

issuance of a license amendment (LA) to materials license SUB-1010 issued to Sequoyah Fuels Corp. (SFC), to remove license conditions controlling flammable substances near the uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) cylinders at its site near Gore, Oklahoma, per SFC request dated November 19, 1999.

On November 21, 1994, SFC requested a license amendment to remove the requirements for an emergency plan (EP) because the facility was no longer operating. License conditions to preclude a uranium uptake by members of the public from postulated fire involving UF₆ cylinders were added to the license. LA number 20 was approved on February 1, 1995.

In 1998, SFC commenced activities to wash all remaining cylinders. SFC has completed cylinder washing, thereby removing the residual UF₆, so the postulated fire-related event could not result in a uranium uptake by a member of the public. Therefore, SFC wishes to remove the license conditions. An NRC administrative review, documented in a letter to SFC dated December 22, 1999, found the request for a LA acceptable to begin a technical review.

If the NRC approves the LA, the approval will be documented in a LA to NRC's license SUB-1010. However, before approving the proposed LA, NRC will need to make the findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and NRC's regulations. These findings will be documented in a Safety Evaluation Report and an Environmental Assessment.

NRC hereby provides notice that this is a proceeding on an application for an amendment of a license falling within the scope of Subpart L, "Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudication in Materials Licensing Proceedings," of NRC's rules of practice for domestic licensing proceedings in 10 CFR Part 2. Pursuant to § 2.1205(a), any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a request for a hearing in accordance with § 2.1205(d). A request for a hearing must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date of publication of this **Federal Register** notice.

The request for a hearing must be filed with the Office of the Secretary either:

1. By delivery to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738; between 7:45 am and 4:15 pm Federal workdays; or

2. By mail, telegram, or facsimile addressed to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington,

DC 20555-0001. Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

In accordance with 10 CFR § 2.1205(f), each request for a hearing must also be served, by delivering it personally or by mail, to:

1. The applicant, Sequoyah Fuels Corporation, PO Box 610, Gore, Oklahoma, Attention: Mr. John Ellis, and;

2. The NRC staff, by delivery to the Executive Director for Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738, between 7:45 am and 4:15 pm Federal workdays, or by mail, addressed to the Executive Director for Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

In addition to meeting other applicable requirements of 10 CFR Part 2 of NRC's regulations, a request for a hearing filed by a person other than an applicant must describe in detail:

1. The interest of the requester in the proceeding;

2. How that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, including the reasons why the requester should be permitted a hearing, with particular reference to the factors set out in § 2.1205(h);

3. The requester's areas of concern about the licensing activity that is the subject matter of the proceeding; and

4. The circumstance establishing that the request for a hearing is timely in accordance with § 2.1205(d).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: The application for the LA and supporting documentation are available for inspection on NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>. Questions with respect to this action should be referred to Mr. James Shepherd, Decommissioning Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Telephone: (301) 415-6712. Fax: (301) 415-5398.

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

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Larry W. Camper,

Chief, Decommissioning Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 00-1731 Filed 1-24-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting; Notice

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATE: Weeks of January 24, 31, February 7 and 14, 2000.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of January 24

Tuesday, January 25

9:00 a.m. Briefing on NRC Staff's Response to DOE's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a Proposed HLW Geologic Repository (Public Meeting).

Wednesday, January 26

9:25 a.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed).

9:30 a.m. Briefing on Status of NMSS Programs, Performance, and Plans (Public Meeting) (Contact: Claudia Seelig, 301-415-7243).

Week of January 31—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of January 31.

Week of February 7—Tentative

Wednesday, February 9

10:00 a.m. Briefing on Status of Research Programs, Performance, and Plans (Including Status of Thermo-Hydraulics) (Public Meeting) (Contact: Jocelyn Mitchell, 301-415-5289).

Thursday, February 10

9:25 a.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed).

9:30 a.m. Briefing on Status of CFO Programs, Performance, and Plans (Public Meeting).

Friday, February 11

9:30 a.m. Briefing on Status of Spent Fuel Projects (Public Meeting).

Week of February 14—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of February 14.

The schedule for commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415-1292. Contact person for more information: Bill Hill (301) 415-1661.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: By a vote of 5-0 on January 10, the Commission determined pursuant to U.S.C. 552b(e) and § 9.107(a) of the Commission's rules

that "Discussion of Management Issues (Closed—Ex. 2)" be held on January 10, and on less than one week's notice to the public.

