

(29 U.S.C. 651 *et seq.*) authorizes information collection by employers as necessary or appropriate for enforcement of the Act or for developing information regarding the causes and prevention of occupational injuries, illnesses, and accidents (29 U.S.C. 657).

Paragraphs (b) and (c) of § 1926.652 ("Requirements for Protective Systems"; the "Standard") contain paperwork requirements that impose burden hours or costs on employers. These paragraphs require employers to use protective systems to prevent cave-ins during excavation work; these systems include sloping the side of the trench, benching the soil away from the excavation, or using a support system or shield (such as a trench box). The standard specifies allowable configuration and slopes for excavations, and provides appendices to assist employers in designing protective systems. However, paragraphs (b)(3) and (b)(4) of the Standard permit employers to design sloping or benching systems based on tabulated data (Option 1), or to use a design approved by a registered professional engineer (Option 2).

Under Option 1, employers must provide the tabulated data in a written form that also identifies the registered professional engineer who approved the data and the parameters used to select the sloping or benching system drawn from the data, as well as the limitations of the data (including the magnitude and configuration of slopes determined to be safe); the document must also provide any explanatory information necessary to select the correct benching system based on the data. Option 2 requires employers to develop a written design approved by a registered professional engineer. The design information must include the magnitude and configuration of the slopes determined to be safe, and the identity of the registered professional engineer who approved the design.

Paragraphs (c)(2), (c)(3), and (c)(4) allow employers to design support systems, shield systems, and other protective systems based on tabulated data provided by a system manufacturer (Option 3) or obtained from other sources and approved by a registered professional engineer (Option 4); they can also use a design approved by a registered professional engineer (Option 5). If they select Option 3, employers must complete a written form that provides the manufacturer's specifications, recommendations, and limitations, as well as any deviations approved by the manufacturer. The paperwork requirements of Option 4 are the same as for Option 1. Option 5 requires a written form that provides a plan indicating the sizes, types, and

configurations of the materials used in the protective system and the identity of the registered professional engineer who approved the design.

Each of these provisions requires employers to maintain a copy of the documents described in these options at the jobsite during construction. After construction is complete, employers may store the documents offsite provided they make them available to an OSHA compliance officer on request. These documents provide both the employer and the compliance officer with information needed to determine if the selection and design of a protective system are appropriate to the excavation work, thereby assuring employees of maximum protection against cave-ins.

III. Special Issues for Comment

OSHA has a particular interest in comments on the following issues:

- Whether the information-collection requirements are necessary for the proper performance of the Agency's functions, including whether the information is useful;
- The accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden (time and costs) of the information-collection requirements, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- The quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden on employers who must comply; for example, by using automated or other technological information-collection and -transmission techniques.

IV. Proposed Actions

OSHA is proposing to extend the information-collection requirements contained in 29 CFR 1926, Subpart Q, Concrete and Masonry Construction.

The Agency will summarize the comments submitted in response to this notice and will include this summary in the request to OMB to extend the approval of the information-collection requirements contained in the Standard.

Type of Review: Extension of currently approved information-collection requirements.

Title: Design of Cave-in Protection System.

OMB Number: 1218-0137.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 20,000.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Total Responses: 20,000.

Average Time per Response: Two hours to obtain information on the design of cave-in protection systems.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 20,000 hours.

Estimated Cost (Operation and Maintenance): \$721,100.

V. Authority and Signature

John L. Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, directed the preparation of this notice. The authority for this notice is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506), and Secretary of Labor's Order No. 5-2002 (67 FR 65008).

Signed at Washington, DC on November 30, 2004.

John L. Henshaw,

Assistant Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 04-26806 Filed 12-6-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permit Application Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of permit applications received under the Antarctic Conservation Act.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the National Science Foundation (NSF) has received a waste management permit application for operation of remote field camps during a helicopter flight from Patriot Hills to South Pole and return. The application is submitted to NSF pursuant to regulations issued under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit written data, comments, or views with respect to this permit application by January 6, 2005. Permit applications may be inspected by interested parties at the Permit Office, address below.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Permit Office, Room 755, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nadene Kennedy at the above address or (703) 292-8030.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NSF's Antarctic Waste Regulation, 45 CFR Part 671, requires all U.S. citizens and entities to obtain a permit for the use or release of a designated pollutant in Antarctica, and for the release of waste in Antarctica. NSF has received a permit application under this Regulation for the operation of an expedition to Antarctica. Pole-to-Pole plans for two pilots to fly a Robinson R44 Raven II Helicopter from Ushuaia, Argentina to the South Pole and return to Patriot Hills, where the helicopter will be

loaded onto an Illyushin IL-76 for the return flight to Punta Arenas, Chile. The Illyushin is operated by Antarctic Logistics and Expeditions (ALE). Refueling operations will take place at pre-existing fuel caches.

Application for the permit is made by: Steve Brooks, Pole-To-Pole, 1202 Pierce 100 Street, Clearwater, Florida, 96161.

Location: Patriot Hills, and South Geographic Pole.

Dates: January 1, 2005 to January 31, 2005.

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Permit Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-26826 Filed 12-6-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permits Issued Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation of 1978, Public Law 95-541.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish notice of permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. This is required notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nadene G. Kennedy, Permit Office, Office of Polar Programs, Rm. 755, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 20, 2004, the National Science Foundation published a notice in the **Federal Register** of a Waste Management permit application received. A Waste Management permit was issued on November 30, 2004 to the following applicant: Ralph Fedor, Peter 1st Expedition, Permit No.: 2005 WM-003.

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Permit Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-26827 Filed 12-6-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

Agency Holding the Meeting: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Date: Weeks of December 6, 13, 20, 27, January 3, 10, 2004.

Place: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

Status: Public and Closed.

Matters To Be Considered: Week of December 6, 2004

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

9:30 a.m. Briefing on Equal

Employment Opportunity (EEO)

Program (Public Meeting) (Contact:

Corenthis Kelley, (301) 415-7380).

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

Wednesday, December 8, 2004

12:55 p.m. Affirmation Session

(Public Meeting) (Tentative)

a. Motion to Quash OI Subpoena (Tentative)

b. Duke Energy Corp. (Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2); Intervenor's Motion for Reconsideration of CLI-04-29 (Tentative)

c. SECY-04-0180—Hydro Resources, Inc. (Rio Rancho, New Mexico) Review of LBP-04-3 (Financial Assurance) (Tentative)

d. SECY-04-0190—Final Rule: Security Requirements for Portable Gauges Containing Byproduct Material (RIN 3150-AH06) (Tentative)

e. SECY-04-0208—Louisiana Energy Services, L.P. (National Enrichment Facility) (Tentative)

f. SECY-04-0212—Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc., (Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3), Docket Nos. 50-336-LR & 50-423-LR; LBP-04-15, 60 NRC 81, LBP-04-22 (Tentative)

1 p.m. Briefing on Status of Davis Besse Lessons Learned Task Force Recommendations (Public Meeting) (Contact: John Jolicoeur, (301) 415-1724)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>. Thursday, December 9, 2004

2 p.m. Briefing on Reactor Safety and Licensing Activities (Public Meeting) (Contact: Steve Koenick, 301-415-1239).

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

Week of December 13, 2004—Tentative

Tuesday, December 14, 2004

1 p.m. Briefing on Emergency Preparedness Program Initiatives (Public Meeting) (Contact: Nader Mamish, (301) 415-1086).

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

Week of December 20, 2004—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of December 20, 2004.

Week of December 27, 2004—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of December 27, 2004.

Week of January 3, 2005—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of January 3, 2005.

Week of January 10, 2005—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of January 10, 2005.

*The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415-1292.

Contact person for more information: Dave Gamberoni, (301) 415-1651.

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The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/policy-making/schedule.html>.

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The NRC provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in these public meetings, or need this meeting notice or the transcript or other information from the public meetings in another format (e.g., braille, large print), please notify the NRC's Disability Program Coordinator, August Spector, at (301) 415-7080, TDD: (301) 415-2100, or by e-mail at aks@nrc.gov. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

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This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to the distribution, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20555 (301-415-1969). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to dkw@nrc.gov.

Dave Gamberoni,

Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-26899 Filed 12-3-04; 9:27 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Biweekly Notice; Applications and Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Considerations

I. Background

Pursuant to section 189a.(2) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC staff) is publishing this regular biweekly