

Description of Permit and Modification

1. On September 15, 1999, the National Science Foundation issued a permit (ACA #2000-004) to Dr. Paul J. Ponganis after posting a notice in the August 17, 1999 **Federal Register**. Public comments were not received. A request to modify the permit was posted in the **Federal Register** on October 20, 2000. No public comments were received. The modification, issued by the Foundation on November 1, 2000, allows for entry into the Cape Crozier Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 124 for the purpose of conducting a census on the newly hatched Emperor penguin chicks.

Location: ASPA 124—Cape Crozier, Ross Island.

Dates: November 15, 2000 to February 28, 2002.

Nadene G. Kennedy,
Permit Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-30747 Filed 12-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Notice of pending NRC action to submit an information collection request to OMB and solicitation of public comment.

SUMMARY: The NRC is preparing a submittal to OMB for review of continued approval of information collections under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Information pertaining to the requirement to be submitted:

1. The title of the information collection: State Agreements Program, as authorized by Section 274(b) of the Atomic Energy Act.
2. Current OMB approval number: 3150-0029.
3. How often the collection is required: One time or as needed.
4. Who is required or asked to report: Thirty-two Agreement States who have signed Section 274(b) Agreements with NRC.
5. The number of annual respondents: 32.
6. The number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request: 1005.
7. Abstract: Agreement States are asked on a one-time or as-needed basis, *e.g.*, to respond to a specific incident, to gather information on licensing and inspection practices and other technical statistical information. The results of such information requests, which are authorized under Section 274(b) of the Atomic Energy Act, are utilized in part by NRC in preparing responses to

Congressional inquiries. Agreement State comments are also solicited in the areas of proposed procedure and policy development.

Submit, by February 2, 2001, comments that address the following questions:

1. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the NRC to properly perform its functions? Does the information have practical utility?
2. Is the burden estimate accurate?
3. Is there a way to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?
4. How can the burden of the information collection be minimized, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

A copy of the draft supporting statement may be viewed free of charge at the NRC Public Document Room, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Room O-1F23, Rockville, MD 20852. OMB clearance requests are available at the NRC worldwide web site: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/PUBLIC/OMB/index.html>. The document will be available on the NRC home page site for 60 days after the signature date of this notice.

Comments and questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the NRC Clearance Officer, Brenda Jo. Shelton, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, T-6 E6, Washington, DC 20555-0001, by telephone at 301-415-7233, or by Internet electronic mail at BJS1@NRC.GOV.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of November, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Brenda Jo. Shelton,

NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-146]

GPU Nuclear, Inc. and Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation; Saxton Facility; Notice of Consideration of Approval of Application Regarding Proposed Merger and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of an order under 10 CFR 50.80 approving the indirect transfer of Facility Amended License No. DPR-4 for the Saxton Facility, held by Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation (SNEC) and GPU Nuclear, Inc. (GPUN). The indirect

transfer would be to FirstEnergy Corp. (FE), headquartered in Akron, Ohio.

According to a September 26, 2000, application submitted by FE and GPUN, as supplemented by letters dated September 27, November 9, and November 14, 2000, GPU, Inc., the corporate parent of SNEC and GPUN, is planning to be merged with and into FE. FE will remain as the surviving corporation in this transaction. Upon consummating the merger, FE will become a registered holding company under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, and SNEC and GPUN, currently direct or indirect subsidiaries of GPU, Inc., will become direct or indirect subsidiaries of FE.

No physical changes to the Saxton Facility or operational changes are being proposed in the application. SNEC, the licensed owner of the facility, will continue to be so following the merger, and GPUN, currently the licensee authorized to decommission the facility, will continue to maintain that status after the merger. No direct transfer of the license will result from the planned merger.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80, no license, or any right thereunder, shall be transferred, directly or indirectly, through transfer of control of the license, unless the Commission shall give its consent in writing. The Commission will approve an application for the indirect transfer of a license, if the Commission determines that the underlying transaction that will effectuate the indirect transfer will not affect the qualifications of the holders of the license, and that the transfer is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission pursuant thereto.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene, and written comments with regard to the license transfer application, are discussed below.

By December 26, 2000, any person whose interest may be affected by the Commission's action on the application may request a hearing and, if not the applicants, may petition for leave to intervene in a hearing proceeding on the Commission's action. Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene should be filed in accordance with the Commission's rules of practice set forth in Subpart M, "Public Notification, Availability of Documents and Records, Hearing Requests and Procedures for Hearings on License Transfer Applications," of 10 CFR part 2. In particular, such requests and petitions must comply with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR 2.1306,