

whether the information will have practical utility;

- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

**Current Actions:** The Department has not modified the ICR incorporated in the April 8 Interim Rules, but intends to submit the ICR to OMB for continued clearance. Comments received in response to this notice will be incorporated in the submission to OMB. The existing collection of information should be continued because it implements disclosure provisions mandated by the portability provisions enacted in section 701 of HIPAA. Specifically, this ICR implements statutory requirements for establishing prior creditable coverage. Under the April 8 Interim Rules, a group health plan is obligated to provide a written certificate of information suitable for establishing prior creditable coverage of a participant or beneficiary. To the extent that a certification is not available or is inadequate to prove prior creditable coverage, alternative methods of establishing creditable coverage are provided.

The April 8 Interim Rules offer model certification and notice forms to be used by group health plans and health insurance issuers, containing the minimum information mandated by the statute.

**Agency:** Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

**Title:** Establishing Prior Creditable Coverage.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**OMB Number:** 1210-0103.

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, Individuals or households.

**Frequency of Response:** On occasion.

**Respondents:** 15,604.

**Responses:** 8,000,000.

**Total Estimated Burden Hours:** 336,060.

**Total Burden Cost (Operating and Maintenance):** \$31,800,000.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the

information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 22, 1999.

**Gerald B. Lindrew,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Research, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.*

[FR Doc. 99-33601 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4510-29-M**

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 99-163]

### NASA Advisory Council (NAC), Space Science Advisory Committee (SScAC), Sun-Earth Connection Advisory Subcommittee.

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a meeting of the NASA Advisory Council, Space Science Advisory Committee, Sun-Earth Connection Advisory Subcommittee.

**DATES:** Tuesday, January 25, 2000, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, January 26, 2000, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Thursday, January 27, 2000, 8:30 a.m. to 12 Noon.

**ADDRESS:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 300 E Street, SW, Conference Room 7H46, Washington, DC 20546.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

George L. Withbroe, Code S, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546, (202) 358-2150.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be open to the public up to the capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Overview of Strategic Plan and Present Status

Roadmap Process & Lessons Learned  
Roadmap Team

Office of Space Science Status Report  
Living with a Star Initiative and Status  
Global Electrodynamics Connector  
Education/Public Outreach Processes  
and Status Review in Sun-Earth Connection

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitor's register.

Dated: December 16, 1999.

**Matthew M. Crouch,**

*Advisory Committee Management Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

[FR Doc. 99-33557 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7510-01-P**

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY

### Meeting Notice

**AGENCY:** National Institute for Literacy.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Institute for Literacy Board (Board). This notice also describes the function of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This document is intended to notify the general public of their opportunity to attend the meeting.

**DATE AND TIME:** January 12, 2000 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**ADDRESS:** National Institute for Literacy, 1775 I Street, NW, Suite 730, Washington, DC 20006.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shelly Coles, Executive Assistant, National Institute for Literacy, 1775 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone (202) 233-2027.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Board is established under Section 384 of the Adult Education Act, as amended by Title I of Pub. L. 102-73, the National Literacy Act of 1991. The Board consists of ten individuals appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board is established to advise and make recommendations to the Interagency Group, composed of the Secretaries of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services, which administers the National Institute for Literacy (Institute). The Interagency Group considers the Board's recommendations in planning the goals of the Institute and in the implementation of any programs to achieve the goals of the Institute.

Specifically, the Board performs the following functions: (a) Makes recommendations concerning the appointment of the director and the staff of the Institute; (b) provides independent advice on operation of the Institute; and (c) receives reports from the Interagency Group and Director of the Institute. In addition, the Institute consults with the Board on the award of fellowships.

The National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board will be meeting on January 12, 2000. The Board will

discuss: (1) Plans for the National Literacy Summit to be held in February; and (2) NIFL's Equipped for the Future standards guide. Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the National Institute for Literacy, 1775 I Street, NW, Suite 730, Washington, DC 20006 from 8:30 am to 5 p.m.

Dated: December 22, 1999.

**Andrew J. Hartman,**

*Director, National Institute for Literacy.*

[FR Doc. 99-33577 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6055-01-M

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-295 and 50-304]

### In the Matter of Commonwealth Edison Company (Zion Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2); Exemption

#### I

Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd or the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-39 and DPR-48, which authorize the licensee to possess the Zion Nuclear Power Station (ZNPS). The license states, among other things, that the facility is subject to all the rules, regulations, and orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC) now or hereafter in effect. The facility consists of two pressurized-water reactors located at the ComEd site on the west shore of Lake Michigan about 40 miles north of Chicago, Illinois, in the extreme eastern portion of the city of Zion, Illinois (Lake County). The facility is permanently shut down and defueled, and the licensee is no longer authorized to operate or place fuel in the reactor.

