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 a 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 July 13, 2012. This application 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: Polly A. Penhale at the above address or (703) 292–7420. 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:

1. Applicant: Robert A. Garrott, Permit Application: 2013–007, Ecology Department, Montana State University, 310 Lewis Hall, Bozeman, MT 59715.

Activity for Which Permit Is Requested

Take, Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Areas, and Import into the U.S.A. The applicant plans to study the demographic consequences of environmental variability and individual heterogeneity in life-history tactics of Weddell seals in Erebus Bay, Antarctica. A breeding population of Weddell seals, a prominent Antarctic apex predator associated with fast ice, has been intensively studied in Erebus Bay at the southern extent of the Ross Sea since 1968. The study’s broad objective is to evaluate how temporal variation in the marine environment affects a long-lived mammal’s population dynamics. Up to 2,000 adult and pup Weddell seals will be approached to have their tags read. Smaller subsets of approximately 1,150 seals will be tagged or retagged, weighed, tissue sampled, and/or instrumented, then released. In addition, the applicant plans to salvage parts of dead animals encountered and remove vibrissae. The tissue samples will be collected from the margin of the rear flippers and will be imported into the U.S.A. for further study. DNA will be extracted from the samples and used to investigate individual heterogeneity.

The applicant plans to enter ASPA 137–North-west White Island twice annually to census and tag seals in the isolated colony. They also plan to enter ASPA 155–Cape Evans, ASPA 157 Backdoor Bay, Cape Royds, ASPA 158–Hut Point, and ASPA 161–Terra Nova Bay should any of the study’s seals should haul out in the those areas.

Location

Erebus Bay, Ross Island vicinity; ASPA 137–North-west White Island; ASPA 155–Cape Evans; ASPA 157 Backdoor Bay, Cape Royds; ASPA 158–Hut Point; and ASPA 161–Terra Nova Bay.
• NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS): You may access publicly-available documents online in the NRC Library at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. To begin the search, select “ADAMS Public Documents” and then select “Begin Web-based ADAMS Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC’s Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, 301–415–4737, or by email to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced in this notice (if that document is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that a document is referenced.
• NRC’s PDR: You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC’s PDR, Room O1–F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Since Congress added Section 274 of the Act in 1959, the Commission has entered into Agreements with 37 States that relinquished Federal authority. Under these Agreements, each State assumed regulatory authority under State law to regulate certain radioactive materials within the State. The NRC periodically reviews the performance of the Agreement States to ensure compliance with the provisions of Section 274. Congress further amended the Act in 1978 by adding a new subsection, Section 274o, which required Agreement States to specifically amend their agreements to regulate uranium mill tailings (11e.(2) byproduct material). Six Agreement States have this authority as part of their agreements. Under Section 274o of the Act, an Agreement State may adopt siteselective alternative standards with respect to sites at which ores are processed primarily for their source material content or at sites used for the disposal of Section 11e.(2) byproduct material. Before a State can adopt alternative standards, the Commission must make a determination that the alternative standards will achieve a level of stabilization and containment of the site concerned, and the alternative standards will provide an equivalent or more stringent level of protection for public health, safety, and the environment from radiological and nonradiological hazards associated with the site. In addition, before making a determination, the NRC must provide notice and an opportunity for public hearing before approving the site-specific alternative standards.

The Commission approved a process similar to that specified in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) part 2, Subpart H, “Rulemaking,” to fulfill both provisions for notice and opportunity for public hearing required by Section 274o of the Act. This document completes the notice and opportunity for public hearing provisions of the Act with the notice of the final Commission determination. In a memorandum dated August 21, 2011 (ADAMS Accession No. ML112010137), the NRC’s Executive Director for Operations notified the Commission of the staff’s intention to publish a notice and opportunity for public hearing in the Federal Register on the State of Colorado’s proposed alternative soils standards for a 30-day comment period (76 FR 70170; November 10, 2011). The public comment period and opportunity for hearing ended on December 12, 2011. The Commission received two comment letters on Colorado’s alternative soils standards proposal (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML11346A586 and ML12033A032).

The NRC staff prepared an analysis of the comments received on Colorado’s proposed alternative soils standards (ADAMS Accession No. ML120330021). The first of the two commenters wrote in support of Colorado’s alternative soils standards. The second of the two commenters questioned the basis for applying alternative standards and requested a clarification regarding the requirements and use of the alternative soils standards in the decommissioning process and in transferring the Uravan uranium mill site to the U.S. Department of Energy. The NRC staff found no deficiencies in Colorado’s proposed alternative soils standards but the staff did make changes to its assessment to add clarity in response to the comments (ADAMS Accession No. ML120330018).

The Commission considered the comments submitted, the NRC staff’s analysis of the comments, and the NRC staff’s recommendation that the Commission approve a final determination that Colorado’s proposed alternative soils standards meet the requirements in Section 274o of the Act. The Commission has determined that the State of Colorado’s proposed alternative soils standards will achieve a level of stabilization and containment of the sites concerned. They also achieve a level of protection for public health, safety, and the environment from radiological and nonradiological hazards associated with such sites that is more stringent than the level that would be achieved by existing standards and requirements. Existing standards include those promulgated by the Administrator of the EPA in accordance with Section 275 of the Act.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of June, 2012.
Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary of the Commission.

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POSTAL SERVICE


AGENCY: Postal Service™.


SUMMARY: The United States Postal Service® (Postal Service®) plans to participate as the recipient agency in a computer matching program with the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Department of Defense (DoD), as the source agency. The purpose of this agreement is to verify continuing eligibility for the TRICARE Reserve Select Program (TRS) or TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR) by identifyingTRS and TRR recipients who are eligible for or receiving health coverage under Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB), and to terminate TRS or TRR benefits if appropriate.

DATES: The matching program will begin on the effective date of the agreement. The effective date is the expiration of a 40-day review period by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Congress or 30 days after the publication of this notice, whichever is later. The matching program will be valid for a period of 18 months after this date.