The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm>

This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to it, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations Branch, Washington, DC 20555 (301-415-1661). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to wmh@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: January 20, 2000.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

Secy Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.
[FR Doc. 00-1792 Filed 1-21-00; 12:53 pm]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Staff Meetings Open to the Public: Proposed Policy Statement

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Proposed policy statement.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) proposes to revise Section D of its current policy statement that NRC staff follows in opening to public observation meetings between the NRC staff and one or more outside persons. The NRC proposes to announce via the Internet from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov>, its staff meetings that will be open to the public. The NRC proposes to discontinue announcing public staff meetings, meeting changes, and cancellations through its public meeting notice system provided by NRC's electronic bulletin board and a telephone recording, and through the Weekly Compilation of Press Releases and posting in the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR). The policy would also be amended to state that staff meetings will be announced as soon as the staff is certain that a meeting will be held and firm arrangements have been made, but generally no fewer than 10 calendar days before the meeting. Also, the policy would be amended to eliminate the current practice of only posting meetings scheduled within 60 days.

The Commission will not finalize revisions to the Policy Statement or

discontinue its current methods of informing the public of open staff meetings until public comments have been received and evaluated as to whether changes in the proposed course are warranted.

DATES: Submit comments by March 27, 2000. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is only able to guarantee its consideration of comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

Hand deliver comments to: 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., on Federal workdays.

Examine comments received at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW. (Lower level), Washington, D.C.

A copy of NRC's current Policy Statement on Staff Meetings Open to the Public and this proposed revision to the policy statement are available at the NRC's rulemaking Web site at <http://ruleforum.llnl.gov>. This site also enables you to submit comments on the proposed policy statement. Comments may be uploaded as files (any format), if your Web browser supports that function. For information about the interactive rulemaking Web site, contact Ms. Carol Gallagher, 301-415-5905; email: cag@nrc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Craig, Office of the Executive Director for Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Telephone: 301-415-8703; email: jwc1@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The NRC first published its policy on open staff meetings in the **Federal Register** on June 28, 1978 (43 FR 28058). Subsequently, the NRC published a new Policy Statement on Staff Meetings Open to the Public in the **Federal Register** on September 20, 1994 (59 FR 48340). Section D of that policy statement implemented an electronic bulletin board and a telephone recording as the primary mechanisms for announcing staff meetings open to the public.

II. Proposed Change to the Policy Statement

The proposed change would revise Section D to state that staff meetings open to the public will be announced via the Internet from the NRC Web site,

(<http://www.nrc.gov>). In 1997, the NRC began to announce staff meetings open to the public on the NRC Web site, in addition to the two mechanisms indicated in Section D. The public is provided access to the NRC Web site in the NRC Public Document Room, and may access it from personal computers as well. The NRC staff studied the use of the Electronic Bulletin Board and telephone recordings of the Public Meeting Notice System and compared this use with the same information provided via the Internet. The Bulletin Board averaged 33 calls per month and the telephone recording averaged 49 calls per month, as compared to 1,465 views per month of this information on the Internet. It has become apparent that with the increasing use of the Internet to obtain information, the NRC Web site is the primary mechanism by which the public accesses announcements of NRC staff meetings open to the public. Additionally, the study revealed that the public does not rely on the telephone recording to determine if meetings have been changed or canceled. The public usually contacts the NRC staff person listed in each meeting announcement, or accesses the NRC Web site to determine if there is a change in the schedule or location of a meeting. Consequently, the Commission has determined that the Electronic Bulletin Board and the telephone recording are not used sufficiently to merit continuation. Furthermore, the NRC does not believe that eliminating the telephone recording will adversely affect the ability of the public to find out whether meetings have been changed or canceled. The NRC plans to retain the telephone number, with a new recording that refers the public to the NRC Web site and the toll-free telephone number of the PDR. For people who cannot access the NRC Web site, assistance on scheduled NRC meetings will be available through NRC staff at the PDR, by calling toll-free 1-800-397-4209.

The NRC does not distribute a summary compilation of meeting notices in the Weekly Compilation of Press Releases; therefore, that provision in Section D has been eliminated. Also, because the public can gain access to the NRC Web site using a computer at the PDR, the proposed revision no longer requires that paper copies of meeting notices be posted at the PDR. Specific comments regarding the discontinuation of announcing staff public meetings through the electronic bulletin board and telephone recording and through the weekly compilation of