

collection from whales; boat-based photography for individual recognition and species identification; and projectile biopsy sampling for collection of skin and blubber samples. Whole or parts of dead animals may be salvaged for chemical analysis or genetic determination of species for unidentified prey parts. Samples are imported into the USA and archived at the NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center.

Now the permit holder proposes a permit modification to collect floating fecal samples from killer whales to fill key data gaps on their dietary composition using genetic techniques. The samples would be collected during the course of research activities that are already permitted and would not cause any additional disturbance to whales. Therefore, there is no request for additional takes. The samples would be transported to a laboratory in the U.S. for analysis. The sample collection would begin in the 2019/2020 season and continue for the duration of the permit. The Environmental Officer has reviewed the modification request and has determined that the amendment is not a material change to the permit, and it will have a less than a minor or transitory impact.

Dates of Permitted Activities: November 21, 2019–May 31, 2021.

The permit modification was issued on November 21, 2019.

4. NSF issued a permit (ACA 2017–019) to Jerry McDonald, Principal in Charge, Leidos Innovations Group, Antarctic Support Contract, to allow entry into five Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) in the Antarctic Peninsula region. The Antarctic Support Contractor's staff provides routine logistics support in the transport of science teams and supporting personnel, and in field camp put-in and take-out. Entry into an ASPA would occur only to support a science project for which a permit has been issued. Entry needs and requirements will be reviewed by ASC Environmental Health and Safety Department prior to entry and reported per standard procedures.

On March 9, 2017, the permit was modified to include entry into one additional ASPA (Byers Peninsula, #126) and on October 6, 2017 the permit was modified to include entry into two additional ASPAs: ASPA No. 161, Terra Nova Bay, Ross Sea and ASPA No. 173, Cape Washington and Silverfish Bay, Terra Nova Bay, Ross Sea.

Now the permit holder is requesting entry into five additional ASPAs in order to support scientific research activities funded and supported by NSF

and the US Antarctic Program. The permit holder and agents would enter ASPA 107, Emperor Island; ASPA 108, Green Island; ASPA 115, Lagotellerie Island; ASPA 134, Cierva Point and offshore islands; and ASPA 170, Marion Nunatuks, Charcot Island. The Environmental Officer has reviewed the modification request and has determined that the amendment is not a material change to the permit, and it will have a less than a minor or transitory impact.

Dates of Permitted Activities: January 8, 2020–September 1, 2021.

The permit modification was issued on January 8, 2020.

5. NSF issued a permit (ACA 2020–013) to Nicholas Teets on January 2, 2020. The issued permit allows the permit holder and agents to access sites along the Antarctic Peninsula, including ASPAs 108, 126, and 134, to collect midges (*Belgica antarctica*) for physiology and genetic studies as described in the attached permit application.

Now the applicant proposes a permit modification to enter APSA 149, Cape Shirreff and San Telmo Island, Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands, to survey the area for the presence midges and to make collections of the insects in accordance with the conditions and details of their original permit. The Environmental Officer has reviewed the modification request and has determined that the amendment is not a material change to the permit, and it will have a less than a minor or transitory impact.

Dates of Permitted Activities: January 17, 2020–July 1, 2022.

The permit modification was issued on January 17, 2020.

6. NSF issued a permit (ACA 2017–012) to George Watters. The issued permit allows the permit holder and agents to engage in take, harmful interference, ASPA entry, and import in support of the marine mammal and avian research activities conducted by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Antarctic Marine Living Resources (AMLR) Program.

A recent modification to this permit, dated November 21, 2019, permitted the applicant to collect fresh penguin fecal material samples to study the presence of microplastics in seabird diets.

Now the applicant proposes a permit modification to add the take and harmful interference of king penguins, *Aptenodytes patagonicus*, to the permit. The permit holder identified a king penguin in the study area and would approach for photographs and to confirm the presence of an egg. The

Environmental Officer has reviewed the modification request and has determined that the amendment is not a material change to the permit, and it will have a less than a minor or transitory impact.

Dates of Permitted Activities: January 17, 2020–July 30, 2021.

The permit modification was issued on January 17, 2020.

Erika N. Davis,
Program Specialist, Office of Polar Programs.
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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC–2018–0028]

Development of an Ex Situ Performance Testing Protocol for Nuclear Power Plant Flood Penetration Seals

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Draft NUREG; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing for public comment a draft NUREG, NUREG–2240, “Development of an Ex Situ Performance Testing Protocol for Nuclear Power Plant Flood Penetration Seals.” This draft NUREG summarizes a research project that developed a test protocol for evaluating flood penetration seals using simulated flooding conditions in a laboratory setting.

DATES: Submit comments by September 2, 2020. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2018–0028. Address questions about NRC docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Jennifer Borges; telephone: 301–287–9127; email: Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *Mail comments to:* Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN–7–A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments,

see “Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments” in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Aird, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-2442; email: Thomas.Aird@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments

A. Obtaining Information

Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2018-0028 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2018-0028.
- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select “Begin Web-based ADAMS Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by email to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The draft NUREG-2240 is available in ADAMS under Accession ML20206L359.

B. Submitting Comments

Please include Docket ID NRC-2018-0028 in the subject line of your comment submission.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC posts all comment submissions at <https://www.regulations.gov> as well as entering the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or

entering the comment submissions into ADAMS.

II. Discussion

Draft NUREG-2240 summarizes the results of a research project on flood penetration seals installed at nuclear power plants (NPPs). The objectives of this research project were to characterize flood penetration seals currently installed at NPPs and to develop a test protocol that evaluated the effectiveness and performance of flood penetration seals in their installed configurations. The test protocol described in draft NUREG-2240 is intended to support the evaluation of the flood mitigation performance of penetration seals that are installed to protect openings in barriers (walls/floors) that have been otherwise credited as having a flood resistance rating in support of a flood mitigation program at NPPs.

The overall research project consisted of three phases: (1) Profiling of flood penetration seals currently used in U.S. NPPs; (2) developing a draft ex-situ performance testing protocol; and (3) performing limited testing of several seal types and applications to evaluate and refine the testing protocol. Project materials including a draft test protocol from phases 1 and 2 were published in the **Federal Register** for public comment on February 20, 2018 (83 FR 7239). After a 30-day public comment period, the public comments were assessed, and the draft test protocol was updated as necessary.

As part of the third and final phase of this research project, a limited series of flood tests were conducted to assess the effectiveness and viability of the developed testing protocol. As the flood experiments took place, the draft protocol was assessed using the test data. Informal observations of individual flood seal performance were recorded and described in the draft NUREG, but such observations should not be considered exhaustive or as ascribing specific properties/qualifications to the flood seals themselves. The overall results of these tests and subsequent amendments to the test protocol are outlined in draft NUREG-2240.

This document is not intended for interim use. The NRC will review public comments received on the document and incorporate suggested changes as appropriate.

Dated: July 28, 2020.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Mark H. Salley,

Chief, Fire and External Hazard Analysis Branch, Division of Risk Analysis, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2020-0153]

Changes to Subsequent License Renewal Guidance Documents Regarding Reactor Vessel Internal Components in Pressurized Water Reactors

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Draft interim staff guidance; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is soliciting public comment on draft interim staff guidance (ISG) that proposes changes to the NRC's subsequent license renewal guidance documents. Specifically, this ISG revises guidance contained in NUREG-2191, “Generic Aging Lessons Learned for Subsequent License Renewal (GALL-SLR) Report,” and NUREG-2192, “Standard Review Plan for Review of Subsequent License Renewal Applications for Nuclear Power Plants.” NUREG-2191 and NUREG-2192 were published in July 2017 and are not scheduled to be updated for several years. The proposed changes to these documents are contained in a draft ISG entitled, “Draft SLR-ISG-PWRVI-2020-XX; Updated Aging Management Criteria for Reactor Vessel Internal Components in Pressurized Water Reactors.”

DATES: Submit comments by September 2, 2020. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received before this date.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2020-0153. Address questions about NRC docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Jennifer Borges; telephone: 301-287-9127; email: Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *Mail comments to:* Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory