

(15) The operator shall file a plugging affidavit setting forth the persons who participated in the work, a description of the plugging work, and a certification by the petitioner that the well has been plugged as described.

(16) Within 30 days after the decision and order becomes final, the operator shall submit proposed revisions for its approved mine emergency evacuation and firefighting plan required by 30 CFR 75.1501. The operator shall revise the plans to include the hazards and evacuation procedures to be used for well intersections.

The petitioner asserts that the alternative method proposed will at all times guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded the miners under the mandatory standard.

Song-ae Aromie Noe,

Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

[FR Doc. 2022-17802 Filed 8-17-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-43-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of permit applications received.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish a notice of permit applications received to conduct activities regulated under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. NSF has published regulations under the Antarctic Conservation Act in the Code of Federal Regulations. This is the required notice of permit applications received.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit written data, comments, or views with respect to this permit application by September 19, 2022. This application may be inspected by interested parties at the Permit Office, address below.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Permit Office, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 or ACApermits@nsf.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Titmus, ACA Permit Officer, at the above address, 703-292-4479.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-541, 45 CFR

671), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996, has developed regulations for the establishment of a permit system for various activities in Antarctica and designation of certain animals and certain geographic areas as requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

Application Details

Permit Application: 2023-008

1. *Applicant:* Jay J. Rotella, Ecology Department, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana 59717

Activity for Which Permit is Requested: Take, Harmful Interference, Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Area, Import Into USA. The permit applicant plans to continue long-term studies of Weddell seal (*Leptonychotes weddellii*) populations in Erebus Bay and the McMurdo Sound region to evaluate the demographic importance and geographic origins of immigration of this long-lived mammal. These studies may require the applicant and agents to enter into ASPAs in the area including ASPA 121, 137, 155, 157, 158, 161, and 173. Proposed research activities involve tag and release, weighing, tissue sample collection, and harassment by approach to read tags. The proposed research involves capture and release of up to 930 Weddell seal pups at one to four days after birth for flipper tagging per year. Up to 150 of the pups would also receive external instrumentation, be weighed, and have a skin biopsy taken. The applicant proposes to capture up to 515 adult Weddell seals per year using a head-bagging technique to place or replace flipper tags. Skin biopsies would be taken from up to 150 adult female Weddell seals. Up to 1800 adult Weddell seals would be harassed for observation, tag resighting, photography, and unintentional harassment per year. Additionally, up to 900 Weddell seal pups would be harassed through incidental disturbance as a part of the research per year. The applicant requests four Weddell seal unintentional mortalities, two pups and two adults, per year. The applicant also plans to collect tissues from adult Weddell seals found dead from natural causes. All samples collected during the course of this research would be imported into the United States. During the course of the study, the applicant anticipates incidental disturbance of a limited number of crabeater seals (*Lobodon carcinophagus*) and leopard

seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*). The permit applicant has received a Marine Mammal Protection Act permit for the proposed activities.

Location: Erebus Bay, McMurdo Sound; ASPA 121—Cape Royds, Ross Island; ASPA 137—North-West White Island, McMurdo Sound; ASPA 155—Cape Evans, Ross Island; ASPA 157—Backdoor Bay, Cape Royds, Ross Island; ASPA 158—Hut Point, Ross Island; ASPA 161—Terra Nova Bay, Ross Sea; ASPA 173—Cape Washington and Silverfish Bay, Terra Nova Bay, Ross Sea.

Dates of Permitted Activities: Dates. October 1, 2022–September 30, 2027.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Management Analyst, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 2022-17755 Filed 8-17-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-P

NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

Board Meeting

The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board will hold a hybrid (in-person/virtual) public meeting on September 13–14, 2022.

Board meeting: September 13–14, 2022—The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board will hold a hybrid (in-person/virtual) public meeting in Arlington, Virginia, to review information on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) research and development (R&D) activities related to the geologic disposal of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level radioactive waste (HLW) in clay-bearing host rocks and R&D on clay-based engineered barriers.

Pursuant to its authority under section 5051 of Public Law 100-203, Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act (NWPAA) of 1987, the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board will hold a hybrid (in-person/virtual) public meeting in Arlington, Virginia, on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, and Wednesday, September 14, 2022, to review information on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) research and development (R&D) activities related to the geologic disposal of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level radioactive waste (HLW) in clay-bearing host rocks and R&D on clay-based engineered barriers.

The Board meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn National Airport/Crystal City, 2650 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. The hotel telephone number is (703) 684-7200.

The meeting will begin on both days at 12:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) and is scheduled to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. EDT. Speakers from the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy, and the national laboratories conducting the work for DOE, will present work on a range of studies, including modeling the long-term integrity of the host rock, design of the engineered barrier system (EBS), high-temperature experiments involving the EBS, coupled processes in the EBS, and integration of computer models of the EBS and host rock into the Geologic Disposal Safety Assessment Framework. Speakers from Spain and Switzerland will present information on efforts to understand coupled processes in clay-based barriers and clay-bearing host rocks and efforts to develop a safety case for disposal in a clay-bearing host rock. A detailed meeting agenda will be available on the Board's website at www.nwtrb.gov approximately one week before the meeting.

