

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 02-131]

NASA Advisory Council, Space Science Advisory Committee, Astronomical Search for Origins and Planetary Systems Subcommittee

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a forthcoming meeting of the NASA Advisory Council (NAC), Space Science Advisory Committee (SScAC), Astronomical Search for Origins and Planetary Systems Subcommittee (OS).

DATES: Monday, December 2, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Tuesday, December 3, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: NASA Headquarters, Conference Room 6H46, 300 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20546.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Marian Norris, Code SB, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546, (202) 358-4452.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public up to the capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting includes the following topics:

- James Webb Space Telescope
- Wide Field Camera 3
- Committee on the Origin and Evolution of Life
- Origins Roadmap
- Structure and Evolution of the Universe Roadmap
- Astronomy & Physics Working Group
- Science Archives Working Group
- National Astronomy & Astrophysics Committee

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitor's register.

June W. Edwards,

*Advisory Committee Management Officer,
National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[IA-02-022]

Ms. Patricia A. McGinn; Order Prohibiting Involvement in NRC-Licensed Activities (Effective Immediately)

From December 1995 to May 2000, Ms. Patricia A. McGinn was a Human Resources Coordinator for Cataract/RCM Technologies, Inc., (Cataract/RCM or Contractor) located at 2500 McClellan Avenue, Suite 350, Pennsauken, New Jersey 08109. Cataract/RCM was a contractor to facilities licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) pursuant to 10 CFR Part 50.

On September 29, 2000, the NRC's Office of Investigations (OI) initiated an investigation to determine whether Patricia A. McGinn, while employed by Cataract/RCM Technologies, Inc., deliberately falsified background information that was used to support the granting of unescorted access authorizations at Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and other NRC licensee facilities.

As background, 10 CFR 73.56, "Personnel access authorization requirements for nuclear power plants," requires that background investigations be conducted prior to allowing unescorted access to protected and vital areas of nuclear power plants. At a minimum, a background investigation must verify an individual's true identity, and develop information concerning an individual's employment history, education history, credit history, criminal history, military service, and verify an individual's character and reputation.

The investigation determined that on January 6, 1998, TVA received the results of an employee's (Employee A) criminal history check from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) indicating that Employee A had prior misdemeanor charges. This information had not been highlighted or identified during the process conducted by Cataract/RCM to issue Employee A a temporary unescorted access authorization clearance. This process included documenting answers to criminal history questions from the employee that reasonably should have revealed the existence of the prior misdemeanor charges. No such history was documented in the records produced by Cataract/RCM. When confronted, Employee A indicated that he had not been questioned about his criminal history. Ms. McGinn, the Cataract/RCM Human Resources

Coordinator at the time, claimed that the employee had been asked the questions, yet had not disclosed anything derogatory.

Subsequently, the TVA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducted an investigation. The TVA OIG investigation concluded that Ms. McGinn did not contact four of the five references for Employee A which she documented as having contacted. TVA OIG also concluded that Ms. McGinn had falsified information in Cataract/RCM's security files for three other individuals. TVA OIG determined from the background investigation files for three other individuals that documentation of reference checks existed for references who either did not exist, did not remember being contacted by Ms. McGinn, or did not make the statements attributed to them.

OI contacted 13 individuals whom Ms. McGinn reportedly contacted in the course of her background investigations for other licensees. These individuals denied knowing or providing the names given by the Human Resources Coordinator as developed references. Some questioned the responses attributed to them, stating that the information provided on the Cataract/RCM Reference Forms was, in part, inaccurate or incomplete.

OI subsequently interviewed Ms. McGinn. During that interview Ms. McGinn provided similar information as she did during the TVA OIG interview. Based on the interviews and records reviews discussed above, OI concluded she deliberately falsified Cataract/RCM background investigations, allowing unescorted access for numerous contractors at TVA and other NRC-licensed facilities.

Based on the above, the NRC has concluded that Ms. McGinn's actions constitute a violation of 10 CFR 50.5(a)(2), which prohibits an individual from deliberately submitting to the NRC, a licensee, or a licensee's contractor, information that the person submitting the information knows to be incomplete or inaccurate in some respect material to the NRC. The inaccurate information was material in that it was relied upon to grant unescorted access to individuals who potentially could have presented a security threat to nuclear power plants.

Ms. McGinn's actions in deliberately falsifying information relating to numerous background investigations, and her unresponsiveness to the NRC, have raised serious doubt as to whether she can be relied upon to comply with NRC requirements.

Consequently, I lack the requisite reasonable assurance that licensed