NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATES:

All meetings are held at 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 4, Wednesday, May 5, Thursday, May 6, 2010;
Tuesday, May 11, Wednesday, May 12, Thursday, May 13, 2010;
Tuesday, May 18, Wednesday, May 19, Thursday, May 20, 2010;
Tuesday, May 25, Wednesday, May 26, Thursday, May 27, 2010.

PLACE: Board Agenda Room, No. 11820, 1099 14th St., NW., Washington DC 20570.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Pursuant to §102.139(a) of the Board’s Rules and Regulations, the Board or a panel thereof will consider “the issuance of a subpoena, the Board’s participation in a civil action or proceeding or an arbitration, or the initiation, conduct, or disposition … of particular representation or unfair labor practice proceedings under section 8, 9, or 10 of the [National Labor Relations] Act, or any court proceedings collateral or ancillary thereto.” See also 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(c)(10).

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lester A. Heltzer, Executive Secretary, (202) 273–1067.

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 June 7, 2010. This application may be inspected by interested parties at the Permit Office, address below.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lester A. Heltzer, Executive Secretary, (202) 273–1067.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nadene G. Kennedy at the above address or (703) 292–7405.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95–541), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996, has developed regulations for the 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 Antarctic Specially Protected Areas. The applications received are as follows:


Introduce into Antarctica. The applicant plans to import commercially available bacterial host cell, Escherichia coli, for experimental use at the science laboratories at McMurdo and Palmer Stations. The experimental purpose is to generate clones of genes and gene fragments. In both cases the
recombinant DNA is introduced into E. coli which can be cultured to produce large quantities of the recombinant DNA for analysis and sequencing. E. coli engineered for routine cloning purposes belongs to the K–12 strain, which generally cannot survive outside the lab. All cells will be autoclaved within the lab to destroy all active cells.

**Location:** Palmer and McMurdo Station laboratories.

**Dates:** August 13, 2010 to March 1, 2011.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**
Kevin M. Ramsey, Project Manager, Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop EBB–240M, Rockville, MD 20855–0001, Telephone (301) 492–3123; Fax (301) 492–3359; e-mail kevin.ramsey@nrc.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

I. Introduction

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is considering the issuance of a license amendment to Materials License SNM–124 to Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) (the licensee) to grant a one-time exemption from an inventory requirement for strategic special nuclear material. NRC regulations at Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) 74.59(f)(1) state that a physical inventory of strategic special nuclear material must occur every six months. By letter dated March 10, 2010, NFS requested a temporary exemption from this requirement.

The NRC has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) in support of this amendment and exemption request 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; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

II. Environmental Assessment

**Background**

The NFS facility in Erwin, Tennessee is authorized, under License SNM–124 to manufacture high-enriched nuclear reactor fuel. In addition, NFS is authorized to blend highly enriched uranium with natural uranium and manufacture low-enriched nuclear reactor fuel. Currently, several processing lines are in a safe-shutdown mode, in accordance with Confirmatory Action Letter No. 02–2010–001 dated January 7, 2010. Operations were shut down without the usual material processing/clean-out that is required to be undertaken as part of a measured physical inventory. NFS is currently in the process of implementing program improvements and conducting operational readiness reviews which must be reviewed and approved by NRC before each process line is restarted. After operations are authorized, each process line must be operated to process the material to a suitable form that will enable a measurable physical inventory to occur. NFS requests that the inventory reporting date be extended until 90 days after all processing lines are authorized to restart operations, a date which is currently unknown.

**Review Scope**

The purpose of this EA is to assess the environmental impacts of the requested license amendment and exemption. It does not approve the request. This EA is limited to the proposed exemption and any cumulative impacts on existing plant operations. The existing conditions and operations for the Erwin facility were evaluated by NRC for environmental impacts in a 1999 EA related to the renewal of the NFS license (Ref. 1) and a 2002 EA related to the first amendment for the Low-Enriched Uranium (BLEU) Project (Ref. 2). The 2002 EA assessed the impact of the entire BLEU Project using information available at that time. A 2003 EA (Ref. 3) and a 2004 EA (Ref. 4), related to additional BLEU Project amendments, confirmed the FONSI issued in 2002.

**Proposed Action**

The proposed action is to amend NRC Materials License SNM–124 to grant a one-time exemption from the requirement to take a physical inventory of strategic special nuclear material every six months. The exemption would authorize NFS to submit the physical inventory results after NRC has authorized the restart of all operations currently shutdown, and after NFS has had an opportunity to then process the material and complete the inventory. The proposed action is limited to the reporting deadline only. No change to processing, packaging, or storage operations is requested, and no construction of new facilities is requested.

**Needed for Proposed Action**

The proposed action is being requested because NFS had to secure operations in several processing lines to implement program improvements. NFS has committed to maintain the processing lines in a safe-shutdown mode until NRC authorizes restart of operations. Regulations in 10 CFR 74.59(f)(1) require a physical inventory of strategic special nuclear material every six months. To comply with this regulation, the material must be processed into a form that can be inventoried. Material in the processing lines is not in a form that can be inventoried, and it cannot be processed into the proper form until the restart of operations is authorized.

**Alternatives**

The alternatives available to NFS are:

1. Approve the requested action as described, or
2. No action (i.e., deny the request).

**Affected Environment**

The affected environment for the proposed action and the no action alternative is the NFS site. The NFS facility is located in Unicoi County, Tennessee, about 32 km (20 mi) southwest of Johnson City, Tennessee. The facility is within the Erwin city limits. The affected environment is identical to the affected environment assessed in the 2002 EA related to the first amendment for the BLEU Project (Ref. 2). A full description of the site and its characteristics are given in the 2002 EA. Additional information can be found in the 1999 EA related to the renewal of the NFS license (Ref. 1). The site occupies about 28 hectares (70 acres). The site is bounded to the northeast by the CSX Corporation (CSX) railroad property and the Nolichucky River; and by Martin Creek to the northeast. The plant elevation is about 9 m (30 ft) above the nearest point on the Nolichucky River. The area adjacent to the site consists primarily of residential, industrial, and