

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 Applications Received under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978, Pub. L. 95-541.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish 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 as Title 45 Part 670 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This is the required notice to permit applications received.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit written data, comments, or view with respect to this permit application by November 19, 2004. This application 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) 292-7405.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-541), 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 requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

The applications received are as follows:

Permit Application No. 2005-016

1. *Applicant:* Julie Rose, 3616 Trousdale Parkway, AHF 301, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0371.

Activity for Which Permit is

Requested: Introduce a non-indigenous species to Antarctica. The applicant proposes to use marine phytoplankton cultures and non-fluorescent marine bacterial cultures to study the feeding rates of Antarctic protistan grazers. Marine phytoplankton samples will be collected during the course of the cruise and the samples will be taken back to the United States for further study.

Location: Southern Oceans south of 60 degrees South, and Ross Sea.

Dates: December 1, 2004 to February 1, 2005.

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Permit Officer, Office of Polar Programs.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-293]

**Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.,
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station; Notice
of Consideration of Issuance of
Amendment to Facility Operating
License, Proposed No Significant
Hazards Consideration Determination,
and Opportunity for a Hearing**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-35 issued to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the licensee) for operation of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station located in Plymouth, MA.

The proposed amendment would approve an engineering evaluation performed in accordance with Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station Technical Specification (TS) 3.6.D.3 to justify continued power operation with safety relief valve (SRV)-3C discharge pipe temperature exceeding 212 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) for greater than 24 hours as required by TS 3.6.D.4.

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

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), Section 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

1. Does the proposed change involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?

Response: No.

Indication of elevated SRV discharge pipe temperature is attributed to leakage past the SRV pilot valve. Excessive leakage, corresponding to temperatures greater than 255°F, has the potential to affect SRV operability by affecting the SRV setpoint or response time. Continued operation with the discharge pipe of the SRV indicating temperatures less than 255°F ensures that the leakage past the SRV is maintained below the threshold for a leakage rate that would potentially have an effect on SRV setpoint or response time.

Administrative controls are in place to ensure that margin to the 255°F value is maintained to assure reliable operation and to reduce the potential for damage to the SRV pilot seat and disc. The SRV continues to perform the intended design/safety function with no adverse effect because the leakage past the SRV is maintained below the threshold for a leakage rate that could potentially have an adverse impact on the ability of the SRV to perform the design function. The impact of the leakage on other systems is small and all systems continue to be able to perform their intended design functions. Current accident analyses remain bounding and there is no significant increase in the consequences of any accident previously evaluated. In addition, as a result of the leakage, normal plant operating parameters are not affected and consequently there is no increased risk in a plant transient.

Therefore, the proposed change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated[.]

2. Does the proposed change create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated?

Response: No.

Continued plant operation with elevated SRV-3C discharge pipe temperature within the bounds of the established administrative controls ensures that the leakage past the SRV is maintained below the threshold for a leakage rate that would potentially have an effect on SRV setpoint or response time. This ensures that the SRV will perform the intended design/safety function. The leakage does not adversely impact the ability of any system to perform its design function. The methods governing plant operation and testing remain consistent with current safety analysis assumptions. Therefore, the proposed change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

3. Does the proposed change involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety?

Response: No.

Continued operation with the of SRV-3C discharge pipe indicating temperature in excess of 212 °F does not adversely affect existing plant safety margins or the reliability of the equipment assumed to operate in the safety analysis. The leakage does not result in excess SRV setpoint drift or response time