Dates and Times: January 17, 2001; 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Room 220, Arlington, VA 22230.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Person: Dr. Lynnete D. Madsen, Program Director, Ceramics Program, Division of Materials Research, Room 1065, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230, Telephone (703) 292–4936.

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

Agenda: Review and evaluate proposals as part of the selection process for awards.

Reason for Closing: The proposals being evaluated 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: December 13, 2000.

Karen J. York,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00–32459 Filed 12–20–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Physics; Notice Of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meetings of the Special Emphasis Panel in Physics (1208):

Date/Time: January 10–12, 2001; 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

Contact Person: C. Denise Caldwell, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 1015, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292–7371.

Date/Time: February 7–9, 2001; 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

Contact Person: Dr. Sidney A. Coon, Program Director for Nuclear Theory, Division of Physics, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 1015, Arlington, VA 22230 (Telephone (703) 292–7382.

Date/Time: February 26–28, 2001; 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Contact Person: Dr. Richard H. Pratt, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 1015, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292–8890.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate proposals as part of the selection process for awards.

Reason for Closings: 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 matter are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: December 13, 2000.

Karen J. York,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00–32450 Filed 12–20–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Research Evaluation and Communication; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meetings of the Special Emphasis Panel in Research Evaluation and Communication (1210):

Date/Time: January 25–26, 2001; 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Date/Time: January 29–30, 2001; 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Person: Elizabeth VanderPutten, National Science Foundation, Room 855, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. (703) 292–8650.

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

Agenda: Review and evaluate 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: December 13, 2000.

Karen J. York,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00–32462 Filed 12–20–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Advisory Panel for Systematic and Population Biology: 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 Panel for Systematic and Population Biology (1753).

Date and Time: February 15–16, 2001; 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Person: Dr. Quentin Wheeler, Room 635, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230. Telephone: (703) 292–8480.

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

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals to the National Science Foundation for financial support.

Agenda: Review and evaluate 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: December 13, 2000.

Karen J. York,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00–32456 Filed 12–20–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–305]

Nuclear Management Company, LLC, Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant; Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment To Facility Operating License, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR–43, issued to the Nuclear Management Company, LLC (the licensee), for operation of Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant, located in Kewaunee County, Wisconsin.

The proposed amendment would revise the Technical Specifications by changing the number of fuel assemblies that can be stored in the Kewaunee spent fuel pools (SFPs) from 990 fuel assemblies to 1,205 fuel assemblies, an increase of 215 fuel assemblies, by installing 215 new spent fuel storage racks in the new north canal pool. In addition, the new spent fuel storage racks will use Boral as the neutron absorber material.

On November 1, 2000, the Commission issued a Biweekly Notice of Applications and Amendments to Operating Licenses Involving No

Significant Hazards Considerations (65 FR 65337) which included notice concerning the proposed amendment of the Kewaunee license (65 FR 65347). The Notice contained the Commission's proposed determination that the requested amendment involved no significant hazards considerations, offered an opportunity for comments on the Commission's proposed determination and offered an opportunity for the applicant to request a hearing on the amendment and for persons whose interest might be affected to petition for leave to intervene.

Due to an oversight, the November 1, 2000, Notice did not provide notice that this application involves a proceeding on an application for a license amendment falling within the scope of section 134 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982. Such notice is required by Commission regulations at 10 CFR 2.1107.

The Commission hereby provides notice that this is a proceeding on an application for a license amendment falling within the scope of section 134 of the NWPA, 42 U.S.C. 10154. Under section 134 of the NWPA, the Commission, at the request of any party to the proceeding, must use hybrid hearing procedures with respect to ''any matter which the Commission determines to be in controversy among the parties.''

The hybrid procedures in section 134 provide for oral argument on matters in controversy, preceded by discovery under the Commission's rules and the designation, following argument of only those factual issues that involve a genuine and substantial dispute, together with any remaining questions of law, to be resolved in an adjudicatory hearing. Actual adjudicatory hearings are to be held on only those issues found to meet the criteria of Section 134 and set for hearing after oral argument.

The Commission's rules implementing section 134 of the NWPA are found in 10 CFR part 2, subpart K, ''Hybrid Hearing Procedures for Expansion of Spent Fuel Storage Capacity at Civilian Nuclear Power Reactors' (published at 50 FR 41662 dated October 15, 1985). Under those rules, any party to the proceeding may invoke the hybrid hearing procedures by filing with the presiding officer a written request for oral argument under 10 CFR 2.1109. To be timely, the request must be filed within ten (10) days of an order granting a request for hearing or petition to intervene. The presiding officer must grant a timely request for oral argument. The presiding officer may grant an untimely request for oral argument only upon a showing of good cause by the requesting party for the failure to file on time and after providing the other parties an opportunity to respond to the untimely request. If the presiding officer grants a request for oral argument, any hearing held on the application must be conducted in accordance with the hybrid hearing procedures. In essence, those procedures limit the time available for discovery and require that an oral argument be held to determine whether any contentions must be resolved in an adjudicatory hearing. If no party to the proceeding timely requests oral argument, and if all untimely requests for oral argument are denied, then the usual procedures in 10 CFR part 2, subpart G, apply.

By [insert date 30 days from date of publication], the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment 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 and who wishes to invoke the hybrid hearing procedures of 10 CFR part 2, subpart K discussed above 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, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (*http://www.nrc.gov*). 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 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 shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment 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 a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. 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 amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

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, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, 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 Bradley D. Jackson, Esq., Foley and Lardner, P.O. Box 1497, Madison, WI 53701–1497, 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)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-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 amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves 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 and provide for opportunity for a hearing after 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 Public Document Room, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated November 18, 1999, as supplemented by letter dated August 7, 2000, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (*http://www.nrc.gov*).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 18th day of December 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John G. Lamb,

Project Manager, Section 1, Project Directorate III, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00–32556 Filed 12–20–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Risk-Informed Regulation Implementation Plan

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of plan and request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's 1995 policy statement on the use of probabilistic risk assessment provided the Commission's expectation on the use of risk information in its regulatory activities. The Risk-informed Regulation Implementation Plan (RIRIP) provides guidance and describes the staff's plans for applying criteria to select regulatory requirements and practices to risk-inform, risk-informing those requirements and practices, and developing the necessary data, methods, guidance, and training. The RIRIP is also intended to explain the agency's activities, philosophy, and approach to risk-informed regulatory policy to internal and external stakeholders. The public is invited to provide feedback on the agency's plans and progress toward implementing risk-informed regulatory initiatives.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice serves as a request for public comment on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Risk-Informed Regulatory Implementation Plan (SECY–00–0213) that is dated October 26, 2000 (web address: *http://www.nrc.gov/RES/nrc.html*). Written comments are requested by February 28, 2001. A workshop will be scheduled in early 2001 to discuss comments received and to provide for the exchange of information will all stakeholders regarding the staff's efforts to risk-inform its regulatory requirements and practices. The workshop agenda and other details will be provided in a forthcoming **Federal Register** notice prior to the workshop Feedback is especially requested on the following specific questions—

1. Does the RIRIP include information activities that *should not* be undertaken? If so, why not?

2. Does the RIRIP omit implementation activities that *should* be undertaken? Describe such activities and why they should be undertaken.

3. How should the NRC measure its success in implementing risk-informed regulation?

4. Is the pace for implementing risk-informed regulation about right, or is to fast or too slow?

5. Are there concerns about the agency's ability to maintain safety while implementing risk-informed regulation? If so, describe the concerns and, if possible, their basis.

6. How can risk-informed regulation increase public confidence?

7. Are the screening criteria clear and sufficient? If applied properly, would they result in identifying those activities amenable for transition to risk-informed regulation?

8. Will the implementation activities described in the RIRIP appropriately improve regulatory efficiency, effectiveness, and realism?

9. Other than requests such as this for written comment and a public workshop, how can stakeholder participation in risk-informed regulation be enhanced?

10. What communication activities would be desired to describe risk-informed regulation? What other interactions would be useful to provide input to, and understanding of, risk-informed regulation?

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Written comments may be sent to Thomas L. King, Director of the Division of Risk Analysis and Applications, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, MS: T10–E50, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, email: tlk@nrc.gov.