

degrees in science and engineering from U.S. academic institutions.

3. Burden on the Public

The amount of time to complete the questionnaire may vary depending on an individual's circumstances; however, on average it will take approximately 30 minutes to complete the survey. We estimate that the total annual burden will be 5,737 hours during the year.

Dated: March 1, 2001.

Teresa R. Pierce,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 01-5417 Filed 3-5-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

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, Public Law 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 this permit application by April 5, 2001. 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: Joyce Jatko at the above address or (703) 292-8032.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Science Foundation, under the authority of the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978, as amended, issued regulations providing for the conservation of Antarctic animals and plants. The regulations provide for a permit system for various activities in Antarctica otherwise prohibited, including entry into Antarctic Specially Protected Areas, taking of native mammals, birds, or plants, exporting or

importing any native mammal, bird or plant, or introducing into Antarctica any non-native species.

The Application Received Is as Follows

Applicant: H. William Detrich, Department of Biology, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02215.

Permit Application No.: 2001-027.

Activity for Which Permit is

Requested: Introduce into Antarctica.

The applicant proposes to use a mixture of species of frozen fish tissues from species native to Patagonia Chile, specifically *Macruronus magellanicus* and *Dissostichus eleginoides*, as bait in experimental fishing of fish traps/pots in the Antarctic peninsula area. The bait will be used to attempt to capture Antarctic fish for ongoing studies of their biochemistry and molecular biology. In all previous research seasons, capture of fish specimens has been carried out exclusively by benthic trawling. If use of the fish traps proves to be successful, this method could reduce the necessity and frequency of trawling for specimens and resultant disruption to benthic communities and could yield a much more diverse sample of fish species for research work. It is anticipated that a maximum of twenty traps using ten to fifteen kilogram blocks of frozen bait each would be required.

Location: Antarctic peninsula area in the vicinities of Low, Brabant, Anvers, Livingston Islands and Dallmann Bay.

Dates: June 10, 2001 to July 15, 2001.

Joyce A. Jatko,

Acting Permit Officer, Office of Polar Programs.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-389]

Florida Power and Light Company, et al., St. Lucie Plant, Unit No. 2; Exemption

1.0 Background

The Florida Power and Light Company, et al. (FPL, the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. NPF-16, which authorizes operation of St. Lucie Unit No. 2. The license provides, among other things, that the facility is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC, the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

The facility consists of a pressurized water reactor located in St. Lucie County, Florida.

2.0 Purpose

Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), part 54 addresses the various requirements for renewal of operating licenses for nuclear power plants. Section 54.17(c) of part 54 specifies:

An application for a renewed license may not be submitted to the Commission earlier than 20 years before the expiration of the operating license currently in effect.

By letter dated October 30, 2000, the licensee requested an exemption from 10 CFR 54.17(c) for St. Lucie Unit 2. At the time of the request, there were more than 22 years remaining until the expiration of the current operating license for St. Lucie Unit 2. The exemption would allow FPL to process and submit the St. Lucie Unit 2 license renewal application concurrent with the St. Lucie Unit 1 license renewal application. Because of the similarities in design, operation, maintenance, operating experience and environments of the two St. Lucie units, many of the analyses to be performed for Unit 1 would be directly applicable to Unit 2.

Based on an anticipated submittal of a renewal application in June 2002, this exemption would permit the licensee to submit a license renewal request for St. Lucie Unit 2 approximately 1 year earlier than the date specified by 10 CFR 54.17(c), in order to allow it to be prepared and submitted concurrently with the license renewal application for St. Lucie Unit 1.

3.0 Discussion

Pursuant to 10 CFR 54.15, the Commission may, upon application by any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR part 54, in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.12, when (1) the exemptions are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health or safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security; and (2) when special circumstances are present.

The requirements for exemption are discussed below:

3.1 Authorized by Law

The Commission's basis for establishing the 20-year limit contained in Section 54.17(c) is discussed in the 1991 Statements of Consideration for Part 54 (56 FR 64963). The limit was established to ensure that substantial operating experience was accumulated by a licensee before a renewal application is submitted such that any