

[Permit Application No. 2003-014]

3. *Applicant:* Joan Miller, P.O. Box 237, Tesuque, NM 87574.

Activity for Which Permit is Requested: Enter Antarctica Specially Protected Areas. The applicant proposes to enter several ASPA's on Ross Island to photograph the exterior and interior of the historic huts. The photographs will be used to illustrate the efforts to preserve historic materials from attack by fungi and bacteria. In addition, images will be used in a book documenting the history of human habitation in Antarctica, and will chronicle the use of various materials used for structures, clothing, transport, and communication from the early 1900's through the present.

Location:

ASPA #154—Cape Evans Historic Site

ASPA #156—Hut and Associated artifacts, Backdoor Bay, Cape Royds, Ross Island

ASPA #157—Discovery Hut, Hut Point, Ross Island

Dates: October 7, 2002 to January 23, 2003.

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Permit Officer, Office of Polar Programs.

[FR Doc. 02-26029 Filed 10-10-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-188]

Notice of License Renewal Application for Facility Operating License; Kansas State University

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has received a license renewal application from the Kansas State University dated September 12, 2002, filed pursuant to section 104c of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), for the necessary license to operate a TRIGA nuclear reactor for an additional 20-year period. The reactor is located at the Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. It is also proposed for operation for educational training and research at a steady state power level of 500 kilowatts, an increase of 250 kilowatts from its previous steady state power level of 250 kilowatts, and with pulse maximum reactivity insertions of \$3.00, an increase of \$1.00 from its previous limit of \$2.00. The acceptability of the tendered application for docketing and other matters, including an opportunity to request a hearing, will be the subject of a subsequent **Federal Register** notice.

Copies of the application are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, or electronically from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible from the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>.

If you do not have access to ADAMS, or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, please contact the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737 or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated in Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of October 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Robert L. Dennig,

Acting Program Director, Operating Reactor Improvements Program, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 02-25992 Filed 10-10-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No.: 40-08155]

Notice of Consideration of Amendment Request for H.C. Starck, Inc., Coldwater, MI, Site and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of a license amendment to Source Material License No. STB-1161 to authorize decommissioning of the H.C. Starck, Inc. facilities in Coldwater, Michigan. This license issued to H.C. Starck, Inc., authorizes the possession of a maximum of 44 kilograms of natural thorium for the processing of thorium oxide in the form of a thorium-nickel powder into ingots and sheets. As a result of conducting these licensed operations, the H.C. Starck site is radiologically contaminated with loose and fixed surface contamination on some interior building surfaces and equipment.

On June 4, 2002, the licensee submitted a site decommissioning plan (SDP) to NRC for review. The SDP indicates that long-term doses from the contaminated material at current levels are in excess of the requirements of the Radiological Criteria for License Termination rule (10 CFR part 20, Subpart E). Therefore, the licensee

proposes to decontaminate the site to levels that will meet the requirements of the Radiological Criteria for License Termination rule and allow the site to be released for unrestricted use.

If the NRC approves this request, the approval will be documented in a license amendment to NRC License STB-1161. However, prior to the approval and issuance of the amendment, NRC will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and NRC's regulations. These findings will be documented in a Safety Evaluation Report and an Environmental Assessment.

NRC hereby provides notice that this is a proceeding on an application for a license amendment falling within the scope of Subpart L, "Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudication in Materials Licensing Proceedings," of NRC's rules and practice for domestic licensing proceedings in 10 CFR part 2. Pursuant to Sec. 2.1205(a), any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a request for a hearing in accordance with Sec. 2.1205(d). A request for a hearing must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date of publication of this **Federal Register** notice.

The request for a hearing must be filed with the Office of the Secretary by mail or facsimile (301-415-1101) addressed to: The Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff of the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.1205(f), each request for a hearing must also be served, by delivering it personally, or by mail, to:

1. The applicant, H.C. Starck, Inc., 460 Jay Street, Coldwater, MI 49036, Attention Dave Meendering, Plant Manager, and,

2. The NRC staff, General Counsel, by mail, addressed to the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. In addition to meeting other applicable requirements of 10 CFR part 2 of the NRC's regulations, a request for a hearing filed by a person other than an applicant must describe in detail:

a. The interest of the requester in the proceeding;

b. How that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, including the reasons why the requester should be permitted a hearing, with particular reference to the factors set out in Sec. 2.1205(h);

c. The requester's areas of concern about the licensing activity that is the subject matter of the proceeding; and,

3. The circumstances establishing that the request for a hearing is timely in accordance with Sec. 2.1205(d).

For Further Information: The application for the license amendment and supporting documentation are available for review at NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room, at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The accession [file] number for this document is ML022550372. Any questions with respect to this action should be referred to Mr. William Snell, Decommissioning Branch, Region III, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532-4351. Telephone: (630) 829-9871.

