

Place: Room 643, National Science Foundation, 1800 G Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20550.

Type of meeting: Closed.

Contact person: Dr. Philip Harriman, Program Director, Prokaryotic Genetic, Room 329; Telephone: 202/357-9687.

Purpose of subpanel: To provide advice and recommendations concerning support for research instrumentation.

Agenda: To review and evaluate research 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 within exemptions (4) and (6) of 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), Government in the Sunshine Act.

Authority to close meeting: This determination was made by the Committee Management Officer pursuant to provisions of section 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463. The Committee Management Officer was delegated the authority to make such determinations by the Director, NSF, on July 6, 1979.

Dated: September 19, 1984.

M. Rebecca Winkler,
Committee Management Coordinator.

[FR Doc. 84-25344 Filed 9-24-84; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee on Reactor Radiological Effects; Revised Agenda

The agenda for the ACRS Subcommittee on Reactor Radiological Effects scheduled for *Thursday, September 27 and Friday, September 28, 1984*, Room 1046, 1717 H Street, NW, Washington, DC has been revised as follows: Delete from the Friday, September 28, 1984, agenda that portion of the entry which reads, "and (2) DOE on their systematic approach regarding reactor safety and radiation protection research."

All other items regarding this meeting remain the same as published on Wednesday, September 12, 1984 (49 FR 35880).

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been cancelled or rescheduled, the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefor can be obtained by a prepaid telephone call to the cognizant ACRS staff member, Mr. Owen S. Merrill (telephone 202/634-1413) between 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., EDT. Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above

named individual one or two days before the scheduled meeting to be advised of any changes in schedule, etc., which may have occurred.

Dated: September 20, 1984.

Morton W. Libarkin,
Assistant Executive Director for Project Review.

[FR Doc. 84-25371 Filed 9-24-84; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting

In accordance with the purposes of Sections 29 and 182b. of the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2039, 2232b.), the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards will hold a meeting on October 11-13, 1984, in Room 1046, 1717 H Street, NW., Washington, DC. Notice of this meeting was published in the *Federal Register* on August 21, 1984.

The agenda for the subject meeting will be as follows:

Thursday, October 11, 1984

8:30 A.M.-8:45 A.M.: ACRS Chairman's Report (Open)—The ACRS Chairman will report briefly on matters of current interest.

8:45 A.M.-10:45 A.M.: Evaluation of Nuclear Power Plant Incidents/Accidents (Open)—The Committee members will discuss proposed ACRS comments and recommendations regarding the need for an independent board to investigate and evaluate accidents and incidents which occur in nuclear facilities.

10:45 A.M.-12:00 Noon: Selection of Unresolved Safety Issues (Open)—The members of the Committee will hear reports from cognizant ACRS subcommittee chairmen and will discuss proposed ACRS comments regarding the NRC Staff review and categorization of high priority unresolved generic issues. Members of the NRC Staff will participate as appropriate.

1:00 P.M.-2:00 P.M.: Experience Levels for Reactor Operators (Open)—The members will discuss experience requirements for nuclear power plant operating personnel.

2:00 P.M.-3:30 P.M.: Meeting with NRC Commissioners (Open)—The members of the Committee will meet with the NRC Commissioners to discuss ACRS comments and recommendations regarding the need for an independent board to investigate and evaluate incidents and accidents that occur in nuclear facilities.

3:30 P.M.-5:15 P.M.: ACRS Subcommittee Activities (Open/Closed)—The members will hear and discuss the reports of cognizant ACRS

Subcommittee chairmen regarding current subcommittee activities including resolution of USI A-45, Shutdown Decay Heat Removal Requirements, and BWR pipe cracking.

Portions of this session will be closed to discuss information provided in confidence by foreign sources.

5:15 P.M.-6:00 P.M.: Future ACRS Activities (Open)—The members will discuss anticipated ACRS Subcommittee activities and items proposed for consideration by the full Committee.

Friday, October 12, 1984

8:30 A.M.-9:30 A.M.: NRR Activities (Open)—The members will hear a report regarding NRR activities from the Director, NRR.

9:30 A.M.-12:00 Noon: Pressurized Thermal Shock (Open)—The members will hear and discuss the report of its subcommittee and reports from representatives of the NRC Staff regarding the results of safety research applicable to this matter and a proposed NRC rule regarding pressurized thermal shock of reactor pressure vessels.

Portions of this session will be closed to discuss Proprietary Information applicable to the matter being discussed.

1:00 P.M.-3:30 P.M.: Backfitting of Nuclear Facilities (Open)—The members will hear and discuss the reports of its subcommittee and representatives of the NRC Staff regarding proposed NRC requirements regarding the management of backfitting requirements for nuclear power plants. Representatives of the nuclear industry will participate as appropriate.

