alan M. Gaines, Section Head, Division of Earth Sciences, Room 785, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA, (703) 306–1553.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate earth sciences proposals 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 proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: August 24, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98–23036 Filed 8–26–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Materials Research; 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 Materials Research (1203).

Dates & Times: September 22, 6:00 pm–10:00 pm and September 23–24, 1998 8:30 am–5:00 pm.

Place: National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (NHMFL), Tallahassee, FL.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Person: Dr. W. Lance Haworth, Division of Materials Research, Room 1065, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230, Telephone: (703) 306–1815.

Purpose of Meeting: Annual NSF progress review of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory.

Agenda: Evaluation of progress and plans in the third year of the current five-year award.

Reason for Closing: Some of the information presented through the site visit will be of a proprietary or confidential nature, such as financial data, salaries, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: August 24, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98–23037 Filed 8–26–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Polar Programs; 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 Polar Programs (1209).

Date and time: September 21–23, 1998, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Room 730, Arlington, VA 22230.

Type of meeting: Closed.

Contact person: Dr. Polly A. Penhale, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230 Telephone: (703) 306–1033.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate Antarctic Biology and Medicine proposals 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 U.S.C. 552b(c) (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: August 24, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98–23038 Filed 8–26–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Polar Programs; 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 Polar Programs (1209).

Date and time: September 21–23, 1998, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Room 380, Arlington, VA 22230.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Person: Dr. Julie Palais, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230 Telephone: (703) 306–1033.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate Antarctic Glaciology proposals 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 U.S.C. 552b(c) (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: August 24, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98–23039 Filed 8–26–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–369 and 50–370]

Duke Energy Corporation; Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF–9 and NPF–17, issued to Duke Energy Corporation (the licensee), for operation of the McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

The proposed amendments would revise Technical Specification (TS) Section 4.6.5.1.b.3 regarding surveillance requirements for the ice condenser ice bed. One requirement specifies that a visual inspection of flow passages be performed once per 9 months to ensure that there is no significant ice and frost accumulation (less than 0.38 inch). The licensee proposed to relax the visual inspection frequency of the lower plenum support structures and turning vanes to once per 18 months. The remaining parts of the ice condenser will continue to be inspected at 9-month intervals.

The licensee requested approval on an exigent basis pursuant to its request for enforcement discretion for McGuire, Units 1 and 2. The staff verbally granted the enforcement discretion on August 13, 1998, and affirmed it by a subsequent notice of enforcement discretion (NOED) letter dated August 14, 1998. The NOED stated that the enforcement discretion is in effect until the issuance of related amendments to revise the subject TS. Consistent with its procedure, the staff intends to issue amendments to revise the problematic TS within 4 weeks of the NOED letter. This issuance schedule would not be accommodated by the normal 30-day notice to the public.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendments, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6) for amendments to be granted under exigent circumstances, the NRC staff must determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

First Standard

Implementation of this amendment would not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated. Approval of this amendment will have no significant effect on accident probabilities or consequences. The ice condenser is not an accident initiating system; therefore, there will be no impact on any accident probabilities by the approval of this amendment. Each unit's ice condenser is currently fully capable of meeting its design basis accident mitigating function. Therefore, there will be no impact on any accident consequences.

Second Standard

Implementation of this amendment would not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated. No new accident causal mechanisms are created as a result of NRC approval of this amendment request. No changes are being made to the plant which will introduce any new accident causal mechanisms. This amendment request does not impact any plant systems that are accident initiators, since the ice condenser is an accident mitigating system.

Third Standard

Implementation of this amendment would not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. Margin of safety is related to the confidence in the ability of the fission product barriers to perform their design functions during and following an accident situation. These barriers include the fuel cladding, the reactor coolant system, and the containment system. The performance of these fission product barriers will not be impacted by implementation of this proposed amendment. The ice condenser for each unit is already capable of performing as designed. Operating experience has shown that the performance of the ice condenser would not be adversely impacted by extending the frequency of these SRs [surveillance requirements] to an 18-month interval. No safety margins will be impacted.

Based upon the preceding analysis, Duke Energy [Corporation] has concluded that the proposed amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 14 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendments until the expiration of the 14-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period, such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendments before the expiration of the 14-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this **Federal Register** notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D59, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC's Public Document Room, the Gellman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By September 28, 1998, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendments to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's ''Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings'' in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available 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 J. Murrey Atkins Library, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 9201 University City Boulevard, Charlotte, North Carolina. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and

how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shal be limited to matters within the scope of the amendments under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If the amendments are issued before the expiration of the 30-day hearing period, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. If a hearing is requested, the final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendments and make them immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendments.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendments.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, and to Mr. Albert Carr, Duke Energy Corporation, 422 South Church Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28242, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(l)–(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendments dated August 14, 1998, which is 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 J. Murrey Atkins Library, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 9201 University City Boulevard, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 20th day of August 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Frank Rinaldi,

Project Manager, Project Directorate II–2, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98–22978 Filed 8–26–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–413 AND 50–414]

Duke Energy Corporation; Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF–35 and NPF–52, issued to Duke Energy Corporation (the licensee), for operation of the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, located in York County, South Carolina.

The proposed amendments would revise Technical Specification (TS) Section 4.6.5.1.b.2 regarding surveillance requirements for the ice condenser ice bed. One requirement specifies that a visual inspection of flow passages be performed once per 9 months to ensure that there is no significant ice and frost accumulation (less than 0.38 inch). The licensee proposed to relax the visual inspection frequency of the lower plenum support structures and turning vanes to once per 18 months. The remaining parts of the ice condenser will continue to be inspected at 9-month intervals.

The licensee requested approval on an exigent basis pursuant to its request for enforcement discretion for Catawba Unit 2. The staff verbally granted the enforcement discretion on August 13, 1998, and affirmed it by a subsequent notice of enforcement discretion (NOED) letter dated August 14, 1998. The NOED stated that the enforcement discretion is in effect until the unit enters Mode 5 for the End-of-Cycle 9 Refueling Outage, currently projected to be on September 5, 1998. Consistent with its procedure, the staff intends to issue amendments to revise the problematic TS within 4 weeks of the NOED letter. This issuance schedule would not be accommodated by the normal 30-day notice to the public.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendments, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended