

has no systematic evidence regarding the frequency of such events among awards made in 1989 and 1990, some of which were from unsolicited proposals and others were from proposals in three special initiative areas; Strategic Manufacturing, Technology Management, and Industrial Internships. Furthermore, nothing is known about the process by which any outcomes may have occurred. A pilot study of DMII research program awards from 1986 using the same instruments was conducted several years ago. To assist DMII in reporting accurately about the results from more recent awards, especially those made in three initiative areas—Technology Management, Strategic Manufacturing, and Industrial Internships—and managing its present research programs, the Division would like to reinstate without change data collection 3145-0167.

Some 250 Principal Investigators (PIs) and co-Principal Investigators (co-PIs) who were recipients of DMII research program awards in FY 1989-90 will be asked to provide via e-mail:

- (1) A brief one-page narrative regarding the outcomes and impacts of the project;
- (2) Citations to 3 to 5 key journal articles, books or patents that resulted from the project, or in which the project played an important role;
- (3) The names, addresses and telephone numbers of between 3 and 5 other individuals who are familiar with the work carried out under the project, and who could provide additional insights as to its outcomes and impacts; and

With regard to the narrative materials, the following information will be requested:

- (A) Complete project title.
 - (B) Key project participants and their institutional affiliations.
 - (C) Time frame during which project was conducted.
 - (D) Principal outputs or results of the project.
 - (E) Longer Term outcome and follow-on impacts of the project.
 - (F) The researcher's best assessment of the impact of this NSF-funded research on the current (1999) state of design and manufacturing technology relevant to the award, including any known commercial implementations.
 - (G) Any other observations that the researcher wishes to make (e.g., regarding the promotion of a significant discovery, creation of a significant research capability, promotion of new knowledge flowing to society).
- The narratives, citations, and names of others knowledgeable about the

project may be submitted using the Internet or regular mail.

Technical experts will review and assess the narratives submitted by the awardees, then select a total of examples of awards with outstanding results and awards with limited results. A total of 30 brief case studies will be prepared by the contractor—15 about awards with outstanding results and 15 about awards with limited results—in order to understand better what occurred and factors contributing to or limiting impacts.

DMII has contracted with Abt Associates Inc. of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to conduct the study and prepare reports following the methodology they used in the pilot project.

Use of Information: The information collected will be used to assist DMII in the evaluation of these programs, and in considering various program priorities and selection procedures for future projects in this area. NSF also will use the results to satisfy requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA).

Confidentiality: No sensitive information is being requested in the collection.

Estimate of Burden: Completing the instrument will average 120 minutes. In addition, the Foundation anticipates conducting 30 case studies that will require three hours of interview time per case study. The total response burden is estimated at 540 hours, based on the following:

Survey: 250 PIs and co-PIs \times 90% completion rate = 225 respondents \times 120 minutes = 450 hours.

Case Studies: 30 PIs \times 100% completion rate = 30 respondents \times 180 minutes = 90 hours.

Total respondent burden hours: 540.

Respondents: Individuals.

Estimated Number of Responses: 225

Estimated Total Annual Burden on

Respondents: 540 hours.

Frequency of Responses: Once.

Dated: January 6, 2000.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-602 Filed 1-10-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permits Issued Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation of 1978, Public Law 95-541.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish notice of permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. This is the required notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nadene G. Kennedy, Permit Office, Office of Polar Programs, Rm. 755, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 7, 1999, the National Science Foundation published a notice in the **Federal Register** of permit applications received. Permits were issued on November 10, 1999 to the following applicants:

Bruce R. Mate—Permit No. 2000-015

Philip R. Kyle—Permit No. 2000-016

Bess B. Ward—Permit No. 2000-017

Brenda Hall—Permit No. 2000-018

Donal T. Manahan—Permit No. 2000-019

Gerald L. Kooyman—Permit No. 2000-020

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Permit Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-552 Filed 1-10-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-271]

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Co.; Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an amendment to 10 CFR Part 50 for Facility Operating License No. DPR-28, issued to Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation, (the licensee), for operation of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee), located in Windham County, Vermont.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed amendment would correct two textual errors and change the designation of a referenced figure.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated October 21, 1999.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is needed to correct administrative errors in the Technical Specifications (TSs).

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the modifications to TSs are administrative in nature.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (*i.e.*, the “no-action” alternative). Denial of the application 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 the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on December 13, 1999, the staff consulted with the Vermont State official, William Sherman, of the Vermont Department of Public Service regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee’s letter

dated October 21, 1999, which is available for public inspection at the Commission’s Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. Publically available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of January 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Richard P. Croteau,

Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00-610 Filed 1-10-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting Notice**

In accordance with the purposes of Sections 29 and 182b. of the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2039, 2232b), the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards will hold a meeting on February 3-5, 2000, in Conference Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The date of this meeting was previously published in the **Federal Register** on Thursday, October 14, 1999 (64 FR 55787).

Thursday, February 3, 2000

8:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.: Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman (Open)—The ACRS Chairman will make opening remarks regarding the conduct of the meeting.

8:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.: Technical Aspects Associated with the Revised Reactor Oversight Process and Related Matters (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding the technical aspects associated with the revised reactor oversight process, including the updated significance determination process, plant performance indicators, and related matters.

11 a.m.-12 Noon: Proposed Final Amendment to 10 CFR 50.72 and 50.73 (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) regarding the proposed final amendment to 10 CFR 50.72, “Immediate Notification Requirements for Operating Nuclear

Power Reactors,” and 50.73, “Licensee Event Report System.”

1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.: Proposed Regulatory Guide and Associated NEI Document 96-07, “Guidelines for 10 CFR 50.59 Safety Evaluations” (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and NEI regarding the proposed Regulatory Guide, which endorses guidance in NEI 96-07, associated with the implementation of the revised 10 CFR 50.59 process.

2:45 p.m.-4:15 p.m.: Proposed Revision of the Commission’s Safety Goal Policy Statement for Reactors (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding proposed revision of the Commission’s Safety Goal Policy Statement for reactors and related matters, including industry views.

4:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m.: Break and Preparation of Draft ACRS Reports (Open)—Cognizant ACRS members will prepare draft reports for consideration by the full Committee.

5:15 p.m.-7:00 p.m.: Discussion of Proposed ACRS Reports (Open)—The Committee will discuss proposed ACRS reports on matters considered during this meeting. In addition, the Committee will discuss proposed ACRS reports on: Low-Power and Shutdown Operations Risk Insights Report; License Renewal Process; and Response to Follow-up Questions Resulting from the ACRS Meeting with the Commission on November 4, 1999.

Friday, February 4, 2000

8:30 a.m.-8:35 a.m.: Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman (Open)—The ACRS Chairman will make opening remarks regarding the conduct of the meeting.

8:35 a.m.-10:30 a.m.: Impediments to the Increased Use of Risk-Informed Regulation and Use of Importance Measures in Risk-Informing 10 CFR Part 50 (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of NEI, the NRC staff as needed, and invited experts regarding impediments associated with the increased use of risk-informed regulation and use of importance measures in risk-informing 10 CFR Part 50, and related matters.

10:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m.: Proposed Final Revision of Appendix K to 10 CFR Part 50 (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding the proposed