3:30 P.M.-4:30 P.M.: Reactor Operating Experience (Open)—The members will hear and discuss reports from representatives of the NRC Staff regarding recent operating events and incidents at nuclear power plants.

4:30 P.M.-6:00 P.M.: ACRS Subcommittee Activities (Closed)—The members will hear and discuss the report of its Subcommittee on Maintenance Practices and Procedures regarding maintenance policies and practices in Japanese nuclear power plants. The members will also discuss proposed activities of its Subcommittee on Regulatory Policies and Practices.

This portion of the meeting will be closed to discuss information provided in confidence by a foreign source.

Saturday, October 13, 1984

8:30 A.M.-12:00 Noon: ACRS Reports (Open/Closed)—The members will discuss proposed ACRS comments and recommendations to the NRC regarding topics considered during this meeting.

Portions of this session will be closed as necessary to discuss Proprietary Information applicable to the matters being discussed and information provided in confidence by foreign sources.

1:00 P.M.-2:30 P.M.: ACRS Subcommittee Activities (Open)—The members will hear and discuss the reports of its subcommittees regarding current activities including performance of fire protection systems in nuclear power plants, PRA for the Limerick Nuclear Station, quality assurance during design and construction of nuclear facilities, and residual contamination limits at decommissioned nuclear facilities.

2:30 P.M.-3:30 P.M.: ACRS Reports (Open/Closed)—The members will complete discussion of proposed ACRS comments and recommendations regarding matters considered during this meeting.

Portions of this session will be closed as necessary to discuss Proprietary Information applicable to the matters being discussed and information provided in confidence by a foreign source.

Procedures for the conduct of and participation in ACRS meetings were published in the *Federal Register* on September 28, 1983 (48 FR 44291). In accordance with these procedures, oral or written statements may be presented by members of the public, recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting when a transcript is being kept, and questions may be asked only by members of the Committee, its consultants, and Staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the ACRS Executive Director as far in advance as practicable so that appropriate arrangements can be made to allow the necessary time during the meeting for such statements. Use of still, motion picture and television cameras during this meeting may be limited to selected portions of the meeting as determined by the Chairman. Information regarding the time to be set aside for this purpose may be obtained by a prepaid telephone call to the ACRS Executive Director, R. F. Fraley, prior to the meeting. In view of the possibility that the schedule for ACRS meetings may be adjusted by the Chairman as necessary to facilitate the conduct of the meeting, persons planning to attend should check with the ACRS Executive Director if such rescheduling would result in major inconvenience.

I have determined in accordance with

Subsection 10(d) Pub. L. 92-463 that it is necessary to close portions of this meeting as noted above to discuss Proprietary Information (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4)) and information provided in confidence by a foreign source (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4)).

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been cancelled or rescheduled, the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted can be obtained by a prepaid telephone call to the ACRS Executive Director, Mr. Raymond F. Fraley (telephone 202/634-3265), between 8:15 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. EDT.

Dated: September 19, 1984.

John C. Hoyle,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 84-25370 Filed 9-24-84; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

[Docket No. 50-324]

Carolina Power & Light Co., Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2; Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an extension to the scheduler requirements of 10 CFR 50.49 to Carolina Power & Light Company (the licensee) for the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2, located at the licensee's site near Southport, North Carolina.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed Action

The extension would extend the deadline for final environmental qualification of electrical equipment within the scope of the rule from the end of the 1984 refueling outage to November 30, 1985. The proposed extension is in accordance with the licensee's request for extension dated April 25, 1984, as supplemented July 6 and August 30, 1984. In the April 25, July 6 and August 30, 1984 submittals the licensee requested an extension of the deadline until November 30, 1985 for certain items of equipment. Unit 2 is currently scheduled for a special shutdown on or before November 30, 1985 for the purpose of completing the required modifications and thereby meeting the requirements of 10 CFR 50.49(g).

The Need for the Proposed Action

10 CFR 50.49(g) requires a licensee to

complete final environmental qualification of electrical equipment within the scope of the rule by the end of the second refueling outage after March 31, 1982 or by March 31, 1985, whichever is earlier. The refueling outage which began in March 1984 is the second refueling outage at the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2 since March 31, 1982. Therefore, the regulation would require completion of final qualification at the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2 before startup from this refueling outage.

The April 25, July 6 and August 30, 1984 letters explain the process by which Carolina Power & Light Company intends to achieve final qualification of any equipment for which final qualification has not been achieved at the end of the refueling outage. Carolina Power & Light Company concluded that this process including additional analysis and testing, equipment procurement and installation, cannot be completed before the end of the outage. This process was reviewed and approved by the NRC staff.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The purpose of the final environmental qualification of electrical equipment required by 10 CFR 50.49 is to ensure that electrical equipment which is needed to achieve safe shutdown or mitigate a reactor accident is capable of performing properly under the environmental conditions which might ensue (for example, high temperature and pressure) during such an accident. The environmental impact of delaying final qualification is the slightly increased risk of radiological releases during the next twelve months of power operation which would be associated with a reactor accident if the equipment failed due to the accident environment.

To ensure that this risk is minimized, the licensee has provided justifications for continued operation for equipment for which final qualification will not be completed by the end of the outage. These justifications are based on the acceptance criteria for such justifications provided in 10 CFR 50.49. These justifications provided reasonable assurance that an accident would be properly mitigated even though the final qualification of the equipment is not complete. Therefore, this incremental risk is quite low and the releases if they did occur would be bounded by releases which have been previously determined as possible consequences for other

accidents at the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are not significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed extension.

The proposed extension involves only systems located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. Also, the proposed extension does not affect non-radiological plant effluents or other non-radiological environmental impacts. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed extension.

The principal alternative to the proposed action would be to deny the extension and not allow reactor startup until final qualification was complete. Such an action would negate the insignificant incremental risk described above. However, such an action would result in the loss of approximately twelve full power months of generated electricity, a large adverse impact.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (Operating License) for the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2).

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

Findings of No Significant Impact

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed extension.

Based upon the environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for extension dated April 25, 1984, and supplements dated July 6 and August 30, 1984, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20555, and at the Southport—Brunswick County Library, 108 W. Moore Street, Southport, North Carolina 28461.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 18th day of September, 1984.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Darrell G. Eisenhut,

Director, Division of Licensing, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 84-25375 Filed 9-24-84; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

[Docket Nos. 50-250 and 50-251]

Florida Power and Light Co.; Issuance of Amendments To Facilities Operating Licenses and Final Determination of No Significant Hazard Consideration

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has issued Amendment No. 109 to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-31, and Amendment No. 103 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-41 issued to Florida Power and Light Company (the licensee), which revised Technical Specifications for operation of the Turkey Point Plant Unit Nos. 3 and 4 (the facilities) located in Dade County, Florida. The amendments are effective as of the date of issuance and shall be implemented within 60 days of issuance.

These amendments revise Section 5.2 of the Technical Specifications to delete the present enrichment restriction of 3.5 weight per cent. The fuel storage specifications, Section 5.4, are revised to allow storage of fuel with increased enrichment in the existing new fuel storage racks, spent fuel storage racks and add an additional K_{eff} (neutron multiplication factor) requirement for the existing new fuel storage racks under conditions of low density (optimum moderation). The increase for the existing new fuel storage racks is 57.7 grams (4.5 weight per cent) of U-235 and 52.4 grams (4.1 weight per cent) of the existing spent fuel storage racks. A K_{eff} of 0.98 for optimum moderation conditions is included for the existing new fuel storage racks in addition to the existing K_{eff} of 0.95 for fully flooded with unborated water.

The application for these amendments complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations. The Commission has made appropriate findings as required by the Act and the Commission's rules and regulations in 10 CFR Chapter I, which are set forth in these license amendments.

Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments and Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the *Federal Register* (49 FR 25360) on June 20, 1984. A request for a hearing was filed on July 12, 1984, by the Center for Nuclear Responsibility, Inc. and Ms. Joette Lorian.

Under its regulations, the Commission may issue and make an amendment immediately effective, notwithstanding the pendency before it of a request for a hearing from any persons, in advance of

the holding and completion of any required hearing, where it has determined that no significant hazards consideration is involved.

The Commission has applied the standards of 10 CFR 50.92 and has made a final determination that these amendments involve no significant hazards consideration.

The basis for this determination is contained in the Safety Evaluation related to this action. Accordingly, as described above, these amendments have been issued and made immediately effective and any hearing will be held after issuance.

These amendments involve changes in the installation or use of facility components located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The staff has determined that the amendments involve no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has made a final no significant hazards consideration finding with respect to these amendments. Accordingly, these amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of these amendments.

For further details with respect to the action see (1) the application for amendments dated April 4, 1984, as supplemented on May 25, 1984 and June 15, 1984, (2) Amendment Nos. 109 and 103 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-31 and DP-41 and (3) the Commission's related Safety Evaluation. All of these items are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, NW., Washington, D.C., and at the Environmental and Urban Affairs Library, Florida International University, Miami, Florida 33199. A copy of items (2) and (3) may be obtained upon request addressed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Director, Division of Licensing.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this September 5, 1984.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

Steven A. Varga,
Chief, Operating Reactors Branch #1,
Division of Licensing.

[FR Doc. 84-25373 Filed 9-24-84; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

[Docket Nos. STN 50-498 OL, STN 50-499 OL; ASLBP No. 79-421-07 OL]

Houston Lighting and Power Co., et al. (South Texas Project Units 1 and 2); Change of Location of Prehearing Conference

September 19, 1984.

The location of the October 15-16, 1984 prehearing conference, as announced in our Order dated September 7, 1984 (49 FR 36037, September 13, 1984), has been changed from Forum Room No. 5 to Forum Rooms 1-2, Astro Village Hotel, 2350 South Loop W (I-610 at Kirby), Houston, Texas.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, September 20, 1984.

For the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

Charles Bechhoefer,

Chairman, Administrative Judge.

[FR Doc. 84-25374 Filed 9-24-84; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

[Docket No. 50-344-OLA; ASLBP No. 84-498-05 LA]

Portland General Electric Co., et al., Trojan Nuclear Plant; Notice of Reconstitution of Board

Pursuant to the authority contained in 10 CFR 2.721, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board for *Portland General Electric Co., et al.* (Trojan Nuclear Plant), Docket No. 50-344-OLA, is hereby reconstituted by appointing Administrative Judge Helen F. Hoyt in place of Administrative Judge Ivan W. Smith, who, because of a schedule conflict, is unable to serve.

As reconstituted, the Board is comprised of the following Administrative Judges: Helen F. Hoyt, Chairman, Dr. Peter A. Morris; and Dr. Oscar H. Paris.

All correspondence, documents and other material shall be filed with the Board in accordance with 10 CFR §2.701 (1980). The address of the new Board member is: Helen F. Hoyt, Chairman, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555.

Issued at Bethesda, Maryland, this 19th day of September, 1984.

B. Paul Cotter, Jr.,

Chief Administrative Judge Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel.

[FR Doc. 84-25372 Filed 9-24-84; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

**Office of Federal Procurement Policy
Federal Procurement Reforms and
General Policies Governing the
Federal Procurement Process; Public
Meeting and Request for Public
Comment**

AGENCY: Office of Federal Procurement Policy; Office of Management and Budget.

ACTION: Solicitation of views.

SUMMARY: In developing the "Proposal for a Uniform Federal Procurement System" the Office of Federal Procurement Policy recognized the desirability of greater private sector involvement in the policy development process. As one means of fostering greater public participation, OFPP holds an annual public hearing to elicit comments from interested parties with respect to existing policies, new policies or other procurement problems.

Date, Time and Location of Meeting

The meeting will be held on Friday, November 30, 1984, in Room 2010 of the New Executive Office Building, 726 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, DC. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Clearance to attend meeting: Because the security system requires advance identification of visitors, please call Brenda Harper or Margaret Davis, 202-395-6803 by noon on November 29, 1984 to advise of your attendance.

Current background: There have been several innovations in the Federal procurement process within this past year. The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) was implemented in April, establishing a single simplified regulatory base for contracting throughout the Federal Government. The statutory basis for Federal Government contracting is still split between the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, the Armed Services Procurement Act, and a multitude of less comprehensive procurement legislation so that, to some extent, different rules still do apply among Federal agencies. Nonetheless, a single primary regulation and a unified regulatory system should ease the administrative burden on those doing business with the Government as well as on Government contracting personnel.

The Executive agencies have continued to implement Executive Order 12352, "Federal Procurement Reforms." Implementation guidance was developed and furnished to the agencies by several interagency task groups under the Executive Committee on

Federal Procurement Reforms. The Executive Committee is comprised of the eight largest procuring agencies plus the Office of Personnel Management and the Small Business Administration. Two significant packages sent to the Heads of Executive Agencies and Establishments this year were: (1) Guidance for Developing Criteria to Evaluate/Certify Procurement Systems and to Enhance Competition, and (2) Guidelines for the Simplification of Small Purchases. These publications can be obtained through the OFPP Point of Contact listed below.

GOVERNMENT PRESENTATION: Attendees will be briefed on several current areas of interest. These include an update on the Study of Alternatives in the Procurement of Professional Services which OFPP was directed to do by Pub. L. 98-369. A public meeting was held on September 13 to solicit comments on this subject. A notice of the meeting, including background information on the study, was published in the *Federal Register* on August 29, 1984. Copies of the OFPP study plan can be obtained from OFPP at the address given below. Possible revisions to OMB Circulars A-76 and A-109 will also be briefing topics.

Public Presentation of Views at Meeting

Oral Presentations

You may make an oral presentation on your own behalf or as a representative of any entity or any interested group, whether public or private. If you wish to provide oral testimony, you should notify Ms. Marianne Healy by November 26 by calling 202-395-6803 or writing to the address below. Oral presentations will be limited to 10 minutes. A written summary of the presentation should be provided to OFPP on the day of the meeting.

Written Presentations

Written testimony may be submitted until November 29 to the Office of Federal Procurement Policy at the address below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Marianne Healy, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 9025, 726 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20503—(202) 395-6803.

Dated: September 20, 1984.

Donald E. Sowle,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 84-25406 Filed 9-24-84; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3110-01-M

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Excepted Service

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This gives notice of positions placed or revoked under Schedules A, B, and C in the excepted service, as required by civil service rule VI. Exceptions from the Competitive Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracy Spencer, (202) 632-6000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Personnel Management published its last monthly notice updating appointing authorities established or revoked under the Excepted Service provisions of 5 CFR Part 213 on August 28, 1984 (49 FR 34114). Individual authorities established or revoked under Schedules A, B, or C between August 1, 1984 and August 31, 1984 appear in a listing below. Future notices will be published on the fourth Tuesday of each month or as soon as possible thereafter. A consolidated listing of all authorities will be published as of June 30, of each year.

Schedule A

The following exception is established:

Department of the Army

Associate Director of Admissions for Plans and Programs, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York. Effective August 24, 1984.

Schedule B

No exceptions were established or revoked in Schedule B during the month of August.

Schedule C

The following exceptions are established:

Department of Agriculture

One Private Secretary to the Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs. Effective August 1, 1984.

One Director of Congressional and Public Affairs, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. Effective August 1, 1984.

One Confidential Assistant to the General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel. Effective August 1, 1984.

One Midwest Area Director to the Deputy Administrator for State and County Operations. Effective August 2, 1984.

One Confidential Assistant to the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service. Effective August 15, 1984.

One Confidential Assistant to the Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. Effective August 31, 1984.

Department of Commerce

One Congressional Liaison Specialist to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs. Effective August 10, 1984.

One Confidential Assistant to the Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary. Effective August 10, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Director of Public Affairs. Effective August 16, 1984.

One Confidential Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for International Economic Policy, International Trade Administration. Effective August 16, 1984.

One Congressional Liaison Specialist to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs. Effective August 30, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Telecommunications and Information. Effective August 30, 1984.

One Confidential Assistant to the General Counsel. Effective August 30, 1984.

Department of Defense

One Private Secretary to the Director of Net Assessment, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy). Effective August 13, 1984.

One Joint Chiefs of Staff Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Europe. Effective August 15, 1984.

One Private Secretary to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller). Effective August 15, 1984.

One Private Secretary to the Senior Judge, U.S. Court of Military Appeals. Effective August 16, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness and Training). Effective August 20, 1984.

Department of Education

One Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Student Financial Assistance, Office of Postsecondary Education. Effective August 1, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs. Effective August 16, 1984.

Department of Energy

One Legal Advisor to a Member of the Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Effective August 30, 1984.

Department of Health and Human Services

One Confidential Assistant to the Director of Community Services. Effective August 3, 1984.

One Confidential Secretary to the Assistant Secretary for Legislation. Effective August 23, 1984.

One Assistant to the Secretary (Special Programs). Effective August 27, 1984.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

One Special Assistant to the Secretary. Effective August 1, 1984.

One Assistant for Congressional Relations to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations. Effective August 2, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing Programs. Effective August 7, 1984.

One Confidential Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. Effective August 7, 1984.

One Senior Legislation Specialist to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation. Effective August 7, 1984.

One Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research. Effective August 8, 1984.

One Executive Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Relations. Effective August 15, 1984.

One Senior Legislation Specialist to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Relations. Effective August 15, 1984.

One Staff Assistant to the Under Secretary. Effective August 16, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing Programs. Effective August 30, 1984.

Department of the Interior

One Special Assistant to the Assistant to the Secretary and Director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. Effective August 1, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Secretary. Effective August 1, 1984.

One Supervisory Public Affairs Specialist to the Director, Bureau of Land and Management. Effective August 15, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Deputy Director, National Park Service. Effective August 16, 1984.

Department of Justice

One Secretary (Stenography) to the Deputy Attorney General. Effective August 3, 1984.

One Attorney-Advisor (General) to the Assistant Attorney General, Land and Natural Resources Division. Effective August 3, 1984.

One Attorney-Advisor to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division. Effective August 6, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division. Effective August 15, 1984.

One Associate Director of Public Affairs, Offices, Boards, and Divisions. Effective August 16, 1984.

One Staff Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division. Effective August 17, 1984.

One Confidential Assistant and Private Secretary to the Assistant Attorney General, Land and Natural Resources Division. Effective August 22, 1984.

Department of Labor

One Special Assistant to the Secretary. Effective August 10, 1984.

One Executive Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training. Effective August 27, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Secretary. Effective August 27, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs. Effective August 30, 1984.

