

screening phase, yielding a burden of 478 hours.

Phase 2 of the survey will be the questionnaire, which will be sent to (a) all of the known research performers and funders, (b) those screened in from Phase 1, and (c) those who did not respond to the Phase 1 contacts. NCSES expects a response rate of 60% to Phase 2. Based on the responses to the pilot survey, if the organization both funds and performs research, it will take an estimated 4 hours to complete the survey. If the organization neither funds nor performs research, the response time should be less than 20 minutes. There will also be 40 debriefings held as the surveys are submitted, 20 for respondents and 20 for nonrespondents. The debriefings are estimated to take 1 hour for respondents and 30 minutes for nonrespondents, resulting in a total burden of 30 hours. The estimate of burden for Phase 2 of the survey is 4,888 hours for the 1,222 estimated performers and funders that complete the survey and debriefings and 317 hours for the remaining 951 organizations estimated to complete the survey that do not perform or fund research. The total combined burden for Phases 1 and 2 is 5,713 hours.

Dated: November 29, 2017.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 2017-26028 Filed 12-1-17; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of permit applications received.

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 in 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 January 3, 2018. This application may be inspected by interested parties at the Permit Office, address below.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Permit Office, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nature McGinn, ACA Permit Officer, at the above address, 703-292-8030, or ACApermits@nsf.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-541, 45 CFR 670), 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 a requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

Application Details

Permit Application: 2018-016

1. *Applicant:* Daniel Costa, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department, University of California Santa Cruz, 115 McAllister Way, Santa Cruz, CA 95062.

Activity for Which Permit is Requested: Take, Harmful Interference, Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Areas, Import into USA. The applicant proposes to study the foraging behavior, habitat utilization, and physiology of leopard seals, and potentially additional Antarctic seal species, near Cape Shirreff in the Antarctic Peninsula. Additional seal species could include: Crabeater seals, Weddell seals, Antarctic fur seals, Ross seals, and southern elephant seals. The applicant would capture and tag 10-15 seals of each species, in each of three field seasons. Seals would be sedated and anesthetized during tagging and biological sample collection procedures. The tags to be attached to the seals with marine epoxy include a combined time-depth recorder and GPS receiver and a separate VHF radio tag. Other procedures would include: Flipper tagging, dye marking, collecting blood samples, measuring blood volume, measuring girth and length, and determining body composition by morphometric measurements. These procedures are currently authorized under National Marine Fisheries Service Marine Mammal Protection Act Permit No. 19439.

Location: ASPA 149, Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands, Antarctic Peninsula.

Dates of Permitted Activities: January 1, 2018-June 1, 2020.

Permit Application: 2018-028

2. *Applicant:* Alexander Simms, University of California Santa Barbara, 1006 Webb Hall, Santa Barbara, CA 93106.

Activity for Which Permit is Requested: Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPAs). The applicant proposes to enter ASPA 126, Byers Peninsula, Livingston Island, to survey beach ridges using GPS and ground-penetrating radar as well as collecting small sediment samples. The applicant would camp on-site for approximately two weeks while conducting the proposed research. The applicant and agents would adhere to the ASPA management plan.

Location: ASPA 126, Byers Peninsula, Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands, Antarctica.

Dates of Permitted Activities: February 15, 2018-April 1, 2020.

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Polar Coordination Specialist, Office of Polar Programs.

[FR Doc. 2017-26030 Filed 12-1-17; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 72-11; NRC-2017-0110]

Sacramento Municipal Utility District; Rancho Seco Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: License amendment application; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reviewed an application by Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD or the licensee) for amendment of Materials License No. SNM-2510, which authorizes the storage of spent nuclear fuel and greater than Class C waste at the Rancho Seco Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation, located in Herald, California. The licensee requested authorization to allow the continued storage of byproduct nuclear material to check the functionality of radiation detection instruments.

DATES: December 4, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2017-0110 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available

information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Web site*: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2017-0110. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301-415-3463; email: Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS)*: You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection 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 (if it is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that it is mentioned in this document.

- *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: William Allen, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-6877, email: William.Allen@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By letter dated January 17, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15259A590), as supplemented August 27, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17236A170), SMUD submitted a license amendment request (LAR) to the NRC in accordance with section 72.56 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), to allow the storage of byproduct nuclear material in the form of a check source which is used to check the functionality of radiation detection instruments. Currently, the source is licensed under 10 CFR part 30 which is incorporated under the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station (RSNGS) 10 CFR part 50 license. Prior to terminating the 10 CFR part 50 license, SMUD requested the NRC amend the 10 CFR part 72 ISFSI license to incorporate the 10 CFR part 30 source. The NRC staff (staff) docketed the application, and in accordance with 10 CFR 72.46(b)(1), a Notice of Proposed Action and a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was

published in the **Federal Register** on May 5, 2017 (82 FR 21270). No requests for a hearing or leave to intervene were submitted.

The NRC staff has completed its review of the January 17, 2017 LAR, and has determined that it complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), as well as the NRC's rules and regulations. As required by the Act and the NRC's rules and regulations in 10 CFR chapter 1, the NRC staff made the appropriate findings which are contained in a safety evaluation report (ADAMS Accession No. ML17290A010). The NRC has thus granted the LAR and has accordingly issued Amendment No. 4 to Materials License No. SNM-2510.

The NRC prepared a safety evaluation report (SER) (ADAMS Accession No. ML17290A010) to document its review and evaluation of the amendment request. As further explained in the SER, the NRC has also determined that the license amendment is administrative in nature, and therefore satisfies the 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11) criteria for a categorical exclusion from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment. Under 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11), this action is eligible for categorical exclusion, because it is an amendment to a materials licenses which is administrative, organizational, or procedural in nature, or which results in a change in process operations or equipment, provided that (i) there is no significant change in the types or significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite, (ii) there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure, (iii) there is no significant construction impact, and (iv) there is no significant increase in the potential for or consequences from radiological accidents. Consequently, an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact are not required. This amendment was effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of November 2017.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Meraj Rahimi,

Acting Chief, Spent Fuel Licensing Branch, Division of Spent Fuel Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 2017-25975 Filed 12-1-17; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 52-025 and 52-026; NRC-2008-0252]

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 3 and 4; Clarification of Raceway and Raceway System Designations

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Exemption and combined license amendment; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is granting an exemption to allow a departure from the certification information of Tier 1 of the generic design control document (DCD) and is issuing License Amendment Nos. 97 and 96 to Combined Licenses (COL), NPF-91 and NPF-92, respectively. The COLs were issued to Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., and Georgia Power Company, Oglethorpe Power Corporation, MEAG Power SPVM, LLC, MEAG Power SPVJ, LLC, MEAG Power SPVP, LLC, Authority of Georgia, and the City of Dalton, Georgia (the licensee); for construction and operation of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4, located in Burke County, Georgia.

The granting of the exemption allows the changes to Tier 1 information asked for in the amendment. Because the acceptability of the exemption was determined in part by the acceptability of the amendment, the exemption and amendment are being issued concurrently.

DATES: The exemption and amendment were issued on November 8, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2008-0252 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Web site*: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2008-0252. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301-415-3463; Email: Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS)*: You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select