

Alloy 600 and Vessel Head Degradation subheadings.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proceedings will be published as Conference Proceedings of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NUREG/CP-series). Additional details, including lists of session chairpersons, and the contributed papers will be published on the NRC Web site: <http://www.nrc.gov> under the public meetings section of both the Alloy 600 and Vessel Head Degradation subheadings. Presentations at the conference will encompass vessel penetration cracking issues for all primary boundary locations, including upper head, lower head and pressurizer penetrations, and nickel-base alloy, or mixed metal welds used to join pressure boundary components.

The conference will consist of six sessions, chaired by domestic and international representatives of regulatory agencies, industry, and research organizations. Each session scheduled below includes invited and contributed papers on the following specific topics:

**Monday, March 24, 2003—8:30 a.m.—12 Noon**

Topics to be presented include flaw inspection procedures, descriptions of NDE results, and user experience with component mock-ups or other NDE training and certification procedures; visual inspection tools, programs underway to improve performance.

**Monday, March 24, 2003—1:30–5 p.m.**

Topics to be presented include descriptions of crack growth rate (CGR) experiments, interpretation and analysis of CGR data for Alloys 600, 690, 182/82 and 152/52.

**Tuesday, March 25, 2003—8:30 a.m.—12 Noon**

Topics to be presented include probabilistic fracture mechanics analysis of pressure boundary structural elements, including experimental or analytical stress analyses for axial and circumferential cracking of VHPs.

**Tuesday, March 25, 2003—1:30–5 p.m.**

Topics to be presented include programs that address the mitigation of the cracking or other corrective actions, especially repair procedures; future materials and fabrication techniques.

**Wednesday, March 26, 2003—8:30 a.m.—12 Noon**

Topics to be presented include application of these results in operating plants, including follow-on inspections of repaired components, and

evaluations of success or failure of these methods.

**Wednesday, March 26, 2003—1:30–5 p.m.**

Wrap up and summaries by session chairs

The conference is open to the public, and there is no registration fee. Those who wish to attend are encouraged to contact Ken Natesan ([natesan@anl.gov](mailto:natesan@anl.gov)) or Bill Cullen ([whc@nrc.gov](mailto:whc@nrc.gov)). Further information, including forms for conference registration, and a final list of presentations, will be posted on the NRC website. Those attendees needing special services, such as for the hearing impaired, are requested to notify the conference organizers as far in advance as reasonably possible.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 3rd day of January, 2003.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
**Nilesh C. Chokshi,**  
*Acting Director, Division of Engineering Technology, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.*

[FR Doc. 03–375 Filed 1–8–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590–01–P**

**COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY**

**Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Commission on Ocean Policy.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission on Ocean Policy will hold a meeting to discuss the development of recommendations for a coordinated national ocean policy. This will be the fourteenth public Commission meeting.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held Friday, January 24, 2003 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting location is the Amphitheater, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington DC 20004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Terry Schaff, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, 1120 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036, 202–418–3442, [schaff@oceancommission.gov](mailto:schaff@oceancommission.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This meeting is being held pursuant to requirements under the Oceans Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106–256, Section 3(e)(1)(E)). The agenda will include discussions of policy options, a public comment session, and any required administrative discussions and executive sessions. Members of the public are requested to submit their statements for the record electronically

by Tuesday, January 14, 2003 to the meeting Point of Contact. The meeting agenda, including the specific time for the public comment period, and guidelines for making public comments will be posted on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.oceancommission.gov> prior to the meeting.

Dated: January 3, 2003.

**James D. Watkins, USN (ret.),**  
*Chairman, Commission on Ocean Policy.*  
[FR Doc. 03–370 Filed 1–8–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6820–WM–U**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Surface Transportation Board**

**[STB Finance Docket No. 34304]**

**The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—The Portland & Western Railroad, Inc.**

On December 20, 2002, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7) for overhead trackage rights between milepost 68.6 at Bush, OR, and milepost 96.5 at Albany, OR, a distance of 27.9 miles. The trackage rights operations would be conducted over part of a line owned by BNSF, which was leased to The Portland & Western Railroad, Inc. (P&WR), pursuant to a transaction exempted in *Portland & Western Railroad, Inc.—Lease and Operation Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 34255 (STB served Jan. 3, 2003).

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after December 27, 2002, the effective date of the exemption. The purpose of the trackage rights is to allow BNSF to operate over the leased line: (1) Moving trains containing loaded or empty cars interchanged with P&WR and other carriers having interchanges at Albany; or (2) for pre-positioning or storage of cars as agreed to between BNSF and P&WR.<sup>1</sup>

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and*

<sup>1</sup> On December 23, 2002, BNSF filed a motion to dismiss this notice on the ground that separate Board approval of its trackage rights is unnecessary. John D. Fitzgerald, on behalf of the United Transportation Union—General Committee of Adjustment, replied on December 30, 2002. The motion to dismiss will be addressed in a separate decision.