

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Carl F. Lyon,

Project Manager, Section 1, Project Directorate III, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Experts' Meeting on High-Burnup Fuel Behavior Under Postulated Accident Conditions

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a meeting to further develop a Phenomena Identification and Ranking Table (PIRT) for loss of coolant accidents (LOCAs). PIRTs have been used at NRC since 1988, and they provide a structured way to obtain a technical understanding that is needed to address certain issues. About twenty of the world's best technical experts are participating in this activity, and the experts represent a balance between industry, universities, foreign researchers, and regulatory organizations. The current PIRT activity is addressing postulated LOCAs for a BWR and a PWR.

DATES: July 25-27, 2000, 8:30 am-5:30 pm.

ADDRESSES: Room T10A1 (TWFN) of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting agenda will be posted on the NRC Web site at www.nrc.gov/RES/meetings.htm by July 17, 2000. The meeting is open to the public. Attendees will need to obtain a visitor badge at the TWFN building lobby.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ralph Meyer, SMSAB, Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, telephone (301) 415-6789.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of July 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Farouk Eltawila,

Director, Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena; Notice of Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena will hold a meeting on August 8-9, 2000, Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

Most of the meeting will be closed to public attendance to discuss proprietary information per 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4) pertinent to Siemens Power Corporation.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

Tuesday, August 8, 2000—8:30 a.m. Until the Conclusion of Business

Wednesday, August 9, 2000—8:30 a.m. Until the Conclusion of Business

The Subcommittee will begin review of Siemens Power Corporation S-RELAP5 thermal-hydraulic systems code. The purpose of this meeting is to gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and to formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committee.

Oral statements may be presented by members of the public with the concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman. Written statements will be accepted and made available to the Committee. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked only by members of the Subcommittee, its consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the cognizant ACRS staff engineer named below five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

During the initial portion of the meeting, the Subcommittee, along with any of its consultants who may be present, may exchange preliminary views regarding matters to be considered during the balance of the meeting.

The Subcommittee will then hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the Siemens Power Corporation, the NRC staff, and other interested persons regarding this review.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been canceled or rescheduled, and the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted

therefor, can be obtained by contacting the cognizant ACRS staff engineer, Mr. Paul A. Boehnert (telephone 301/415-8065) between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. (EDT). Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual one or two working days prior to the meeting to be advised of any potential changes to the agenda, etc., that may have occurred.

Dated: July 7, 2000.

Howard J. Larson,

Acting Associate Director for Technical Support, ACRS/ACNW.

[FR Doc. 00-17783 Filed 7-12-00; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 33-7872]

Revision of the Commission's Auditor Independence Requirements

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission.

ACTION: Notice of hearings.

SUMMARY: On June 27, 2000, the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") approved proposed rule amendments (the "Proposing Release") regarding auditor independence (Securities Act Release No. 33-7870). Copies of the Proposing Release are available on the Commission's website at www.sec.gov. In connection with those proposals, the Commission announced that it will hold public hearings. The purpose of the hearings is to give the Commission the benefit of the views of interested members of the public regarding the issues raised and questions posed in the Proposing Release. The Commission is announcing that the initial public hearing will be held on July 26, 2000 in Washington, D.C. Additional public hearings will be held in September.

DATES: The initial public hearing will be held on July 26, 2000 in Washington, D.C. Additional public hearings will be held in September. The following information pertains to the July 26th hearing. The hearing on July 26 will begin at 9:00 a.m. Those who wish to testify at the hearing must submit a written request to the Commission. The Commission must receive these requests on or before July 17, 2000. Persons requesting to testify must also submit three copies of their oral statements or a summary of their intended testimony to the Commission. The Commission must receive these submissions on or before July 21, 2000. Those who do not wish to appear at the hearings may

submit written testimony on or before the end of the comment period for the Proposing Release, which is 75 days after publication of the Proposing Release in the **Federal Register**, for inclusion in the public comment file. Additional information regarding the September hearings will be forthcoming.

ADDRESSES: The July 26, 2000 hearing will be held in the William O. Douglas Room of the Commission's headquarters at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Persons submitting requests to appear or written testimony in lieu of testifying should file three copies of the request or testimony with Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Persons requesting to appear should also submit three copies of their oral statement or summary of their testimony to the same address. Requests to appear and copies of oral statements or summaries of intended testimony may be filed electronically at the following e-mail address: rule-comments@sec.gov. The words "Request to Testify" should be clearly noted on the subject line of the request. All requests and other submissions also should refer to Comment File No. S7-13-00. Copies of all requests and other submissions and transcripts of the hearings will be available for public inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Electronically submitted requests and other materials will be posted on the Commission's internet web site (www.sec.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John M. Morrissey, Deputy Chief Accountant, or W. Scott Bayless, Associate Chief Accountant, Office of the Chief Accountant, at (202) 942-4400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Summary of Rule Proposals

The public hearings concern the Commission's proposed rule amendments regarding auditor independence. As more fully described in the Proposing Release, the proposals modernize the Commission's requirements by providing governing principles for determining whether an auditor is independent in light of: investments by auditors or their family members in audit clients, employment relationships between auditors or their family members and audit clients, and the scope of services provided by audit firms to their audit clients. The proposals would, among other things, significantly reduce the number of audit firm employees and their family members whose investments in audit

clients are attributed to the auditor. They would also identify certain non-audit services that, if provided to an audit client, would impair an auditor's independence. The scope of services proposals would not extend to services provided to non-audit clients. The proposal also would provide a limited exception for accounting firms that have certain quality controls and satisfy other conditions. Finally, the proposals would require companies to disclose in their annual proxy statements certain information about, among other things, non-audit services provided by their auditors during the last fiscal year. The Commission will consider the hearing record in connection with its rulemaking proposals.

II. Procedures for Hearing

After July 17, 2000, the Commission will publish a schedule of appearances. Based on the number of requests received, the Commission may not be able to accommodate all requests for the July 26 hearing. It also may limit the time for formal presentations or group presentations into a series of panels. Time will be reserved for members of the Commission and Commission staff to pose questions to each witness concerning his or her testimony as well as other matters pertaining to the Proposing Release. The Commission has designated Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary of the Commission, as the hearing officer. As noted, the Commission will hold additional public hearings in September. The Commission will issue other orders designating additional hearing officers as necessary.

Dated: July 7, 2000.

By the Commission.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-43013; File No. SR-Amex-00-12]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change by the American Stock Exchange LLC Relating to Procedures for the Review of Initial Listing Decisions

July 6, 2000.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on February

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

28, 2000, the American Stock Exchange LLC (the "Amex" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Amex proposes to adopt new Part 12 of the Amex Company Guide to establish procedures for the review of initial listing determinations. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Amex and the Commission.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Amex proposes to establish new procedures for the review of initial listing determinations. Amex original listing criteria, set forth in Part 1 of the Amex Company Guide, provide quantitative and qualitative criteria for the original listing of securities on the Exchange. Section 101 of the Amex Company Guide currently provides that the approval of a listing application is a matter solely within the discretion of the Exchange. Thus, the Exchange currently has the discretion to list the securities of an applicant that may not satisfy each of the listing guidelines and to deny the listing of an applicant's securities that do satisfy those guidelines. Furthermore, under the Exchange's existing procedures, original listing determinations are made by different entities. The ultimate discretion to list applicants that do not satisfy each of the guidelines is vested