

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. 2002-001, Jerry, Mullins, U.S. Geological Survey, MS-521, Reston, VA 20192.

Activity for Which Permit is Requested

Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Area. The McMurdo Dry Valleys are a primary site for calibration and validation of NASA's ICESat satellite data, set for launch in the coming year. The applicant plans to use a scanning laser altimeter from a Twin Otter to measure very precisely the surface elevation and topography of the valleys within the 70-meter footprint of the laser. Due to the relatively confined region of the Dry Valleys, it is necessary to survey all of the ice-free portions for the satellite calibration data set, including the Barwick Valley (ASPAs #123). For optimal data, the survey will require that flights be conducted over the region at a minimum altitude of 1500 feet above ground level. All ground support activities will be provide this data set, without new aerial photography and intensive ground-based activities in the Valley.

Location

ASPAs 123—Barwick Valley, Victoria Land, and other McMurdo Dry Valleys

Dates

December 1, 2001 to February 20, 2003

2. *Applicant*, Permit Application No. 2002-002, Robert L. Pitman, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA/NMFS, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037.

Activity for Which Permit is Requested

Take and Import into the U.S. The applicant proposes to collect biopsy samples (tiny bits of skin) from up to 50 Killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) in the Ross Sea to determine the status of the resident stock. Killer whales were described as a separate species years ago but molecular genetic analysis is needed to confirm or deny the allegation. Samples will be returned to the Southwest Fisheries Science Center DNA tissue bank.

Location

Ross Sea, Antarctica

Dates

December 20, 2001 to March 31, 2003

3. *Applicant*, Permit Application No. 2002-003, Randall Davis, Department of Marine Biology, Texas A&M University, 5007 Avenue U, Galveston, TX 77551

Activity for Which Permit is Requested

Take and Import into the U.S. The applicant proposes to enter White Island (ASPAs #137) to conduct a census and assess Weddell seal abundance, distribution and habitat. Access to the site for one day will be by helicopter or surface vehicle.

Location

Northwest White Island, McMurdo Sound—ASPAs #137

Dates

October 1, 2001 to December 20, 2001

Nadene G. Kennedy,
Permit Officer, Office of Polar Programs.
[FR Doc. 01-17854 Filed 7-10-01; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permit Application Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of permit applications received under the Antarctic Conservation Act.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the National Science Foundation (NSF) has received a waste management permit application for operation of a remote field support and emergency provisions for the Expedition Vessel, Kapitan Khlebnikov for the 2001-2002 season and four following austral summers. The application is submitted to NSF pursuant to regulations issued under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit written data, comments, or views with respect to this permit application on or before August 16, 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 A. Jatko or Nadene Kennedy at the above address or (703) 292-8030.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NSF's Antarctic Waste Regulation, 45 CFR part 671, requires all U.S. citizens and entities to obtain a permit for the use or release of a designated pollutant in Antarctica, and for the release of waste in Antarctica. NSF has received a permit application under this Regulation for the operation of up to three expeditious per year to Antarctica. During each trip, passengers are taken ashore at selected sites by Zodiac (rubber raft) or helicopter for approximately two to four hours at a time. On each helicopter landing, emergency gear would be taken ashore in case weather deteriorates and passengers are required to camp on shore. Anything taken ashore will be removed from Antarctica and disposed of in Hobart, Australia, Lyttleton, New Zealand, or a substitute port of disembarkation. No hazardous domestic products or wastes (aerosol cans, paints, solvents, etc.) will be brought ashore. Cooking stoves/fuel will be used only in an emergency were passengers are forced to spend night on shore. Conditions of the permit would include requirements to report on the removal of materials and any accidental releases, and management of all waste, including human waste, in accordance with Antarctic waste regulations.

Application for the permit is made by: Lars Wikander, Quark Expeditions, Inc., 980 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820.

Location: Ross Sea region.

Dates: November 25, 2001 to March 31, 2006.

Nadene G. Kennedy,
Permit Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-17855 Filed 7-16-01; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIME AND PLACE: 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 24, 2001.

PLACE: NTSB Conference Center, 429 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20494.

STATUS: The first two items are open to the public and the last two items are closed under Exemption 10 of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

7377—Marine Accident Report—Fire On Board the Netherlands Registered Passenger Ship Nieuw Amsterdam at Glacier Bay, Alaska on May 23, 2000,

the Related Safety Recommendations (DCA-00-MM-027)

7159A—Railroad Accident Report—Deraiment of Amtrak Train 21 on the Union Pacific Railroad at Arlington, Texas on December 20, 1998 (DCA-99-MR-001).

7336A—Opinion & Order:

Administrator v. Shrader, Docket SE-15472; Disposition of Administrator's Appeal.

7367—Opinion & Order: Administrator v. Ramaprakash, Docket SE-15534; Disposition of Respondent's Appeal.

News Media Contact: Telephone:

(202) 314-6100. Individuals requesting specific accommodation should contact Ms. Carolyn Dargan at (202) 314-6305 by Friday, July 20, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vicky D'Onofrio, (202) 314-6410.

Dated: July 13, 2001.

Vicky D'Onofrio,

Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-17956 Filed 7-13-01; 2:14 pm]

BILLING CODE 7533-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-327 and 50-328]

Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-77 and DPR-79, issued to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA or the licensee), for operation of the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN), Units 1 and 2, located in Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee.

The proposed amendments would change Technical Specification (TS) 3.7.5.c to allow an increase in the average essential raw cooling water (ERCW) supply header temperature from 84.5 °F to 87 °F until September 30, 2002.

The circumstance that makes this amendment necessary, strictly as a contingency measure, is significant increases in the average water temperature of the Tennessee River (Chickamauga Reservoir), which serves as the ultimate heat sink for the SQN, Units 1 and 2. This temperature, as measured at SQN's ERCW header, has increased as the result of drought-induced low flow conditions and is expected to closely approach the current

TS limit of 84.5 °F, which applies when the Chickamauga Reservoir water level is above elevation 680 feet mean sea level. This change to the TS would be temporary, pending additional heat load analyses by TVA to justify the higher temperature limit on a permanent basis.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

A. The Proposed Amendment Does Not Involve a Significant Increase in the Probability or Consequences of an Accident Previously Evaluated

The probability of occurrence or the consequences of an accident are not increased as presently analyzed in the safety analysis since the objective of the event mitigation is not changed. No changes in event classification as discussed in Final Safety Analysis Report Chapter 15 will occur due to the increased river water temperature (with respect to both containment integrity and safety-system heat removal). Therefore, the probability of an accident or malfunction of equipment presently evaluated in the safety analyses will not be increased. The containment design pressure is not challenged by allowing an increase in the river water temperature above that allowed by the TS, thereby ensuring that the potential for increasing offsite dose limits above those presently analyzed at the containment design pressure of 12.0 pounds per square inch is not a concern. In addition, SQN's essential raw cooling water (ERCW) and component cooling system (CCS) piping, pipe supports remain qualified to the design basis and code allowables. Therefore, the proposed variance to TS 3.7.5.c will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

B. The Proposed Amendment Does Not Create the Possibility of a New or Different Kind of Accident From Any Accident Previously Evaluated

The possibility of a new or different accident situation occurring as a result of this condition is not created. The ERCW system

is not an initiator of any accident and only serves as a heat sink for normal and upset plant conditions. By allowing this change in operating temperatures, only the assumptions in the containment pressure analysis are changed. The variance in the ERCW temperature results in minimal increase in peak containment accident pressure. As for the net positive suction head requirements relative to the essential core cooling system and containment spray system, it has been demonstrated that this operational variance will not challenge the present design requirements. In addition, increased river temperatures will not significantly affect the design basis analysis of ERCW or CCS piping, pipe supports, and components. Therefore, the potential for creating a new or unanalyzed condition is not created.

C. The Proposed Amendment Does Not Involve a Significant Reduction in a Margin of Safety

The margin of safety as reported in the basis for the TS is also not reduced. The design pressure for the containment and all supporting equipment and components for worse-case accident condition is 12.0 pounds per square inch gauge (psig). This variance in river water temperature will not challenge the design condition of containment. Further, 12.0 psig design limit is not the failure point of containment, which would lead to the loss of containment integrity. In addition, analysis of the margins associated with ERCW and CCS piping, pipe supports, and components indicate these remain enveloped by the proposed increase in river temperature. Therefore, a significant reduction in the margin to safety is not created by this variance.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period, such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should