Department of the Navy

One Special Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy (Policy). Effective August 30, 1984.

Department of State

One Secretary (Stenography) to the Director, Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs. Effective August 15, 1984.

One Secretary (Stenography) to the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs. Effective August 16, 1984.

One Staff Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of International Organization Affairs. Effective August 26, 1984.

One Secretary (Stenography) to the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Effective August 29, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. Effective August 30, 1984.

One Staff Assistant to the Under Secretary for Management. Effective August 30, 1984.

One Staff Assistant to the Under Secretary for Management. Effective August 30, 1984.

Department of Transportation

One Associate Administrator for Traffic Safety Programs, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Effective August 1, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. Effective August 3, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Director of Public Affairs, Urban Mass Transportation Administration. Effective August 17, 1984.

Department of the Treasury

One Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Communications. Effective August 15, 1984.

One Public Affairs Specialist to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Communications. Effective August 16, 1984.

One Staff Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Administration. Effective August 30, 1984.

Action

One Special Assistant to the Executive Officer. Effective August 7, 1984.

Agency for International Development

One Deputy Assistant to the Administrator for Public Affairs. Effective August 20, 1984.

One Associate Director for Legislative Affairs. Effective August 20, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa. Effective August 20, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Assistant to the Administrator for External Affairs. Effective August 20, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Assistant to the Administrator for External Affairs. Effective August 20, 1984.

One Deputy Director, Women in Development. Effective August 27, 1984.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission

One Special Assistant to a Commissioner. Effective August 2, 1984.

Consumer Product Safety Commission

One Staff Assistant to the Chairman. Effective August 13, 1984.

One Congressional Relations Specialist to the Director, Office of Congressional Relations. Effective August 13, 1984.

Environmental Protection Agency

One Program Advisor to the Assistant Administrator for Water. Effective August 1, 1984.

One Special Assistant to the Regional Administrator in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Effective August 7, 1984.

One Confidential Assistant to the Executive Assistant to the Administrator. Effective August 18, 1984.

Executive Office of the President

One Special Assistant to the Executive Assistant to the United States Trade Representative. Effective August 8, 1984.

Federal Trade Commission

One Staff Assistant to the Chairman. Effective August 2, 1984.

General Services Administration

One Confidential Assistant to the Assistant Administrator for Federal Supply and Services. Effective August 3, 1984.

International Trade Commission

One Confidential Assistant to a Commissioner. Effective August 3, 1984.

National Endowment for the Humanities

One Public Affairs Officer to the Assistant Chairman. Effective August 15, 1984.

Securities and Exchange Commission

One Secretary (Stenography) to the Director, Division of Enforcement. Effective August 3, 1984.

U.S. Information Agency

One Staff Assistant to the Director. Effective August 15, 1984.

Dated: September 13, 1984.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Donald J. Devine,

Director.

[FR Doc. 84-25215 Filed 9-24-84; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-M

Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee; Open Committee Meeting

Correction

In FR Doc. 84-24725, appearing on page 36718 in the issue of Wednesday, September 19, 1984, make the following correction:

In the first column, the date of the meeting of the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee reading "Thursday, October 15, 1984" should have read "Thursday, October 25, 1984".

BILLING CODE 1505-01-M

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Approval of Certain Plan Amendments Requiring PBGC Approval Under ERISA Section 4220

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of class approval.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's granting of approval to four classes of plan amendments requiring the PBGC's approval under section 4220 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended. Under section 4220, certain plan amendments adopted after September 25, 1983, may not be put into effect without the PBGC's approval. The PBGC may disapprove an amendment only if it finds that the amendment creates an unreasonable risk of loss to plan participants and beneficiaries or to the PBGC. The PBGC has determined that these four plan amendments would not in any plan create an unreasonable risk of loss to plan participants and beneficiaries or to the PBGC. Therefore, the effect of this notice is to grant class approval for these amendments, so that plans may adopt them without filing individual requests for approval.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 25, 1984.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

John Carter Foster, Multiemployer Regulations Group, Corporate Policy and Regulations Department (611), Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 2020 K Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20006; (202) 254-4860. [This is not a toll-free number.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4220(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended by the Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act, (the "Act"), provides that certain multiemployer plan amendments adopted after September 25, 1983, may be put into effect only with the approval of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation or if the PBGC fails to disapprove the amendment within 90 days after receipt of notice of the amendment. Under section 4220(c), the PBGC may disapprove an amendment only if it determines that the amendment creates an unreasonable risk of loss to plan participants and beneficiaries or to the PBGC. The PBGC's approval under section 4220 is required for all plan amendments authorized by sections 4201-4219 (other than an amendment permitted by section 4211(c)(5), dealing with the adoption of alternatives to the statutory

methods for allocation of a plan's unfunded vested benefits).

The PBGC has determined that four plan amendments authorized by sections 4201-4219, and therefore covered by section 4220, would not in any case have the effect of creating an unreasonable risk of loss to plan participants and beneficiaries or to the PBGC. Consequently, the PBGC is granting approval for these four classes of amendments.

The plan amendments receiving this approval are those authorized by sections 4203(c)(4) (permitting plans that primarily cover employees in the entertainment industry to limit the applicability of the special withdrawal liability rule), 4205(c)(1) (allowing a retain food industry plan to be amended to substitute "35 percent" for "70 percent" in the partial withdrawal liability rule of section 4205(b)(1)(A)), 4210(b)(2) (allowing a plan, other than one primarily covering employees in the building and construction industry, to adopt the six-year "free look" rule), and 4211(c)(1) (permitting certain plans to adopt one of the three statutory alternatives for determining the unfunded vested benefits allocable to a withdrawing employer).

In a notice published in the *Federal Register* on May 2, 1983 (48 FR 19806), the PBGC advised the public that it was considering granting approvals for plan amendments authorized by section 4203(c)(4) and section 4205(c)(1) of the Act. The PBGC noted that an amendment under section 4203(c)(4) broadens the events giving rise to withdrawal liability by making the general withdrawal liability rules applicable to a group or class of employers that otherwise would be subject to the special, more limited withdrawal rules applicable to entertainment plans. The PBGC also observed that an amendment authorized by section 4205(c)(1) gives a retain food plan at least as much, and usually greater, protection against declines in covered work as that provided by the statutory rule requiring a 70 percent decline in contributions as a condition for the imposition of partial withdrawal liability.

For these reasons, the PBGC has concluded that an amendment under either section 4203(c)(4) or 4205(c)(1) would not in any case create an unreasonable risk of loss to plan participants and beneficiaries or to the PBGC. Therefore, a plan sponsor need not submit amendments authorized by these sections to the PBGC for approval.

The third amendment approved under this notice is one authorized by section 4210(b)(2). This so-called "free look"

rule provides that a plan, other than one primarily covering employees in the building and construction industry, may be amended to provide that an employer that withdraws in a complete or partial withdrawal is not liable to the plan if the employer:

(i) Was first obligated to contribute to the plan after September 26, 1980;

(ii) Was obligated to contribute to the plan for no more than the lesser of six consecutive plan years preceding the date of withdrawal or the number of years required for vesting under the plan;

(iii) Contributed less than 2 percent of all employer contributions for each plan year in which it was required to contribute; and

(iv) Never previously used this section to avoid withdrawal liability to the plan.

In addition, this "free look" rule applies only if:

(i) The plan is amended to provide for its application;

(ii) The plan provides that benefits of participants accrued as a result of service with an employer before the employer was required to contribute to the plan may not be payable if the employer ceases contributions to the plan; and

(iii) The ratio of plan assets to benefit payments during the plan year preceding the first plan year for which the employer was required to make plan contributions was at least 8 to 1.

These standards ensure that adoption of the provision will not create an unreasonable risk. Plans can permit a "free look" only to small, short-term contributors—those contributing less than 2 percent of total plan contributions for less than 7 years—and the ratio of plan assets to benefit payments for the plan year preceding the first plan year for which the employer was required to contribute must be at least 8 to 1. Further, if the ratio of plan assets to benefit payments falls below 8 to 1, a "free look" amendment cannot be applied to any new employer. These statutory requirements make it unnecessary to consider whether, in a particular case, an amendment authorized by section 4210(b)(2) will pose an unreasonable risk of loss to plan participants and beneficiaries or to the PBGC. The PBGC therefore grants approval to all such amendments.

Finally, approval is extended to certain amendments authorized by section 4211(c)(1). With the exception of a plan described in section 404(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, an employer's

share of unfunded vested benefits is determined by the presumptive method of section 4211(b) unless the plan is amended pursuant to section 4211(c)(1). Section 4211(c)(1) permits a plan, other than one primarily covering employees in the building and construction industry, to adopt by amendment one of the three allocation methods described in sections 4211(c)(2) (the modified presumptive method), 4211(c)(3) (the rolling-5 method), and 4211(c)(4) (the direct attribution method).

The four statutory methods result in the same overall degree of allocation of a plan's unfunded vested benefits, notwithstanding the fact that different amounts may be allocated to individual employers under each method. Adoption of any of the three alternative methods could create a risk of loss only if the effect of changing methods were to shift liabilities to employers who were unable to pay the increase in withdrawal liability. However, because each method apportions liability based on the withdrawing employer's participation in the plan, measured either by that employer's contributions relative to the total contributions to the plan or by the unfunded vested benefits directly earned by employees of that employer, there is no reason to believe that changes in the allocation method shift liabilities in any substantial or systematic way toward weaker employers. Moreover, assessing this potential risk would require detailed inquiries into the financial situations of various employers, which would place a heavy burden on plan sponsors, employers, and the PBGC. Such a burden cannot be justified in light of the minimal possibility that an increased risk might be determined to exist. Therefore, the PBGC grants approval to all plan amendments that simply adopt one of the three allocation methods described in sections 4211(c)(2), 4211(c)(3), and 4211(c)(4).

This notice covers all plan amendments specified above, regardless of proposed effective date. It also extends to subsequent repeals of these amendments. However, this notice does not apply to any amendment that limits or otherwise modifies the statutorily prescribed amendments. Finally, the PBGC emphasizes that this approval relates only to the issue of risk under section 4220; it shall have no effect in determining whether a particular plan amendment was adopted in accordance with applicable statutory and plan provisions.

Issued at Washington, D.C. on this 19th day of September 1984.

C.C. Tharp,

Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 84-25417 Filed 9-24-84; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 23425; (70-7021)]

Middle South Energy, Inc.; Proposal To Issue and Sell First Mortgage Bonds; Exception From Competitive Bidding

September 20, 1984.

Middle South Energy, Inc. ("MSE"), P.O. Box 61000, New Orleans, Louisiana 70161, a wholly owned subsidiary of Middle South Energy, Inc. ("MSU"), a registered holding company, has proposed a transaction subject to sections 6(a) and 7 of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 ("Act") and Rule 50(a)(5) thereunder.

MSE proposes to issue and sell First Mortgage Bonds ("Bonds") in one or more series through October 31, 1985, by means of an underwritten offering or offerings through an investment banker, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$400 million. The Bonds will be issued and sold under one or more supplemental indentures to MSE's existing Mortgage and Deed of Trust, as supplemented, and will have such other terms and conditions as shall be approved by this Commission. MSE proposes to apply the net proceeds from the issuance and sale of the Bonds to finance MSE's 90% interest in the Grand Gulf I Nuclear Station ("Grand Gulf I"). This will include the repayment of then outstanding short-term borrowings and/or to the repayment of borrowings then outstanding under its Second Amended and Restated Bank Loan Agreement, dated June 15, 1981 ("Domestic Bank Loan Agreement"). Borrowings under the Domestic Bank Loan Agreement are expected to total approximately \$1.711 billion by the end of 1984. As of August 15, 1984, MSE had \$1.698 billion of short-term debt outstanding under the Domestic Bank Loan Agreement. By the first quarter of 1985, when Grand Gulf I is expected to be placed into commercial operation, MSE will have expended \$3.065 billion (excluding nuclear fuel) for its interest in Grand Gulf I.

The capital structure of MSE as of May 31, 1984 indicates:

	Per books percent	Pro forma percent
First Mortgage Bonds.....	11.3	19.7
Other Long-Term Debt.....	53.3	41.4
Common Equity.....	35.4	38.9
Total Capitalization.....	100.0	100.0

As additional security for its Bond obligations, MSE may be required to assign, for the benefit of the Bond holders, its rights under the Availability Agreement, dated June 21, 1974, as amended, pursuant to the terms of an Eleventh Assignment of Availability Agreement, Consent and Agreement. In addition, MSE may be required to assign its rights under the Capital Funds Agreement, dated as of June 21, 1974, pursuant to the terms of an Eleventh Supplementary Capital Funds Agreement and Assignment.

MSE requests an exception from the competitive bidding requirements of Rule 50 pursuant to Rule 50(a)(5) in connection with the proposed issuance and sale of Bonds to underwriters for sale to the public. MSE states that the exception is justified because the company lacks an earnings or operating history due to the fact that its only project, the Grand Gulf Station, has not been placed in commercial operation, and for other reasons stated in its proposal. MSE proposes, and is hereby authorized, forthwith, to select one or more investment banking firms which will act (or form a group of firms to act) as underwriters for the offering, and to negotiate the price and other terms on which the shares to be sold in that offering will be issued to such underwriters for public sale.

The proposal and any amendments thereto are available for public inspection through the Commission's Office of Public Reference. Interested persons wishing to comment or request a hearing should submit their views in writing by October 15, 1984, to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C. 20549, and serve a copy on the applicant at the address specified above. Proof of service (by affidavit or, in case of an attorney at law, by certificate) should be filed with the request. Any request for a hearing shall identify specifically the issues of fact and/or law that are disputed. A person who so requests will be notified of any hearing, if ordered, and will receive a copy of any notice or order issued in this matter. After said date, the proposal, as filed or as it may be amended, may be authorized.