

Activity for Which Permit Is Requested

Take and Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Area. The applicant proposes to collect up to 100 seeds and 300 plants of *Deschampsia antarctica* (Antarctic hairgrass), and up to 100 seed capsules and up to 300 plants of *Colobanthus quitensis* (Antarctic pearlwort), as well as soil samples. This material will be used to study the effects of climate change (warming, altered precipitation and enhanced UV-B) on Antarctic plants and productivity of Antarctic terrestrial ecosystems. Seeds are needed to propagate material at the applicant's home institution for examining plant responses to climate change factors. Plants and soils are needed to examine how plant productivity and soil characteristics (e.g., carbon pools) change along natural microclimate gradients representing differences in temperature and moisture regime. Plants and soils are also needed for transplant in the lab at Palmer Station where temperatures, precipitation, and UV-B radiation will be manipulated around the plants in order to study their responses. Transported plants and soils will subsequently be harvested and returned to the applicant's home institution for chemical analyses.

Location

Biscoe Point (ASPA #139) and other islands in the vicinity of Palmer Station, Anvers Island.

Dates

December 1, 2003 to August 31, 2006.

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Permit Officer, Office of Polar Programs.
[FR Doc. 03-28224 Filed 11-7-03; 8:45 am]
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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**Business and Operations Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting**

In accordance with Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting:

Name: Business and Operations Advisory Committee (9556).

Date/Time: December 2, 2003; 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (e.s.t.)

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 525-II, Arlington, VA.

Type of Meeting: Open—Teleconference. Please contact Joan Miller (below) for a dial-in number.

Contact Person: Joan Miller, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230; (703) 292-8200.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice concerning issues related to the oversight, integrity, development and enhancement of NSF's business operations.

Agenda: December 2, 2003. Discussion of NSF's Business Analysis study.

Dated: November 5, 2003.

Susanne Bolton,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-28223 Filed 11-7-03; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**Proposal Review; Notice of Meetings**

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation (NSF) announces its intent to hold proposal review meetings throughout the year. The purpose of these meetings is to provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to the NSF for financial support. The agenda for each of these meetings is to review and evaluate proposals as part of the selection process for awards. The majority of these meetings will take place at NSF, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia 22230.

All of these meetings will be closed to the public. The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act. NSF will continue to review the agenda and merits of each meeting for overall compliance of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

These closed proposal review meetings will no longer be announced on an individual basis in the **Federal Register**. NSF intends to publish a notice similar to this on a quarterly basis. For an advance listing of the closed proposal review meetings that include the names of the proposal review panel and the time, date, place, and any information on changes, corrections, or cancellations, please visit the NSF Web site: www.nsf.gov/home/pubinfo/advisory.htm. This information may also be requested by telephoning 703/292-8182.

Dated: November 5, 2003.

Susanne Bolton,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-28222 Filed 11-7-03; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 030-09472]

Notice of Consideration of Request for License Termination of Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office License and Release of Its Facility in Wichita, Kansas Amendment

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of consideration of amendment request to terminate Byproduct Material License No. 15-15618-01.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Peter J. Lee, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region III, 801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351; telephone (630) 829-9870 or by e-mail at pjl2@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Introduction**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering the issuance of an amendment to Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office (VA) Byproduct Material License No. 15-15618-01, to terminate the license and release its facility located at 5500 East Kellogg in Wichita, Kansas, for unrestricted use.

The NRC staff has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) in support of this licensing action, in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR part 51. Based on the EA, the NRC has concluded that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate.

II. EA Summary

The purpose of the proposed action is to allow the release of the licensee's Wichita, Kansas facility for unrestricted use. This license was approved for in-vitro research utilizing labeled compounds, such as H-3, C-14, P-32, and others. On June 6, 2003, the VA requested that the NRC release the facility for unrestricted use. The VA has conducted surveys of the facility and provided information to the NRC to demonstrate that the site meets the license termination criteria in Subpart E of 10 CFR part 20 for unrestricted release. The staff has examined VA's request and the information that the licensee has provided in support of its request, including the surveys performed by VA to demonstrate compliance with 10 CFR 20.1402, "Radiological Criteria for Unrestricted Use," to ensure that the NRC's decision