

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Notice of Intent to Grant Exclusive License

AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and intent.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that three Federally owned cultivars of forage pearl millet, "Tifleaf 3," "Tift 8593," and "Tift 93", are available for licensing and that the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, intends to grant an exclusive license to the University of Georgia Research Foundation. Applications for Plant Variety Protection Certificates for each of these cultivars have been filed with the Plant Variety Protection Office in the United States Department of Agriculture.

DATES: Comments must be received by no later than April 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to: USDA-ARS-Office of Technology Transfer, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Baltimore Boulevard, Building 005, Room 416, BARC-W, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2350.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Watkins of the Office of Technology Transfer at the Beltsville address given above; telephone 301/504-6905.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Government's plant variety protection rights to this variety are assigned to the United States of America, as represented by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is in the public interest to so license this invention, for the University of Georgia Research Foundation has submitted a complete and sufficient application for a license. The prospective exclusive license will be royalty-bearing and will comply with the terms and conditions of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The

prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within ninety days from the date of this published Notice, ARS receives written evidence and argument which establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

R.M. Parry, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96-77 Filed 1-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-03-M

Rural Utilities Service

South Mississippi Electric Power Association; Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with respect to its action related to an expansion and repowering project by South Mississippi Electric Power Association (SMEPA) at its existing Moselle Generating Station. The FONSI is the conclusion of an Environmental Assessment prepared by RUS. The Environmental Assessment is based on an environmental analysis submitted to RUS by SMEPA. RUS conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental analysis and concurs with its scope and content.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lawrence R. Wolfe, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist, Engineering and Environmental Staff, RUS, South Agriculture Building, Ag Box 1569, Washington, DC 20250, telephone (202) 720-1784.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed expansion and repowering project would be installed at SMEPA's existing Moselle Generating Station located in Jones County, Mississippi, approximately 2 miles west of Interstate 59 on Mississippi Highway 589. Currently in operation at this station are three 59 megawatt (MW) gas/oil fired steam turbines. The proposed facilities will utilize the existing plant infrastructure such as the natural gas and oil supply, electric transmission lines, and water system. SMEPA has optioned to purchase 20 acres

contiguous with the north side of the Moselle site to accommodate the expansion needed for the additional generating facility.

The proposed facility will consist of a simple cycle combustion turbine and air-cooled generator. The turbine will have a generating output estimated to be between 80 and 120 megawatts (MW). The FONSI includes a combined cycle facility also under consideration by SMEPA which would be designed and constructed at a future date. The combined cycle facility would have a generating output estimated to be between 80 and 120 MW. This phase of the project would be conducted in conjunction with the repowering of the existing 59 MW number 3 steam turbine at the Moselle Generating Station. However, at this time RUS is only considering taking an action related to the simple cycle combustion phase of the proposed expansion and repowering which it considers to be justified by need.

The new simple cycle generation facility would be made up of the following components: combustion turbine generator, fuel oil forwarding system, flue gas scrubber, demineralized water monitoring system, generator step-up transformer, station auxiliary transformer, medium voltage switchgear auxiliary station supply, secondary unit switchgear, including low voltage, switchgear, motor control centers, and bus duct.

The facility will be designed to operate using natural gas as the primary fuel and number 2 fuel oil as the secondary fuel. Natural gas would be supplied via the existing gas pipeline at the site. Fuel oil will be shipped to the site by truck and stored on site in storage tanks.

The future addition of the combined cycle facility would involve the following components: combustion turbine generator, heat recovery steam generator, boiler feedwater system, flue gas scrubber, demineralized water transfer pumps, continuous emissions monitoring system, generator step-up transformer, station auxiliary transformer, medium voltage switchgear auxiliary station supply, secondary unit switchgear including low voltage switchgear, motor control centers, and bus duct.

The combined cycle facility would utilize many of the existing

infrastructure systems at the Moselle Generating Station.

