

date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Sunil Iyengar, National Endowment for the Arts, via email at [NEAstrategicplanninggroup@arts.gov](mailto:NEAstrategicplanninggroup@arts.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**A. About the National Endowment for the Arts**

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is an independent federal agency, providing funding and support to give Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Currently, the NEA supports arts organizations and artists in every Congressional district in the country.

**B. Request for Comments**

As a federal agency, the National Endowment for the Arts is required to establish a new strategic plan every four years. The Strategic Plan sets key priorities for the agency and presents management-focused objectives and strategies. The current draft plan is intended to align the NEA's strategic aims more closely with the needs of today, while elevating the vital and enduring role of the Agency within government and society at large. The NEA's draft Strategic Plan, covering fiscal years 2022–2026 can be found online, here: <https://www.arts.gov/strategic-plan-input>.

Through this Request for Comments, the NEA is seeking public input and comments from a broad array of stakeholders (see **SUMMARY**). A call for comments has also been posted to the agency's website: <https://www.arts.gov/strategic-plan-input>.

*Authority:* 5 U.S.C. 306.

Dated: August 17, 2021.

**Meghan Jugder,**

*Support Services Specialist, Office of Administrative Services & Contracts, National Endowment for the Arts.*

[FR Doc. 2021–17883 Filed 8–19–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7537–01–P**

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

**Notice of Permit Modification Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978**

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice of permit modification request.

**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. 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 this permit application by September 20, 2021. Permit applications 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Polly Penhale, ACA Permit Officer, at the above address, 703–292–7420, or [ACApermits@nsf.gov](mailto:ACApermits@nsf.gov).

**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 a requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

*Description of Permit Modification Requested:* The Foundation issued a permit (ACA 2019–001) to Ron Naveen, Oceanites Inc., on August 7, 2018. The issued permit allows the permit holder and agents to engage in take and harmful interference, as well as to enter Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs), to continue data collections activities conducted to support the Antarctic Site Inventory. Visitor site surveys may include censusing penguin and seabird colonies throughout the Antarctic Peninsula. There is the potential for slight disturbance of the birds during surveying and censusing. This permit addresses the potential for infrequent, minimal take or harmful interference of the several penguin and other seabird species. While conducting visitor site surveys and censuses, the permit holder and agents may enter a number of ASPAs in the Antarctic Peninsula region.

A recent modification to this permit, dated November 20, 2019, permitted the applicant to collect samples from adult gentoo penguins (*Pygoscelis papua*) for genetic analysis in order to study range expansion, colonization of new areas, and gene flow.

Now the applicant proposes a modification to his permit to include

use of unoccupied aerial systems (UAS) to enable more efficient monitoring of penguin breeding colonies and to improve penguin censusing capabilities in the Antarctic Peninsula region. The applicant has included a detailed list of mitigation measures to limit disturbance to wild populations throughout operations. The applicant also seeks to include opportunistic guano sampling under the existing permit to assist in analysis of penguin diet. Guano samples will be collected during planned operations within penguin colonies and the disturbance to wildlife is expected to be minimal.

*Location:* Western Antarctic Peninsula.

*Dates:* September 1, 2018–August 31, 2023.

**Erika N. Davis,**

*Program Specialist, Office of Polar Programs.*

[FR Doc. 2021–17825 Filed 8–19–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555–01–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 20, 2021. 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Polly Penhale, ACA Permit Officer, at the above address, 703–292–7420, or [ACApermits@nsf.gov](mailto:ACApermits@nsf.gov).

**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