Date and Time: January 10, 1997: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Place: Room 1120, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Person: Dr. Odile de la Beaujardiere, Program Director, Arctic Natural Sciences, Office of Polar Programs, Room 740, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 306–1029.

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

Agenda: To review and evaluate Arctic Natural Sciences Interdisciplinary 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 17, 1996.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 96–32447 Filed 12–20–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Notice of pending NRC action to submit an information collection request to OMB and solicitation of public comment.

SUMMARY: The NRC is preparing a submittal to OMB for review of continued approval of information collections under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Information Pertaining to the Requirement to be Submitted

1. *The title of the information collection:* 10 CFR Part 140, ''Financial Protection Requirements and Indemnity Agreements''

2. *Current OMB approval number:* 3150–0039

3. *How often the collection is required:* As necessary in order for NRC to meet its responsibilities called for in Sections 170 and 193 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act)

4. *Who is required or asked to report:* Licensees authorized to operate reactor facilities in accordance with 10 CFR Part 50 and licensees authorized to construct and operate a uranium enrichment facility in accordance with 10 CFR Parts 40 and 70

5. *The number of annual respondents:* Approximately 192

6. *The number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request:* 865

7. *Abstract:* 10 CFR Part 140 of the NRC's regulations specified information required to be submitted by licensees to enable the NRC to assess (a) the financial protection required of licensees and for the indemnification and limitation of liability of certain licensees and other persons pursuant to Section 170 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and (b) the liability insurance required of uranium enrichment facility licensees pursuant to Section 193 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Submit, by Febraury 21, 1997, comments that address the following questions:

1. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the NRC to properly perform its functions? Does the information have practical utility?

2. Is the burden estimate accurate?

3. Is there a way to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?

4. How can the burden of the information collection be minimized, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

A copy of the draft supporting statement may be viewed free of charge at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., (lower level), Washington, DC. Members of the public who are in the Washington, DC area can access this document via modem on the Public Document Room Bulletin Board (NRC's Advanced Copy Document Library), NRC subsystem at FedWorld, 703–321–3339. Members of the public who are located outside of the Washington, DC area can dial FedWorld, 1–800–303–9672, or use the FedWorld Internet address: fedworld.gov (Telnet). The document will be available on the bulletin board for 30 days after the signature date of this notice. If assistance is needed in accessing the document, please contact the FedWorld help desk at 703–487–4608. Additional assistance in locating the document is available from the NRC Public Document Room, nationally at 1–800–397–4209, or within the Washington, DC area at 202–634–3273.

Comments and questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the NRC Clearance Officer, Brenda Jo. Shelton, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, T–6 F33, Washington, DC 20555–0001, by telephone at (301) 415–7233, or by Internet electronic mail at BJS1@NRC.GOV.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of December 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Gerald F. Cranford,

Designated Senior Official for Information Resources Management.

[FR Doc. 96–32487 Filed 12–20–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

[Docket No. 50–353]

PECO Energy Company; 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. NPF–85 issued to PECO Energy Company (the licensee) for operation of the Limerick Generating Station (LGS), Unit 2, located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

The proposed amendment would revise technical specification (TS) Section 2.1 and its associated TS basis to reflect the change in the Minimum Critical Power Ratio Safety Limit, due to the use of GE13 fuel product line and the cycle-specific analysis performed by the General Electric Company (GE), for LGS, Unit 2, Cycle 5.

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

The Commission has made a proposed determination 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:

1. The proposed Technical Specifications (TS) change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

The derivation of the revised Minimum Critical Power Ratio (MCPR) Safety Limit for LGS Unit 2 Technical Specifications, and its use to determine cycle-specific thermal limits have been performed using NRC-accepted methodology described in ''General Electric Standard Application for Reactor Fuel,'' NEDE–24011–P–A–13, and U.S. Supplement, NEDE–24011–P–A–13–US, August 1996 and the Technical Design Procedure (''GETAB Safety Limit'', TDP–0049, Revision 0, July 1996). This change in the MCPR Safety Limit cannot increase the probability or severity of an accident.

The basis of the MCPR Safety Limit calculation is to ensure that greater than 99.9% of all fuel rods in the core avoid transition boiling if the limit is not violated. The new MCPR Safety Limit preserves the existing margin to transition boiling and fuel damage in the event of a postulated accident. The fuel licensing acceptance criteria for the calculation of the MCPR Safety Limit apply to Limerick Generating Station (LGS), Unit 2, Cycle 5 in the same manner as they have applied previously. The probability of fuel damage is not increased.

Therefore, the proposed TS change does not involve an increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. The proposed TS change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

The MCPR Safety Limit is a TS numerical value, designed to ensure that fuel damage from transition boiling does not occur as a result of the limiting postulated accident. It cannot create the possibility of any new type of accident. The new Minimum Critical Power Ratio (MCPR) Safety Limit is calculated using NRC-accepted methodology described in ''General Electric Standard Application for Reactor Fuel,'' NEDE–24011–P–A–13, and U.S. Supplement, NEDE–24011–P–A–13–US, August 1996 and the Technical Design Procedure (''GETAB Safety Limit'', TDP–0049, Revision 0, July 1996).

Therefore, the proposed TS change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident, from any accident previously evaluated.

3. The proposed TS change does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The margin of safety as defined in the TS Bases will remain the same. The new Minimum Critical Power Ratio (MCPR) Safety Limit is calculated using NRC-accepted methodology described in ''General Electric Standard Application for Reactor Fuel,'' NEDE–24011–P–A–13, and U.S. Supplement, NEDE–24011–P–A–13–US, August 1996 and the Technical Design Procedure (''GETAB Safety Limit'', TDP–0049, Revision 0, July 1996). The fuel licensing acceptance criteria for the calculation of the MCPR Safety Limit apply to LGS Unit 2, Cycle 5 in the same manner as they have applied previously. The MCPR Safety Limit is set high enough to ensure that greater than 99.9% of all fuel rods in the core avoid transition boiling if the limit is not violated, thereby preserving the fuel cladding integrity.

Therefore, the proposed TS change does not involve a reduction in a margin of safety.

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 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

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 Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications 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 6D22, 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, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

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

By January 22, 1997, 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 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 Pottstown Public Library, 500 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464. 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.

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 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: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last 10 days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1–(800) 248–5100 (in Missouri 1–(800) 342–6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number N1023 and the following message addressed to John F. Stolz, Director, Project Directorate I–2: petitioner's name and telephone number, date petition was mailed, plant name, and publication date and page number of this Federal Register notice. 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 J. W. Durham, Sr., Esquire, Sr. V.P. and General Counsel, Philadelphia Electric Company, 2301 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101, 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).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated December 6, 1996, 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 Pottstown Public Library, 500 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 17th day of December 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Joseph W. Shea,

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

[FR Doc. 96–32488 Filed 12–20–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

[Project No. 697]

Notice of Receipt of DOE Topical Report on Tritium Producing Burnable Poison Rod Lead Test Assemblies

In order to maintain the strategic stockpile, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is considering the use of commercial light water reactors to produce tritium. On December 4, 1996, DOE submitted a topical report to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) entitled, ''Report on the Evaluation of the Tritium Producing Burnable Absorber Rod Lead Test Assembly,'' intended to demonstrate that the use of a commercial light-water reactor to irradiate a limited number of lithium burnable poison rods in lead test assemblies (LTAs) does not raise generic issues involving an unreviewed safety question.

The NRC staff will prepare a safety evaluation on the DOE report to address, on a preliminary basis, the acceptability of licensees undertaking irradiation of the LTAs under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.59.

Upon completion of its evaluation, the staff will present its conclusions to the Commission prior to issuance.

The staff plans to hold public meetings to provide for public comment regarding the technical issues early in the evaluation process. In addition, the staff plans to hold a public meeting in the vicinity of the host reactor prior to loading the LTAs into the reactor. The date and location of the meetings will be announced later.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: J.H. Wilson at (301) 415–1108.

For further details with respect to this action, see the DOE topical report submitted by letter dated December 4, 1996, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of December, 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

David B. Matthews,

Acting Director, Division of Reactor Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 96–32489 Filed 12–20–96; 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—

Thursday, January 16, 1997
Thursday, January 23, 1997
Thursday, February 13, 1997
Thursday, February 27, 1997
Thursday, March 13, 1997
Thursday, March 27, 1997

The meetings 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