Dated at Lisle, Illinois, this 4th day of October 2002.

Christopher G. Miller,

Chief, Decommissioning Branch, Division of Nuclear Material Safety, Region III.

[FR Doc. 02-25993 Filed 10-10-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket 72-17]

Portland General Electric Company; Issuance of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact Regarding the Proposed Amendment to Materials License No. SNM-2509

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment, pursuant to 10 CFR 72.56, to Special Nuclear Material License No. 2509 (SNM-2509) held by Portland General Electric Company (PGE) for the Trojan independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI). The requested amendment would revise the ISFSI license (SNM-2509) and the Technical Specifications (TS) of SNM-2509 to specifically permit the use of portions of the Holtec International dry storage cask system to store spent fuel at the Trojan ISFSI.

Environmental Assessment (EA)

Identification of Proposed Action: By letter dated October 26, 2001, as supplemented, PGE requested an amendment to revise the license (SNM-2509) and the TS of SNM-2509 for the Trojan ISFSI. The changes would specifically permit the use of the Holtec International Multi-Purpose Canister (MPC) to store spent fuel. The Holtec International MPC is proposed to be

compatible, with minor modification, to the pre-existing TranStor concrete cask design at the Trojan ISFSI currently designed for use with the TranStor pressurized water reactor fuel (PWR) basket. This amendment requests the TranStor PWR basket design be supplanted with the Holtec International MPC design. No changes to the specifications for the fuel to be stored at the Trojan ISFSI were requested.

Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed action is necessary to allow for storage of spent fuel in dry casks. PGE was licensed to use the TranStor Storage System for SNF comprised of the concrete cask and PWR basket. The PWR basket design was subsequently determined to be unusable. Without this amendment PGE will be unable to load spent nuclear fuel (SNF) at the Trojan site. If unable to store SNF, PGE will not be able to continue decommissioning of the Trojan site unless an alternative means for storing SNF is found.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: In 1999 the NRC issued a license to PGE to construct and operate the Trojan ISFSI. Prior to this action the NRC examined the environmental impacts of constructing and operating the Trojan ISFSI and issued an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact. See 61 FR 64378, December 4, 1996. The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that granting the request for amendment to allow the storage of spent fuel assemblies using the TranStor concrete cask and Holtec International MPC, will not increase the probability or consequence of accidents beyond that bounded by previous analysis. No changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite. With regard to radiological impacts, the change from the TranStor PWR basket design to the Holtec International MPC design will yield an increase in neutron and gamma dose rates at the cask surface. However, the dose rates remain below regulatory limits for occupational exposures and public radiation exposures. Moreover, the dose rates comply with the applicable regulatory criteria specified in 10 CFR part 20, and 10 CFR 72.104 and 72.106. As a result, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

The amendment only affects the requirements associated with the design of the fuel basket and does not affect non-radiological plant effluents or any other aspects of the environment. Therefore, there are no significant non-

radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

The alternative to the proposed action would be to deny the request for amendment (*i.e.*, the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the proposed action would result in PGE continuing to store SNF in the Trojan spent fuel storage pool. Without dry cask storage, PGE would be unable to continue with decommissioning of the Trojan site. The Trojan Nuclear Power Plant has been permanently shut down. Delaying decommissioning of the Trojan site and maintaining the SNF in the spent fuel storage pool could potentially lead to greater occupational exposure than dry cask storage due to the proximity of workers to the fuel. The environmental impacts of the alternative action could be greater than the proposed action.

Given that the alternative action of denying the approval for amendment has no lesser environmental impacts associated with it, and considering that the proposed action would result in storage of fuel at the Trojan ISFSI, which has already been approved under a site specific license, the Commission concludes that the preferred alternative is to grant this amendment.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: On September 17, 2002, Mr. Adam Bless of the Oregon Office of Energy, Energy Resources Division, was contacted regarding the proposed action and had no concerns.

Finding Of No Significant Impact

The environmental impacts of the proposed action have been reviewed in accordance with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR part 51. Based upon the foregoing Environmental Assessment, the Commission finds that the proposed action of granting an amendment to permit the use of the Holtec International MPC and the TranStor concrete cask to store SNF at the Trojan ISFSI will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed amendment.

For further details with respect to this amendment, see the application dated October 26, 2001, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, One White Flint North Building, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD or from the publically available records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents