

MEDICARE PAYMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION**Notice of Meeting**

AGENCY: Medicare Payment Advisory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Commission will hold its next public meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2000 and Friday, April 14, 2000 at the Ronald Reagan Building, International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The meeting is tentatively scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. on April 13, and 9 a.m. on April 14.

Topics for discussion include: payments to teaching hospitals and DRG refinement, improving quality assurance for institutional providers, financial performance and payment update for hospitals covered by PPS, hospital financial performance and payment update for facilities exempt from PPS, work plan on mandated study on medical savings accounts, improving payment policy for hospital outpatient departments and physicians' services, criteria for evaluating proposals to reform Medicare, prescription drug coverage issues, and an update on proposed refinements to the SNF PPS.

Agenda will be mailed on April 4, 2000. The final agenda will be available on the Commission's website (www.MedPAC.gov).

ADDRESSES: MedPAC's address is: 1730 K Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20006. The telephone number is (202) 653-7220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Ellison, Office Manager, (202) 653-7220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: If you are not on the Commission mailing list and wish to receive an agenda, please call (202) 653-7220.

Murray N. Ross,
Executive Director.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-321 and 50-366]

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, Notice of Acceptance for Docketing of the Application, and Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing Regarding Renewal of License, Nos. DPR-57 and NPF-5, for an Additional Twenty-Year Period

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering an application for the renewal of Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-57 and NPF-5, which authorize Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC) to operate Units 1 and 2 of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (Hatch 1 and Hatch 2, respectively), at 2,763 megawatts thermal. The renewed license would authorize the applicant to operate Hatch 1 and Hatch 2 for an additional 20 years beyond the period specified in the current licenses. The current operating licenses for Hatch 1 and Hatch 2 expire on August 6, 2014 and June 13, 2018, respectively.

SNC submitted an application to renew the operating licenses for Hatch 1 and Hatch 2 on March 1, 2000. A Notice of Receipt of Application, "Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2; Notice of Receipt of Application for Renewal of Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-57 and NPF-5, for an Additional Twenty-Year Period," was published in the **Federal Register** on March 10, 2000 (65 FR 13061).

The Commission's staff has determined that SNC has submitted information in accordance with 10 CFR 54.19, 54.21, 54.22, 54.23, and 51.53(c) that is complete and acceptable for docketing. The current Docket Nos. 50-321 for Operating License No. DPR-57 and 50-366 for Operating License No. NPF-5, will be retained. The docketing of the renewal application does not preclude requesting additional information as the review proceeds, nor does it predict whether the Commission will grant or deny the application.

Before issuance of the requested license renewal, the NRC will have made the findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the NRC's rules and regulations. In accordance with 10 CFR 54.29, the NRC will issue a renewed license on the basis of its review and findings that actions have been identified and have been or will be taken with respect to (1) managing the effects of aging during the period of

extended operation on the functionality of structures and components that have been identified as requiring aging management review, and (2) time-limited aging analyses that have been identified as requiring review such that there is reasonable assurance that the activities authorized by the renewed license will continue to be conducted in accordance with the current licensing basis (CLB) and that any changes made to the plant's CLB comply with the Act and the Commission's regulations.

Additionally, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.95(c), the NRC will prepare an environmental impact statement that is a supplement to the Commission's NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants," (May 1996). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.26, and as part of the environmental scoping process, the staff intends to hold a public scoping meeting. Detailed information regarding this meeting will be included in a future **Federal Register** notice. The Commission also intends to hold public meetings to discuss the license renewal process and the schedule for conducting the review. The Commission will provide prior notice of these meetings. As discussed further herein, in the event that a hearing is held, issues that may be litigated will be confined to those pertinent to the foregoing.

By 30 days after publication date, the applicant may file a request for a hearing, 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 with respect to the license renewal in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 2.714. 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 20037. If a request for a hearing or a 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(s) and/or petition(s), and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of a hearing or an appropriate order. In the event that no request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the NRC may, upon completion of its evaluations and upon making the findings required under 10 CFR Parts 54 and 51, renew the license without further notice.