

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) 306-1031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Public Law 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 as 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:* William D. Fraser, Biology Department, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana 59717, Permit Application No. 96-021.

Activity for Which Permit is Requested

Enter Specially Protected Area and Enter Site of Special Scientific Interest. The applicant requests permission to enter Litchfield Island (SPA #17) 3 times per week for 1-2 hours to census penguins and other seabirds breeding on the island. The island can be accessed safely and easily at times of the year when sea ice and bad weather make access to other penguin rookeries difficult or impossible. The applicant relies heavily on the ability to document weekly changes in penguin populations and breeding effort. This island has thus become a reliable source of long-term comparative data on penguin demography important to the hypotheses being tested by the LTER. All visits will be restricted to the unvegetated parts of the island.

In addition, the applicant would also like to enter Biscoe Point, Anvers Island (SSSI #20) on 5 separate occasions to census penguins and other seabirds. Some penguins banded as chicks are not returning to their natal colonies, but are instead moving to colonies on islands quite distant from Palmer. The applicant needs to document how pervasive this trend is by finding previously banded birds so as to adequately incorporate them into data on survival and recruitment.

Location

SPA #17—Litchfield Island, and SSSI #20—Biscoe Point, Anvers Island

Dates

October 1, 1995–May 31, 1998

2. *Applicant:* William D. Fraser, Biology Department, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana 59717, Permit Application No. 96-022.

Activity for Which Permit is Requested

Taking. The applicant proposes to continue work associated with the Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) on the Antarctica Marine Ecosystem project studying the relating variability in seabird reproductive success, survival and recruitment to fluctuations in certain biotic and abiotic features in their environment. This work involves censusing populations; marking, weighing and measuring adults, chicks and eggs; obtaining diet samples; and placing radio transmitters on some individuals to develop profiles on foraging efforts. As in the past, all seabirds involved in the research will be released unharmed.

Location

Palmer Station vicinity and nearby islands accessible by zodiac

Dates

October 1, 1995–May 31, 1998

3. *Applicant:* William D. Fraser, Biology Department, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana 59717, Permit Application No. 96-023.

Activity for Which Permit is Requested

Taking. The applicant requests permission to tag 200 Adelle penguins using the subcutaneous tag method. The tagging of penguins is part of a long-term ecological research (LTER) program studying the relating variability in seabird reproductive success, survival and recruitment to fluctuations in certain biotic and abiotic features in their environment.

Location

Palmer Station vicinity and nearby islands

Dates

October 1, 1995—May 31, 1998

4. *Applicant:* Colin Harris, International Center for Antarctic Information and Research (ICAIR), P.O. Box 14-199, Orchard Road, Christchurch, New Zealand, Permit Application No. 96-013.

Activity for Which Permit is Requested

Enter Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The applicant proposes to enter

the Arrival Heights and Cape Crozier Sites of Special Scientific Interest to survey ground control points needed to prepare up-to-date and detailed site maps for these areas. The work involves obtaining precise measurements of up to 6 ground control points at each site. In addition aerial photography above each control point will be necessary so the control points can be transferred to existing aerial photography for each site. Access to sites will follow restrictions outlined in the management plans for each site.

Location

SSSI #2—Arrival Heights, Hut Peninsula, Ross Island, and SSSI #4—Cape Crozier, Ross Island

Dates

November 1, 1995—January 31, 1996

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Permit Office, Office of Polar Programs.

[FR Doc. 95-22556 Filed 9-11-95; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-287 and 50-388]

Pennsylvania Power & Light Company, Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuing an amendment to Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications to permit the implementation of an increase in the allowable exposure of Siemens' 9x9-2 fuel from 40 GWD/MTU to 45 GWD/MTU. Pennsylvania Power and Light Company (PP&L) (the licensee), on May 31, 1994, submitted to the Commission for review, Topical Report PL-NF-94-005-P, "Technical Basis for SPC 9x9-2 Extended Fuel Exposure at Susquehanna SES." This report provided a technical justification for the increased fuel burnup and the staff subsequently approved the report as indicated in its letter to PP&L dated December 15, 1994.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would amend the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES), Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TS) to permit the implementation of an increase in the allowable exposure of Siemens' 9x9-2 fuel from 40 GWD/MTU to 45 GWD/

MTU. The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated February 2, 1995.

The Need for the Proposed Action

NRC approval of this TS change, as applied to the Unit 1, Cycle 9, and Unit 2, Cycle 8, will establish a new, higher fuel burnup rod-average limit of 45 MWD/MTU and will permit the licensee to continue to operate the plant through the end of each of these specified cycles, exceeding the current fuel burnup limit of 40 GWD/MTU, without affecting the safe operation of each reactor.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission completed its evaluation of the proposed action and the above referenced topical report and found it to be acceptable. In addition the TS changes implementing the higher fuel burnup limit have also been found to be acceptable. The safety considerations associated with extended irradiation of nuclear fuel have been evaluated by the NRC staff and the staff has concluded that such changes would not adversely affect plant safety. The proposed changes have no adverse effect on the probability of any accident. The increased burnup may slightly change the mix of fission products that might be released in the event of a serious accident, but such changes would not significantly affect the consequences of serious accidents. Routine radiological effluents are not affected. As a result, there is no increase in individual or cumulative radiation exposure.

The environmental impacts of transportation resulting from the use of higher enrichment and extended irradiation are discussed in the staff assessment entitled, "NRC Assessment of the Environmental Effects of Transportation Resulting from Extended Fuel Enrichment and Irradiation." This assessment was published in the **Federal Register** on August 11, 1988 (53 FR 30355), as corrected on August 24, 1988 (53 FR 32322), in connection with the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1: Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact. As indicated therein, the environmental cost contribution of an increase in fuel enrichment of up to 5 weight percent U-235 and irradiation limits of up to 60 Gigawatt Days per Metric Ton (GWD/MT) are either unchanged, or may in fact be reduced from those summarized in Table S-4 as set forth in 10 CFR 51.52(c). These findings are applicable to the proposed increase in the increase in the allowable exposure of Siemens' 9x9-2 fuel for the Susquehanna units.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed change will in no way affect environs located outside the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed change in the fuel exposure limit.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded 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 action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. 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 Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on July 7, 1995, the staff consulted with the Pennsylvania State official, David Ney of the Department of Radiation Protection, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission 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 February 2, 1995, which is 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 room located at the Osterhout Free Library, Reference Department, 71 South Franklin Street, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania 18701.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of September 1995.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John Stolz,

Director, Project Directorate I-2, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NEA/CNRA/CSNI International Workshop on Steam Generator Tube Integrity in Nuclear Power Plants; Notice of NEA Meeting

SUMMARY: An International Workshop on Steam Generator Tube Integrity in Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) will be convened by the Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities (CNRA) and the Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI) of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA). The NEA announcement and call for participation is attached. The NRC is a member of these committees and NRC staff and contractors will participate in the workshop. The NEA is seeking other participants from the United States. Those interested in participating, should submit the registration form directly to the NEA at the address noted on the form. The deadline for registration has been extended to September 30, 1995.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, on September 6, 1995.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Michael E. Mayfield,

Chief, Electrical, Materials & Mechanical Engineering Branch, Division of Engineering Technology, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

NEA/CNRA/CSNI International Workshop on Steam Generator Tubing Integrity in Nuclear Power Plants

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

1. Organization and Host

An Intentional Workshop on Steam Generator Tube Integrity in Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) will be convened by the Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities (CNRA) and the Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI) of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA). The workshop will be hosted by the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The four-day workshop will be conducted in suburban Chicago, Illinois near Argonne National Laboratory on Monday, October 30 through Thursday, November 2, 1995.

2. Background and Purpose

Steam generator tubing has exhibited a wide variety of degradation mechanisms. As a result, a considerable amount of effort has been expended to address the safety and