

**I. Background**

Inadequate maintenance of electric equipment is a major cause of serious electrical accidents in the coal mining industry. Improperly maintained electric equipment has also been responsible for many disastrous mine fires and explosions. The most recent example is the mine fire that occurred at the Wilberg Mine, resulting in the deaths of 27 miners. It is imperative that mine operators adopt and follow an effective maintenance program to ensure that electric equipment is maintained in a safe operating condition if electrocutions, mine fires, and mine explosions are to be prevented.

**II. Current Actions**

The subject regulations require the mine operator to establish an electrical maintenance program by specifying minimum requirements for the examination, testing, and maintenance of electric equipment. The regulations also contain recordkeeping requirements which may in some instances help operators in implementing an effective maintenance program. The subject records of tests and examinations are examined by coal miners, coal mine officials, and MSHA inspectors. MSHA inspectors examine the records to determine if the required tests and examinations have been conducted and to identify units of electric equipment that may be creating

excessive safety problems, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the coal mine operator's electrical maintenance programs. By comparing the records with the actual condition of electric equipment, MSHA inspectors may in some cases be able to identify weaknesses in the coal mine operator's electrical maintenance programs and require that he weaknesses by corrected.

*Type of Review:* Extension.  
*Agency:* Mine Safety and Health Administration.  
*Title:* Examination and Tests of Electrical Equipment.  
*OMB Number:* 1219-0067.  
*Agency Number:* MSHA 224.  
*Recordkeeping:* 1 year.  
*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.

Cite/reference	Total respondents	Frequency	Total responses	Average time per response	Burden hours
75.512	16,742	Weekly	870,584	42 minutes	593,762
75.703-3(d)(11)	Included with 75.512 calculation.				
77.502	25,485	Monthly	305,820	1 hour	228,091
75.800-4 and 77.800-2	3,115	Monthly	37,380	45 minutes	28,035
77.900-2	1,699	Monthly	20,388	45 minutes	15,291
75.900-4	5,970	Monthly	71,640	1.5 hours	107,460
75.1001-1(c)	1,000	6 months	2,000	1.5 hours	3,000
75.342(a)(4)	1,040	Monthly	12,480	45 minutes	9,360
75.351	647	Monthly	7,764	1.5 hours	9,705
Totals	55,698		1,328,056		994,704

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* \$300,000.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining):* \$390.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 22, 1998.

**George M. Fesak,**

*Director, Program Evaluation and Information Resources.*

[FR Doc. 98-25686 Filed 9-24-98; 8:45 am]

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**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

**Office of Federal Procurement Policy**

**Rescission of Office of Federal Procurement Policy Policy Letter 79-4, Contracting for Motion Picture Productions and Videotape Productions**

**AGENCY:** Office of Management and Budget, Office of Federal Procurement Policy.

**ACTION:** Proposed rescission of Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) Policy Letter 79-4, Contracting for Motion Picture Productions and Videotape Productions.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Office of Federal Procurement Policy intends to rescind Policy Letter 79-4, Contracting for Motion Picture Productions and Videotape Productions on December 24, 1998. The purpose of the Policy Letter was to designate a uniform government-wide system to be used in contracting for motion picture and videotape production, including the establishment of a Qualified Producers List to enhance competition. Management studies in the 1970s indicated dissatisfaction with the policies and procedures the government followed when contracting for production of motion pictures and videotapes. In response, OFPP Policy Letter 79-4 was developed to: reduce perceived waste and inefficiency in contracting for such services; ensure that the government obtains such services at fair, competitive prices; provide a central point within the government where interested persons can obtain information on relevant contracting procedures and

opportunities; and increase competition for these contracts. However, changes over the last 19 years in both the marketplace for these services and procurement laws and regulations make the Policy Letter obsolete. Today there are thousands of commercial producers of motion picture and videotape productions, competition is the norm, contracting officers routinely obtain past performance information, and Internet access (see Supplementary Information below) as well as other marketplace tools provide sources of supply. It is no longer cost-effective or efficient for the government to maintain an office dedicated to evaluating contractors and maintaining a Qualified Producers List in this commercial environment.

**DATES:** Persons who wish to comment on the proposed rescission of OFPP Policy Letter 79-4 should submit their comments no later than December 9, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Michael Gerich, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Room 9001 New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Gerich, Office of Federal

Procurement Policy, 202-395-3501. Copies of Policy Letter 79-4 are available at the address above.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The executive agent for Policy Letter 79-4, Defense Visual Information, is developing a world wide website that will contain an Interested Producers List (IPL) as well as links to other sites for current, up to date and valuable solicitation information. Thus, while a Qualified Producers List will no longer be a requirement, all persons or firms interested in doing business with the government will have access to, as a convenience, databases designed to promote the exchange of information for procurement of motion picture, video and multimedia productions. This virtual clearing house of information will provide federal agencies with a valuable information resource and will provide audiovisual and multimedia producers a forum, the IPL, to present their production capabilities, technical skills, experience, and subject matter expertise in a searchable on-line database. Access the website, <http://dodimagery.afis.osd.mil> and select "Order/Initiate VI Production" for more information on the IPL website currently under development. This new website will be activated upon rescission of Policy Letter 79-4.

**Deidre A. Lee,**  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 98-25653 Filed 9-24-98; 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 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 at Title 45, Part 670 of 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 these permit applications by October 20, 1998. 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 (Pub. L. 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 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

Permit Application No. 99-012

Erick Chiang, Head, Polar Research Support Section, Office of Polar Programs, Rm. 755, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230

### Activity for Which Permit Is Requested

Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Areas

The applicant proposes to conduct recreational and educational visits, by authorized U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP) participants, to the following areas: SPA #25—Cape Evans, including Scott's Hut; SPA #26—Cape Adare, including the historic huts; SPA #27—Cape Royds, including Shackleton's Hut; and SPA #28—Discovery Hut (Hut Point). McMurdo Station is located on Hut Point, Ross Island, and is in very close proximity to several historic huts, especially Discovery Hut, which sits adjacent to the station. Access to the huts will be by tracked vehicle, helicopter, or on foot as appropriate. All visits will be conducted in accordance with the management plans for the specific sites. In addition, procedures for monitoring numbers of USAP visitors throughout the season will be implemented.

### Location

SPA #25—Cape Evans, including Scott's Hut; SPA #26—Cape Adare, including the historic huts;

SPA #27—Cape Royds, including Shackleton's Hut; and SPA #28—Discovery Hut, Hut Point.

### Dates

October 1, 1998–September 30, 2003.

**Nadene G. Kennedy,**

*Permit Officer, Office of Polar Programs.*

[FR Doc. 98-25727 Filed 9-24-98; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-336]

### Northeast Nuclear Energy Company; Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted the request of Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) to withdraw its July 7, 1995, application for proposed amendment to Facility Operating License No. DRP-65 for the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 2, located in New London County, Connecticut.

The proposed amendment would have revised the requirements for the control room air conditioning system and supporting Bases. Subsequently, by letter dated August 4, 1998, NNECO withdrew the amendment request because it is in the process of performing new radiological assessment calculations for various Millstone, Unit No. 2, design basis accidents, which will result in changes to the proposed amendment. NNECO also indicated that it would no longer be necessary to respond to the two requests for additional information dated November 6 and 25, 1997, since the amendment request is being withdrawn.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment published in the **Federal Register** on August 2, 1995 (60 FR 39443). However, by letter dated August 4, 1998, the licensee withdrew the proposed change.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated July 7, 1995, and the licensee's letter dated August 4, 1998, which withdrew the application for license amendment. The above documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document rooms located at the Learning Resources Center, Three Rivers Community-