

unnecessary burden on plant operators to ensure safety limits are maintained.

The licensee has requested the use of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code) Case N-514, "Low Temperature Overpressure Protection," which allows exceeding the pressure of the P/T limits of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G, by 10 percent. ASME Code Case N-514, the proposed alternate methodology, is consistent with guidelines developed by the ASME Working Group on Operating Plant Criteria to define pressure limits during LTOP events that avoid certain unnecessary operational restrictions, provide adequate margins against failure of the reactor pressure vessel, and reduce the potential for unnecessary activation of pressure-relieving devices used for LTOP. ASME Code Case N-514 has been approved by the ASME Code Committee. The content of this code case has been incorporated into Appendix G of Section XI of the ASME Code and published in the 1993 Addenda to Section XI.

### III

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the Commission may, upon application by any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 when (1) the exemptions are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health or safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security and (2) when special circumstances are present. Special circumstances are present whenever, according to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), "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 10 CFR 50.60, Appendix G, is to establish fracture toughness requirements for ferritic materials of pressure-retaining components of the reactor coolant pressure boundary to provide adequate margins of safety during any condition of normal operation, including anticipated operational occurrences, to which the pressure boundary may be subjected over its service lifetime. Section IV.A.2 of this appendix requires that the reactor vessel be operated with P/T limits at least as conservative as those obtained by following the methods of analysis and the required margins of safety of Appendix G of the ASME Code, Section XI.

Appendix G of Section XI of the ASME Code requires that the P/T limits be calculated (a) using a safety factor of

2 on the principal membrane (pressure) stresses, (b) assuming a flaw at the surface with a depth of one-quarter ( $1/4$ ) of the vessel wall thickness and a length of 6 times its depth, and (c) using a conservative fracture toughness curve that is based on the lower bound of static, dynamic, and crack arrest fracture toughness tests on material similar to the Point Beach reactor vessel material.

In determining the setpoint for LTOP events, the licensee proposed to use safety margins based on an alternate methodology consistent with the ASME Code Case N-514 guidelines. The ASME Code Case N-514 allows determination of the setpoint for LTOP events such that the maximum pressure in the vessel would not exceed 110 percent of the P/T limits of the existing ASME Code, Section XI, Appendix G. This approach results in a safety factor of 1.8 on pressure. All other factors, including assumed flaw size and fracture toughness, remain the same. Although this methodology would reduce the safety factor on pressure, it was demonstrated in the Bases of the ASME Code Case N-514 that due to the isothermal nature of LTOP events, the margin with respect to toughness for LTOP transients is within the range provided by ASME, Section XI, Appendix G for normal heatup and cooldown in the low temperature range. Thus, applying Code Case N-514 will satisfy the underlying purpose of 10 CFR 50.60 for fracture toughness requirements. Further, by relieving the operational restrictions, the potential for undesirable lifting of the PORV would be reduced, thereby improving plant safety.

### IV

For the foregoing reasons, the NRC staff has concluded that the licensee's proposed use of the alternate methodology in determining the acceptable setpoint for LTOP events will not present an undue risk to public health and safety and is consistent with the common defense and security. The NRC staff has determined that there are special circumstances present, as specified in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), in that application of 10 CFR 50.60 is not necessary in order to achieve the underlying purpose of this regulation.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), an exemption is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.60 such that in determining the setpoint for LTOP

events, the Appendix G curves for P/T limits are not exceeded by more than 10 percent. This exemption is applicable only to LTOP conditions during normal operation.

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 (61 FR 66062).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of January 1997.

Frank J. Miraglia

*Acting Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 97-2537 Filed 1-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

### Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee; Open Committee Meeting

According to the provisions of section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), notice is hereby given that meetings of the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 1997.

The meeting will start at 10:45 a.m. and will be held in Room 5A06A, Office of Personnel Management Building, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee is composed of a Chair, five representatives from labor unions holding exclusive bargaining rights for Federal blue-collar employees, and five representatives from Federal agencies. Entitlement to membership on the Committee is provided for in 5 U.S.C. 5347.

The Committee's primary responsibility is to review the Prevailing Rate System and other matters pertinent to establishing prevailing rates under subchapter IV, chapter 53, 5 U.S.C., as amended, and from time to time advise the Office of Personnel Management.

These scheduled meetings will start in open session with both labor and management representatives attending. During the meeting either the labor members or the management members may caucus separately with the Chair to devise strategy and formulate positions. Premature disclosure of the matters discussed in these caucuses would unacceptably impair the ability of the Committee to reach a consensus on the matters being considered and would disrupt substantially the disposition of

its business. Therefore, these caucuses will be closed to the public because of a determination made by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management under the provisions of section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B). These caucuses may, depending on the issues involved, constitute a substantial portion of the meeting.

