

Antarctica and designation of certain animals and certain geographic areas a requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Specially Protected Areas and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

The applications received are as follows:

1. *Applicant:* Anne A. Sturz, Department of Marine Sciences, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110-2492.

Permit Application No: 2001-006.
Activity for Which Permit is

Requested: Take, Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Areas and Import into the U.S.A. the applicant proposes to enter Area D (Pendulum Cove) of Antarctic Specially Protected Area #140, Shore of Port Foster, Deception Island, for the purpose of collecting shallow seawater samples, see floor sediments (5 grabs of 50 grams each), 50 grams of sand for chemical analyses for comparison to sea floor sediments, and 1 liter of new snow from the shore at Pendulum Cove. Based on previous samples collected in other areas of Deception Island, the chemical analyses of water column samples indicated that dissolved iron is present as a result of hydrothermal fluid, at least in part from dispersed flow near Pendulum Cove. The chemical analyses of new snow may reveal something about aerosol sources of iron. The applicant will import collected samples into the U.S. for further chemical analyses at the University of San Diego.

Location: ASPA 140—Area D (Pendulum Cove), Port Foster, Deception Island, South Shetland Island.

Dates: May 15, 2000 to June 15, 2000.

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Permit Officer, Office of Polar Programs.

[FR Doc. 00-8852 Filed 4-10-00; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permit Applications Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-541)

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of Permit Modification Received under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978, P.L. 95-541.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish a notice of requests to modify permits issued to conduct activities regulated under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. NSF has published regulations under the Antarctic Conservation Act at

Title 45 Part 670 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This is the required notice of a requested permit modification.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit written data, comments, or views with respect to these permit applications by May 8, 2000. 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 G. Kennedy at the above address or (703) 306-1030.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-541), has developed regulations that implement the "Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora" for all United States citizens. The Agreed Measures, developed by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, recommended establishment of a permit system for various activities in Antarctica and designation of certain animals and certain geographic areas a requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Specially Protected Areas and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Description of Permit Modification Requested: The Foundation issued a permit (2000-001) to Dr. Steven D. Emslie on September 21, 1999. The issued permit allows the applicant access to certain Antarctic Specially Protected Areas in order to conduct surveys and excavations of modern and abandoned penguin colonies by surveying ice-free areas to locate evidence of a breeding colony (pebble and/or bone concentrations, and rich vegetation). Not all sites will be visited in single season and access depends upon research vessel cruise tracks and accessibility to the site(s). The sites visited would be sampled by placing a test pit, no more than 1x1 meter in size, in the colony and excavating in 5-10 cm level until bedrock or non-ornithogenic sediments are encountered. To minimize impacts, test pits will be placed in areas with little or no vegetation when possible. Upon completion of the excavation, test pits would be refilled and any vegetation disturbed on the surface replaced. Collected sediments will be taken to the laboratory for processing. Sediments will be washed through fine-mesh screens; all organic remains will be

sorted from the sediments and preserved for identification and analysis.

The applicant proposes access additional Antarctic Specially Protected Areas only on an opportunity basis depending upon vessel cruise tracks and schedules. The additional ASPA's are listed under Location, below:

Location

ASPA 104—Sabrina Island, Balleny Island
ASPA 105—Beaufort Island
ASPA 107—Dion Islands
ASPA 108—Green Island, Berthelot Islands
ASPA 112—Coppermine Peninsula, Robert Island
ASPA 115—Legotellerie Island, Marguerite Bay
ASPA 116—New College Valley, Caughley Beach, Cape Bird
ASPA 117—Avian Island, Northwest Marguerite Bay
ASPA 126—Byers Peninsula, Livingston Island
ASPA 133—Harmony Point, Nelson Island
ASPA 134—Cierva Point, Danco Coast
ASPA 149—Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island
ASPA 150—Ardley Island, King George Island
ASPA 154—Cape Evans, Ross Island

Dates: January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2005.

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Permit Officer, Office of Polar Programs.

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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:* Policy Statement on Cooperation with States at Commercial

Nuclear Power Plants and Other Production or Utilization Facilities.

2. *Current OMB approval number:* 3150-0163.

3. *How often the collection is required:* On occasion—when a State wishes to observe NRC inspections or perform inspections for NRC.

4. *Who is required or asked to report:* Those States interested in observing or performing inspections.

5. *The number of annual respondents:* Maximum of 50, although not all States have participated in the program.

6. *The number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request:* An average estimate of 10 hours per State or 500 hours if all States participated in the program.

7. *Abstract:* States wishing to enter into an agreement with NRC to observe or participate in NRC inspections at nuclear power facilities are requested to provide certain information to the NRC to ensure close cooperation and consistency with the NRC inspection program as specified by the Commission's Policy of Cooperation with States at Commercial Nuclear Power Plants and Other Nuclear Production or Utilization Facilities. Submit, by June 12, 2000, 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, 2120 L Street NW, (lower level), Washington, DC. 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 5th day of April, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Brenda Jo. Shelton,

NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-8948 Filed 4-10-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-461]

Amergen Energy Company, LLC, Clinton Power Station; Notice of Consideration of Approval of Transfer of Facility Operating License and Conforming Amendment 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 transfer of Facility Operating License No. NPF-62 for Clinton Power Station, held by AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (AmerGen), as the owner and licensed operator. The transfer would result from the acquisition of PECO Energy Company's existing interest in AmerGen by a new generation company. This company, presently referred to in the subject application described below as GENCO, is to be a subsidiary of a new holding company Exelon Corporation formed from the proposed merger between PECO Energy Company (PECO) and Unicom Corporation (Unicom). The Commission is also considering amending the license for administrative purposes to reflect the proposed transfer. The facility is located in DeWitt County, Illinois.

According to an application for approval filed by AmerGen, AmerGen is a limited liability company formed to acquire and operate nuclear power plants in the United States. British Energy, Inc. and PECO each own 50% of AmerGen. Following completion of the merger between Unicom and PECO, GENCO will acquire PECO's existing 50% ownership interest in AmerGen. AmerGen, as owned by GENCO and British Energy, Inc. will continue to be responsible for the operation, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning of Clinton Power Station. No physical changes to the facility or operational changes are being proposed in the application.

The proposed amendment to the operating license would add language to the license transfer conditions that were incorporated into the Clinton Operating License upon the initial transfer of the license to AmerGen, to reflect the transfer of PECO's ownership interest in AmerGen to a new entity.

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 transfer of a license if the Commission determines that the proposed transferee is qualified to hold the license, and that the transfer is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission pursuant thereto.

Before issuance of the proposed conforming license amendments, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's regulations.

As provided in 10 CFR 2.1315, unless otherwise determined by the Commission with regard to a specific application, the Commission has determined that any amendment to the license of a utilization facility which does no more than conform the license to reflect the transfer action involves no significant hazards consideration. No contrary determination has been made with respect to this specific license amendment application. In light of the generic determination reflected in 10 CFR 2.1315, no public comments with respect to significant hazards considerations are being solicited, notwithstanding the general comment procedures contained in 10 CFR 50.91.

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 May 1, 2000 any person whose interest may be affected by the Commission's action on the application may request a hearing and, if not, the applicant 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, and should address the considerations contained in 10 CFR 2.1308(a). Untimely requests and petitions may be denied, as provided in 10 CFR 2.1308(b), unless good cause for failure to file on time is established. In addition, an untimely request or