#### II

Section 50.54(w) of 10 CFR Part 50 requires power reactor licensees to maintain onsite property damage insurance coverage in the amount of \$1.06 billion or whatever amount of insurance is generally available from private sources, whichever is less. Section 140.11(a)(4) of 10 CFR Part 140 requires a reactor with a rated capacity of 100,000 electrical kilowatts or more to maintain liability insurance of \$200 million and to participate in a secondary insurance pool.

NRC may grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 of the regulations, which pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), (1) are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health and safety, and are consistent

with the common defense and security, and (2) present special circumstances. Special circumstances exist when (1) application of the regulation in the particular circumstance would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule (10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii)), or (2) compliance would result in undue hardship or costs that are significantly in excess of those incurred by others similarly situated. The underlying purpose of Section 50.54(w) is to provide sufficient property damage insurance coverage to ensure funding for onsite post-accident recovery stabilization and decontamination costs in the unlikely event of an accident at a nuclear power plant.

Also, the NRC may grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 140 of the regulations, which pursuant to 10 CFR 140.8, are authorized by law and are otherwise in the public interest. The underlying purpose of Section 140.11 is to provide sufficient liability insurance to ensure funding for claims resulting from a nuclear incident or a precautionary evacuation.

#### III

On October 22, 1999, ComEd requested an exemption from the financial protection requirement limits of 10 CFR 50.54(w) and 10 CFR 140.11(a)(4). ComEd requested that the amount of insurance coverage it must maintain be reduced to \$50 million for onsite property damage and \$100 million for offsite financial protection and to withdraw from participation in the secondary liability insurance pool. The licensee stated that special circumstances exist because of the permanently shutdown and defueled condition of ZNPS.

The financial protection limits of 10 CFR 50.54(w) and 10 CFR 140.11 were established to require a licensee to maintain sufficient insurance to cover the costs of a nuclear accident at an operating reactor. Those costs were derived from the consequences of a release of radioactive material from the reactor. In a permanently shutdown and defueled reactor facility, the reactor will never again be operated, thus eliminating the possibility of accidents involving the reactor. The Defueled Safety Analysis Report (DSAR) analyzed the remaining design basis accidents that are relevant at ZNPS in its defueled condition. These are: a loss of spent fuel inventory and cooling; a fuel handling accident in the fuel building; and a radioactive waste handling accident. The staff evaluated these accidents in the safety evaluation supporting the

ZNPS exemption from offsite emergency planning requirements dated August 31, 1999. In its analysis, the staff determined that the radiological consequences of the design basis accidents cannot exceed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) early-phase Protective Action Guidelines (PAGs) of 1.0 rem.

The ZNPS was shut down in February 1997. The decay heat from the spent fuel stored in the spent fuel pool decreases over time. In this regard, the staff has determined that as of June 1999, air cooling of the fuel would be sufficient to maintain the integrity of the fuel cladding, and a complete loss of water from the ZNPS spent fuel pool (SFP) would not result in an offsite release of fission products exceeding the EPA early-phase PAGs.

In SECY 96-256, "Changes to the Financial Protection Requirements for Permanently Shutdown Nuclear Power Reactors, 10 CFR 50.54(w) and 10 CFR 140.11," dated December 17, 1996, the staff estimated the onsite cleanup costs of accidents considered to be the most costly at a permanently defueled site with spent fuel stored in the SFP. The staff found that the onsite recovery costs for a fuel-handling accident could range up to \$24 million. The estimated onsite cleanup costs to recover from the rupture of a large liquid radwaste storage tank could range up to \$50 million. The proposed insurance coverage levels in SECY 96-256 were calculated on a per-reactor basis and each reactor at a multi-unit site would be treated as having its own SFP. Although ZNPS is a two-reactor site, there is only one SFP. Therefore, the licensee's proposed level of \$50 million for onsite property insurance is sufficient to cover these estimated cleanup costs.

The offsite cleanup costs of the accident scenarios previously discussed are estimated to be negligible in SECY 96-256. However, a licensee's liability for offsite costs may be significant as a result of lawsuits alleging damages from offsite releases. Experience at Three Mile Island Unit 2 showed that significant judgments against a licensee are possible despite negligible dose consequences from an offsite release. An appropriate level of financial liability coverage is needed to account for potential judgments and settlements and to protect the Federal Government from indemnity claims. The licensee's proposed level of \$100 million in primary offsite liability coverage is sufficient for this purpose.

The staff has determined that participation in the secondary insurance pool for offsite financial protection is