Annually, the Chair compiles a report of pay issues discussed and concluded recommendations. These reports are available to the public, upon written request to the Committee's Secretary.

The public is invited to submit material in writing to the Chair on Federal Wage System pay matters felt to be deserving of the Committee's attention. Additional information on these meetings may be obtained by contacting the Committee's Secretary, Office of Personnel Management, Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee, Room 5559, 1900 E Street NW., Washington, DC 20415 (202) 606-1500.

Dated: January 27, 1997.

Phyllis G. Foley,

*Chair, Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee.*

[FR Doc. 97-2614 Filed 1-31-97; 8:45 am]

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### **The National Partnership Council; Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**TIME AND DATE:** 1 p.m., February 12, 1997.

**PLACE:** OPM Conference Center, Room 1350, Theodore Roosevelt Building, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415-0001. The conference center is located on the first floor.

**STATUS:** This meeting will be open to the public. Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Individuals with special access needs wishing to attend should contact OPM at the number shown below to obtain appropriate accommodations.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** The National Partnership Council (NPC) will receive a briefing on the status of career transition services to Federal employees. Also, there will be a presentation of the NPC Project Team plan for working with labor-management partnerships that are facing difficulties, and a presentation on the findings of the Senior Executives

Association survey of senior executives in the Federal Government.

#### **CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Michael Cushing, Director, Center for Partnership and Labor-Management Relations, Office of Personnel Management, Theodore Roosevelt Building, 1900 E Street, NW., Room 7H28, Washington, DC 20415-0001, (202) 606-0010.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We invite interested persons and organizations to submit written comments. Mail or deliver your comments to Michael Cushing at the address shown above. To be considered at the February 12 meeting, written comments should be received by February 7.

Office of Personnel Management.

James B. King,

*Director.*

[FR Doc. 97-2615 Filed 1-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-M

### **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

[File No. 1-9307]

#### **Issuer Delisting; Notice of Application To Withdraw From Listing and Registration; (Gundle/SLT Environmental, Inc., Common Stock, \$0.01 Par Value)**

January 28, 1997.

Gundle/SLT Environmental, Inc. ("Company") has filed an application with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to Section 12(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") and Rule 12d2-2(d) promulgated thereunder, to withdraw the above specified security ("Security") from listing and registration on the American Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Amex").

The reasons alleged in the application for withdrawing the Security from listing and registration include the following:

According to the Company, it has complied with Rule 18 of the Amex by filing with such Exchange a certified copy of preambles and resolutions adopted by the Company's Board of Directors authorizing the withdrawal of its security from listing on the Amex and by setting forth in detail to such Exchange the reasons for such proposed withdrawal, and the facts in support thereof. The Security of the Company has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE") as of December 10, 1996. In making the decision to withdraw the Security from listing on the Amex, the Company considered the

sufficient liquidity provided by its listing on the NYSE and the corresponding reduction in benefits provided by the costs associated with maintaining the Amex listing.

Any interested person may, on or before February 19, 1997, submit by letter to the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549, facts bearing upon whether the application has been made in accordance with the rules of the exchanges and what terms, if any, should be imposed by the Commission for the protection of investors. The Commission, based on the information submitted to it, will issue an order granting the application after the date mentioned above, unless the Commission determines to order a hearing on the matter.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.

Jonathan G. Katz,

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-2560 Filed 1-31-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

[Release No. 34-38211; File No. SR-CSE-96-05]

#### **Self-Regulatory Organizations; Order Approving Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 Thereto by the Cincinnati Stock Exchange Relating to Day Trading Margin Requirements**

January 28, 1997.

On August 15, 1996, the Cincinnati Stock Exchange ("CSE" or "Exchange") submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission"), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),<sup>1</sup> and Rule 16b-4 thereunder,<sup>2</sup> a proposed rule change to implement Rule 6.2, Day Trading Margin. Notice of the proposed rule change was published for comment and appeared in the Federal Register on September 12, 1996.<sup>3</sup> One comment letter was received on the proposal.<sup>4</sup> In response to the comment letter, the Exchange filed Amendment No. 1 to the proposal which was published in the Federal Register on December 19,

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

<sup>3</sup> See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 37653 (September 6, 1996), 61 FR 48185 (September 12, 1996).

<sup>4</sup> See letter from James E. Buck, Senior Vice President and Secretary, New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("NYSE"), to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Commission, dated October 10, 1996.