

Procurement Policy, 202-395-3501. Copies of Policy Letter 79-4 are available at the address above.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The executive agent for Policy Letter 79-4, Defense Visual Information, is developing a world wide website that will contain an Interested Producers List (IPL) as well as links to other sites for current, up to date and valuable solicitation information. Thus, while a Qualified Producers List will no longer be a requirement, all persons or firms interested in doing business with the government will have access to, as a convenience, databases designed to promote the exchange of information for procurement of motion picture, video and multimedia productions. This virtual clearing house of information will provide federal agencies with a valuable information resource and will provide audiovisual and multimedia producers a forum, the IPL, to present their production capabilities, technical skills, experience, and subject matter expertise in a searchable on-line database. Access the website, <http://dodimagery.afis.osd.mil> and select "Order/Initiate VI Production" for more information on the IPL website currently under development. This new website will be activated upon rescission of Policy Letter 79-4.

**Deidre A. Lee,**  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 98-25653 Filed 9-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3110-01-U

## 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, Pub. L. 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 these permit applications by October 20, 1998. Permit applications 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:** Nadene G. Kennedy at the above address or (703) 306-1030.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-541), has developed regulations that implement the "Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora" for all United States citizens. The Agreed Measures, developed by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, recommended 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 Specially Protected Areas and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

The applications received are as follows:

1. Applicant

Permit Application No. 99-012

Erick Chiang, Head, Polar Research Support Section, Office of Polar Programs, Rm. 755, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230

### Activity for Which Permit Is Requested

Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Areas

The applicant proposes to conduct recreational and educational visits, by authorized U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP) participants, to the following areas: SPA #25—Cape Evans, including Scott's Hut; SPA #26—Cape Adare, including the historic huts; SPA #27—Cape Royds, including Shackleton's Hut; and SPA #28—Discovery Hut (Hut Point). McMurdo Station is located on Hut Point, Ross Island, and is in very close proximity to several historic huts, especially Discovery Hut, which sits adjacent to the station. Access to the huts will be by tracked vehicle, helicopter, or on foot as appropriate. All visits will be conducted in accordance with the management plans for the specific sites. In addition, procedures for monitoring numbers of USAP visitors throughout the season will be implemented.

### Location

SPA #25—Cape Evans, including Scott's Hut; SPA #26—Cape Adare, including the historic huts;

SPA #27—Cape Royds, including Shackleton's Hut; and SPA #28—Discovery Hut, Hut Point.

### Dates

October 1, 1998–September 30, 2003.

**Nadene G. Kennedy,**

*Permit Officer, Office of Polar Programs.*

[FR Doc. 98-25727 Filed 9-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-336]

### Northeast Nuclear Energy Company; Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted the request of Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) to withdraw its July 7, 1995, application for proposed amendment to Facility Operating License No. DRP-65 for the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 2, located in New London County, Connecticut.

The proposed amendment would have revised the requirements for the control room air conditioning system and supporting Bases. Subsequently, by letter dated August 4, 1998, NNECO withdrew the amendment request because it is in the process of performing new radiological assessment calculations for various Millstone, Unit No. 2, design basis accidents, which will result in changes to the proposed amendment. NNECO also indicated that it would no longer be necessary to respond to the two requests for additional information dated November 6 and 25, 1997, since the amendment request is being withdrawn.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment published in the **Federal Register** on August 2, 1995 (60 FR 39443). However, by letter dated August 4, 1998, the licensee withdrew the proposed change.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated July 7, 1995, and the licensee's letter dated August 4, 1998, which withdrew the application for license amendment. The above documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document rooms located at the Learning Resources Center, Three Rivers Community-

Technical College, 574 New London Turnpike, Norwich, Connecticut, and the Waterford Library, ATTN: Vince Juliano, 49 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, Connecticut.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of September 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Daniel G. McDonald Jr.,**

*Senior Project Manager, Millstone Project Directorate, Division of Reactor Projects-I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 98-25625 Filed 9-24-98; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-313 and 50-368]

### Entergy Operations, Inc.; Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2, Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations for Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-51 and NPF-6 issued to Entergy Operations, Inc. (the licensee), for operation of Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2 (ANO-1 and ANO-2), located in Pope County, Arkansas.

#### Environmental Assessment

##### *Identification of Proposed Action*

The proposed action would exempt the licensee from the requirements of 10 CFR 70.24(a) as it pertains to the handling and storage of unirradiated fuel at ANO-1 and ANO-2. The requirements of 10 CFR 70.24(a) include (1) having a monitoring system that will energize clear audible alarms if accidental criticality occurs in each area in which special nuclear material is handled, used, or stored and (2) having emergency procedures and conducting related drills to familiarize personnel with the evacuation plan, for each area in which this licensed special nuclear material is handled, used, or stored.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated October 31, 1997.

##### *The Need for the Proposed Action*

The purpose of 10 CFR 70.24 is to ensure that if a criticality event (or accident) were to occur during the handling of special nuclear material, personnel would be alerted to that fact and would take appropriate action. At a commercial nuclear power plant the inadvertent criticality with which 10

CFR 70.24 is concerned could occur during fuel handling operations. The special nuclear material that could be assembled into a critical mass at a commercial nuclear power plant is in the form of nuclear fuel; the quantity of other forms of special nuclear material that is stored on site in any given location is small enough to preclude achieving a critical mass. Because the fuel is not enriched beyond 5.0 weight percent Uranium-235 and because commercial nuclear plant licensees have procedures and design features that prevent inadvertent criticality, the staff has determined that it is unlikely that an inadvertent criticality could occur due to the handling of special nuclear material at a commercial power reactor. The requirements of 10 CFR 70.24, therefore, are not necessary to ensure the safety of personnel during the handling of special nuclear materials at commercial power reactors.

##### *Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that there is no significant environmental impact if the exemption is granted. Inadvertent or accidental criticality will be precluded through compliance with the ANO-1 and ANO-2 Technical Specifications (TSs), the design of the new fuel storage area, and administrative controls imposed on fuel handling procedures. TSs requirements specify reactivity limits for new fuel assemblies and key design features for the new fuel storage racks, including the minimum spacing between the unirradiated fuel assemblies.

Appendix A of 10 CFR Part 50, "General Design Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants," Criterion 62, requires the criticality in the fuel storage and handling system shall be prevented by physical systems or processes, preferably by use of geometrically-safe configurations. This is met at ANO-1 and ANO-2, as identified in the TSs and the Updated Safety Analysis Reports (USARs). The TSs for storage racks and limits on fuel enrichment for ANO-1 and ANO-2 are such that the ratio of neutron production to neutron absorption and leakage ( $k$ -effective) will not exceed 0.98 assuming optimum moderation by an aqueous foam and will not exceed 0.95 when the storage area is flooded with unborated water.

The proposed exemption would not result in any significant radiological impacts. The proposed exemption would not affect radiological plant effluents since the handling and storage of new fuel does not impact the normal operations of the plant that generate

radioactive wastes and design and administrative controls previously described provide adequate controls to preclude accidental releases from an inadvertent criticality. The proposed exemption would not cause any significant occupational exposures since the TSs, design controls (including geometric spacing of fuel assembly storage spaces) and administrative controls preclude inadvertent criticality. Existing programs at ANO-1 and ANO-2 also provide reasonable confidence that personnel would be alerted to and would know how to respond to a radiological accident involving the handling and storage of fuel assemblies. The amount of radioactive waste would not be changed by the proposed exemption.

The proposed exemption does not result in any significant nonradiological environmental impacts. The proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

##### *Alternatives to the Proposed Action*

Since the Commission has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed exemption, the staff considered denial of the requested exemption (no-action alternative). Denial of the request would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

##### *Alternative Use of Resources*

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2.

##### *Agencies and Persons Consulted*

In accordance with its stated policy, on August 19, 1998, the staff consulted with Mr. Bernie Bevell, Director, Division of Radiation Control and Emergency Management, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.