A continuous emissions monitoring (CEM) system would be used to monitor flue gas emissions from both the simple cycle and the combined cycle facilities. The CEM would measure opacity, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, oxygen, volatile organic compounds, and sulfur dioxide for the purpose of ensuring compliance with federal and State of Mississippi air quality standards.

The alternatives of no action, demand side management, power purchases, hydroelectric units, wind and solar power, geothermal power, and alternative site locations were considered.

Copies of the environmental assessment and FONSI are available for review at, or can be obtained from, RUS at the address provided herein or from Mr. Joey Ward, South Mississippi Electric Power Association, P.O. Box 15849, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, telephone (601) 268-2083. Interested parties wishing to comment on the adequacy of the Environmental Assessment should do so within 30 days of the publication of this notice. RUS will take no action that would approve clearing or construction activities related to this expansion and repowering project prior to the expiration of the 30-day comment period.

Dated: December 27, 1995.

Blaine D. Stockton, Jr.,

Acting Deputy Administrator Program Operations.

[FR Doc. 96-78 Filed 1-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122795B]

Endangered Species; Permits

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Issuance of an amendment of permit 747 (P45H).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has issued an amendment to a permit that authorizes a take of listed species for the purpose of scientific research and enhancement, subject to certain conditions set forth therein, to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) located in Red Bluff, CA.

ADDRESSES: The action request and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR8, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, NOAA, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310-980-4016).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The amendment of permit 747 was issued under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-222).

The amendment of permit 747 was issued on December 20, 1995. Permit 747 authorizes FWS to take endangered Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) associated with scientific research and enhancement activities. The amendment provides an extension of the permit for 90 days; a moratorium on the collection of adult listed fish for broodstock for the duration of the permit; and authorization to release juvenile, listed, artificially-propagated, winter-run chinook salmon in December, 1995, rather than January, 1996 as previously authorized.

Permit 747 was to expire on December 31, 1995. An extension of the permit is necessary to allow FWS to continue research and enhancement activities until new permits replace permit 747 and to have an opportunity to address technical concerns with FWS' listed fish artificial propagation program, as proposed in their new section 10 enhancement permit application, P45V (60 FR 58334, November 27, 1995). Genetics research has found that FWS' artificial propagation of winter-run chinook salmon has likely resulted in some hybridization with spring-run chinook salmon. In addition, hatchery-produced winter-run chinook salmon have not been returning to the mainstem Sacramento River as intended, but rather have been returning to Battle Creek where Coleman National Fish Hatchery is located, apparently as a result of imprinting on Battle Creek water.

The purpose of the moratorium on the collection of adult listed fish for broodstock is to avoid compromising the genetic integrity of the winter-run chinook salmon population due to the present circumstances and to avoid a significant drain on the 1996 spawning population if juveniles continue to imprint exclusively on Battle Creek. The

earlier juvenile fish release is an attempt to improve the likelihood that the fish will imprint on mainstem Sacramento River water. Any suspected progeny of hybrid crosses between winter-run chinook salmon and spring-run chinook salmon will not be released. The amendment is in effect for the duration of the permit. The new expiration date of permit 747 is March 31, 1996.

Issuance of the amendment, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such action: (1) Was requested in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that is the subject of the permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA and the NMFS regulations governing listed species permits.

Dated: December 27, 1995.

Ann D. Terbush,

Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-99 Filed 1-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Chicago Mercantile Exchange Proposed Futures and Futures Options Contracts on Four Currency Cross-Rates

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the terms and conditions of proposed commodity futures and options contracts.

SUMMARY: The Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME or Exchange) has applied for designation as a contract market in futures and options contracts in four currency cross-rates: the Deutsche Mark/French Franc, the Deutsche Mark/Italian Lira, the Deutsche Mark/Spanish Peseta, and the Deutsche Mark/Swedish Krona. The Director of the Division of Economic Analysis (Division) of the Commission, acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96, has determined that publication of the proposals for comment is in the public interest, will assist the Commission in considering the views of interested persons, and is consistent with the purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 5, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit their views and comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity