

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 123198A]

Marine Mammals

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Receipt of application for amendment and notice of emergency issuance of permit amendment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that: the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Honolulu Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service, 2570 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396, has requested an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 848-1335; and the Permit has been amended according to the provisions of 50 CFR 216.33(e)(6).

DATES: Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before February 16, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The amendment request, amended permit, and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562/980-4001); and

Protected Species Program Manager, Pacific Islands Area Office, 2570 Dole Street, Room 106, Honolulu, HI 96822-2396 (808/973-2941).

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or other electronic media.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeannie Drevenak, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject amendment has been issued

under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the provisions of §§ 216.33(e)(6) and 216.39 of the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the provisions of § 222.25 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR part 222).

The Permit Holder is currently authorized to conduct population assessment, disease assessment (including health screening), recovery actions, and pelagic ecology studies of Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) at all locations within the Hawaiian Archipelago and at Johnston Atoll, through May 31, 2002.

The Holder has now requested that the Permit be amended to: (1) authorize the taking of up to 100 additional Hawaiian monk seals for disease screening purposes; and (2) authorize the collection and export of blubber biopsies for toxicological assessment. This increased taking is necessary in order to allow urgently needed sampling and analyses of the monk seal population to assess the extent to which the population has been exposed to a morbillivirus. Given the severity of this pathogen and its known catastrophic impact on other marine mammal populations, the amendment has been issued on an emergency basis pursuant to 50 CFR 216.33(e)(6).

Issuance of this amended permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application and emergency permit amendment to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: January 7, 1999.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 99-1012 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D.122298B]

Marine Mammals; File No. 116-1477

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that Sea World, Inc., 7007 Sea World Drive, Orlando, Florida 32821-8097 has been issued a permit to take Hawaiian monk seals, *Monachus schauinslandi*, for scientific research and enhancement purposes.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213; and

Coordinator, Pacific Area Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 2570 Dole Street, Room 106, Honolulu, HI 96822-2396.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeannie Drevenak, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 19, 1998, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 64246) that a request for a scientific research and enhancement permit to take Hawaiian monk seals, *Monachus schauinslandi*, had been submitted by the above-named organization. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR parts 217-227).

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and

policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: January 8, 1999.

Ann Terbush,

*Chief, Permits and Documentation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-1014 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Idaho Operations Office; Notice of Availability of Solicitation for Awards of Financial Assistance

AGENCY: Idaho Operations Office, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Solicitation Number DE-PS07-99ID13751—Metal Casting Industry of the Future.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Idaho Operations Office (ID) is seeking applications for cost-shared research and development of technologies which will enhance economic competitiveness, reduce energy consumption and reduce environmental impacts of the metal casting industry. The research is to address research priorities identified by the metal casting industry in the Metal Casting Industry Technology Roadmap. The Roadmap can be found at URL: <http://www.oit.doe.gov/metalcast/roadmap/roadmap.html>. Approximately \$300,000 to \$500,000 of funding will be available to initiate the research efforts and additional funding of up to \$2,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2000 federal funds is expected to be available to fund the first year of selected research efforts. DOE anticipates making 5 to 10 cooperative agreement awards each with a duration of three years or less. A minimum 50% non-federal cost-share is required for research and development projects. Collaborations between industry, university, and National Laboratory participants are encouraged. The issuance date of Solicitation Number DE-PS07-99ID13751 is on or about January 11, 1999. The solicitation is available in its full text via the Internet at the following URL address: <http://www.id.doe.gov/doeid/PSD/proc-div.html>.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of pre-applications is February 4, 1999. The deadline for receipt of full applications is March 24, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Applications should be submitted to: Kara Twitchell, Procurement Services Division, U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations

Office, 850 Energy Drive, Mail Stop 1221, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kara Twitchell, Contract Specialist at twitchkl@id.doe.gov, or Linda Hallum, Contracting Officer at hallumla@id.doe.gov. Issued in Idaho Falls on January 6, 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The statutory authority for the program is the Federal Non-Nuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-577). The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number for this program is 81.086.

Michael L. Adams,

Acting Director, Procurement Services Division.

[FR Doc. 99-981 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Research

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of renewal.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 14(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, App.2, and section 101-6.1015(a)(1), title 41, Code of Federal Regulations and following consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat, General Services Administration, notice is hereby given that the High Energy Physics Advisory Panel has been renewed for a two-year period beginning in January 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Rachel M. Samuel at (202) 586-3279.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Panel will continue to provide advice to the Director of Energy Research on long-range planning and priorities in the national high energy physics program. The Secretary of Energy has determined that renewal of the Panel is essential to the conduct of the Department's business and in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed upon the Department of Energy by law. The Panel will continue to operate in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463), the General Services Administration Final Rule on Federal Advisory Committee Management, and other directives and instructions issued in implementation of those acts.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 12, 1999.

James N. Solit,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-982 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER97-1543-001, et al.]

Duquesne Light Company, et al.; Electric Rate and Corporate Regulation Filings

January 8, 1999.

Take notice that the following filings have been made with the Commission:

1. Duquesne Light Company

[Docket No. ER97-1543-001]

Take notice that on January 4, 1999, Duquesne Light Company (Duquesne) on behalf of Duquesne and Kentucky Utilities Company (KU), tendered for filing an arbitration award to replace the Stranded Cost Amendment contained in Duquesne's initial filing in the above-referenced docket. Duquesne sets forth its proposed accounting treatment for the stranded cost payment.

Comment date: January 22, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

2. Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. v. The Montana Power Company

[Docket No. EL99-24-000]

Take notice that on December 30, 1998, Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (Central Montana) tendered for filing a complaint, including direct testimony and exhibits, against the Montana Power Company (MPC) alleging that the delivered wholesale rates which MPC charges Central Montana are excessive, unjust and unreasonable, and should be reduced, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 205 and 206 of the Federal Power Act. Central Montana's complaint requests that the Commission institute a hearing under Section 206 of the Federal Power Act to determine the just and reasonable rates to be charged to Central Montana. Central Montana also requests that the Commission establish the earliest possible refund effective date under the provisions of Section 206 of the Federal Power Act, and that the Commission order refunds of all amounts in excess of just and reasonable rates under that Act.

Copies of Central Montana's complaint filing were served on representatives of Montana Power Company.

Comment date: February 8, 1999, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice. Answers to the complaint should also be filed on or before February 8, 1999.