The meeting will be open to the public and there will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of each day. Those attending the meeting in person and wanting to provide oral comments are encouraged to sign the Public Comment Register at the check-in table near the entrance to the meeting room. Oral commenters will be taken in the order in which they signed in. Public comments can also be submitted during the meeting via the online meeting viewing platform, using the "Comment for the Record" form. Comments submitted online during each day of the meeting will be read into the record by Board staff during the public comment period just prior to adjournment. Depending on the number of speakers and online comments, a time limit on individual remarks may be set. However, written comments of any length may be submitted to the Board staff by mail or electronic mail. All comments received in writing will be included in the meeting record, which will be posted on the Board's website after the meeting. An archived recording of the meeting will be available on the Board's website following the meeting, and a transcript of the meeting will be available on the website by November 14, 2022.

The in-person public meeting will follow the COVID-19 precautions mandated by Arlington County, Virginia. Meeting attendees should observe community guidelines in place at the time of the meeting. The Board will post an update on its website if the meeting changes to a virtual-only meeting. Attendees also are encouraged to pre-register to reduce their time

signing in. If the meeting changes to a virtual-only format, those who pre-registered will be notified of the change.

The Board was established in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987 as an independent federal agency in the Executive Branch to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of DOE activities related to the management and disposal of SNF and HLW, and to provide objective expert advice to Congress and the Secretary of Energy on these issues. Board members are experts in their fields and are appointed to the Board by the President from a list of candidates submitted by the National Academy of Sciences. The Board reports its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of Energy. All Board reports, correspondence, congressional testimony, and meeting transcripts and related materials are posted on the Board's website.

For information on the meeting agenda, contact Bret Leslie at leslie@nwtrb.gov or Chandrika Manepally at manepally@nwtrb.gov. For information on logistics, to pre-register for the in-person meeting, or to request copies of the meeting agenda or transcript, contact Davonya Barnes at barnes@nwtrb.gov. All three may be reached by mail at 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300, Arlington, VA 22201-3367; by telephone at 703-235-4473; or by fax at 703-235-4495.

Dated: August 15, 2022.

Daniel G. Ogg,

Acting Executive Director, U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

[FR Doc. 2022-17772 Filed 8-17-22; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-95488; File No. PCAOB-2022-001]

Public Company Accounting Oversight Board; Order Granting Approval of Amendments to Auditing Standards Governing the Planning and Supervision of Audits Involving Other Auditors and Dividing Responsibility for the Audit With Another Accounting Firm

August 12, 2022.

I. Introduction

On June 24, 2022, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (the "Board" or the "PCAOB") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"),

pursuant to Section 107(b)¹ of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the "Sarbanes-Oxley Act") and Section 19(b)² of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), a proposal to adopt Auditing Standard ("AS") 1206, *Dividing Responsibility for the Audit with Another Accounting Firm* (AS 1206); rescind AS 1205, *Part of the Audit Performed by Other Independent Auditors* (AS 1205), and AI 10, *Part of the Audit Performed by Other Independent Auditors: Auditing Interpretations of AS 1205* (AI 10); and amend several other existing auditing standards, interpretations, rules, and forms (collectively, the "Amendments"). The Amendments were published for comment in the **Federal Register** on July 1, 2022.³ We received three comment letters in response to the notice.⁴ This order approves the Amendments, which we find to be consistent with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and the securities laws and necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of investors.

II. Description of the Amendments

On June 21, 2022, the Board adopted the Amendments.⁵ The Amendments would (i) strengthen requirements for audits involving accounting firms and individual accountants other than the accounting firm that issues the auditor's report ("other auditors" and the "lead auditor," respectively), and (ii) update requirements to address relatively uncommon situations in which the lead auditor divides responsibility for the audit with another accounting firm (the "referred-to auditor"). The Amendments are intended to increase and improve the lead auditor's involvement in,

¹ 15 U.S.C. 7217(b).

² 15 U.S.C. 78s(b).

³ See *Public Company Accounting Oversight Board; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rules on Planning and Supervision of Audits Involving Other Auditors and Dividing Responsibility for the Audit with Another Accounting Firm*, Release No. 34-95159 (June 24, 2022) [87 FR 39680 (July 1, 2022)] (the "Notice of Filing of Proposed Rules"), available at <https://www.sec.gov/rules/pcaob/2022/34-95159.pdf>.

⁴ We received comment letters from Deloitte & Touche LLP (July 21, 2022); PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (July 22, 2022); and KPMG LLP (July 22, 2022). Copies of the comment letters received on the Commission order noticing the Proposed Rules are available on the Commission's website at <https://www.sec.gov/comments/pcaob-2022-01/pcaob202201.htm>.

⁵ See *Planning and Supervision of Audits Involving Other Auditors and Dividing Responsibility for the Audit with Another Accounting Firm*, PCAOB Release No. 2022-002 (June 21, 2022) ("PCAOB Adopting Release"), available at https://pcaob-assets.azureedge.net/pcaob-dev/docs/default-source/rulemaking/docket042/pcaob-other-auditors-adopting-release-6-21-2022.pdf?sfvrsn=c3712668_4.