

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION****Submission for OMB Review:  
Comment Request; Title of Proposed  
Collection: Request for Proposals**

In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the National Science Foundation (NSF) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. Such a notice was published at 62 FR 12251, dated March 14, 1997. No comments were received. This material is being submitted for OMB review with no changes. Send any written comments to Desk Officer, OMB 3145-0080, OIRA, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. Written comments should be received by June 28, 1997.

Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

*Proposed Project:* The Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Subpart 15.4-“Solicitation and Receipt of Proposals” prescribes policies and procedures for preparing and issuing Requests for Proposals. The FAR System has been developed in accordance with the requirement of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act of 1974, as amended. The NSF Act of 1950, as amended, 42 USC 1870, Sec. 11, states that NSF has the authority to:

(c) enter into contracts or other arrangements, or modifications thereof, for the carrying on, by organizations or individuals in the United States and foreign countries, including other government agencies of the United States and of foreign countries, of such scientific or engineering activities as the Foundation deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, and, at the request of the Secretary of Defense, specific scientific or engineering activities in connection with matters relating to international cooperation or national security, and, when deemed appropriate by the Foundation, such contracts or other arrangements or modifications thereof, may be entered into without legal consideration, without performance or other bonds and without regard to section 5 of title 41, U.S.C.

*Use of the Information:* Request for Proposals (RFP) are used to competitively solicit proposals in

response to NSF need for services. Impact will be on those individuals or organizations who elect to submit proposals in response to the RFP. Information gathered will be evaluated in light of NSF procurement requirements to determine who will be awarded a contract.

*Burden on the Public:* The Foundation estimates that approximately 120 hours may be required in the process for submitting a proposal.

Dated: May 22, 1997.

**Gail A. McHenry,**

*Reports Clearance Officer.*

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**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 June 30, 1997. 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:** Ndene G. Kennedy at the above address or (703) 306-1033.

**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 as requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Specially Protected Areas and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

The application received is follows:

**1. Applicant**

W. Scott Drieschman, Wildlife Concepts International, Inc., P.O. Box 65, Palomar Mountain, California 92060  
Permit Application: 98-001

**Activity for Which Permit is Requested**

Taking; Import to the U.S. (transship). The applicant proposes to collect no more than 60 Emperor chicks (less than .03% of the total estimated population and less than 0.6% of the Dawson-Lambton colony) for scientific purposes, zoological display, and education. Due to late hatching there are chicks that will not survive. The intent of the project is to collect the chicks with no chance of survival. The impact to the overall breeding success of the colony will not be affected in this case. Weights of the chicks will be taken to determine if the individuals fit the collection criteria for body mass (3-5 kg).

The chicks will be transported in individual “blue ice” containers (same methodology has been successfully used by other penguin biologists) that provide easy access to the birds for monitoring and feeding purposes. Two penguin biologists will accompany the Emperor chicks as they are transported from Antarctica to the Nagoya Aquarium in Japan. This facility opened in October 1992 and has one of the most advanced Antarctic exhibit complexes in the worlds. The penguin exhibit contains four species: Adelie, chinstrap, gentoo and king penguins. The aquarium has bred all four penguin species since the facility opened and at the present time has a self sufficient population of birds. Mortality is very low at less than one percent per year; much lower than any wild populations. There have been no chronic health problems, nor has there been any outbreak of contagious disease.

Currently there are only two breeding colonies of Emperors outside of the Antarctic, at Sea World of San Diego and Sea World of Ohio. The addition of Emperor penguins to the Nagoya Aquarium will make it the third.

*Location:* Areas adjacent to the Dawson-Lambton Glacier, Filchner Ice Shelf, Weddell Sea.

*Dates:* October 1, 1997-February 28, 1998.

**2. Applicant**

Randall Davis, Department of Marine Biology, Texas A&M University, P.O. Box 1675, Galveston, Texas 77553  
Permit Application: 98-004

#### Activity for Which Permit Is Requested

Taking and Import into the U.S. The applicant will investigate the behavioral and energetic adaptations that enable Weddell seals to forage into the Antarctic fast-ice environment. They will examine the underwater behavior, locomotor performances (swimming velocity, stroke frequency, amplitude and three-dimensional movements) and energy metabolism during foraging dives. To accomplish this, the applicant proposes to capture up to 15 Weddell seals each season. The seals will be weighed, immobilized and sedated for attachment of a video camera and a small radio transmitter to a piece of neoprene rubber glued to the fur along the dorsal midline above the shoulders with neoprene rubber cement. In addition, blood and muscle tissue samples will be taken and imported in the U.S. for analysis of metabolites and myoglobin. During each deployment of the video system, a single seal will be captured, instrumented and released into an ice hole for five days. The rubber pad will eventually fall off when the seal molts.

*Location:* McMurdo Sound vicinity.

*Dates:* October 1, 1997 to February 1, 2000.

#### 3. Applicant

Wayne Z. Trivelpiece, Department of Biology, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana 59717  
Permit Application No. 98-005

#### Activity for Which Permit Is Requested

Taking; Import into the U.S.; and, Enter Site of Special Scientific Interest. The applicant is conducting a continuing study of behavioral ecology and population biology of the Adelie, gentoo, and chinstrap penguins and the interactions among these species and their principal avian predators: skuas, gulls, sheathbills, and giant fulmars. Up to 1000 Adelie and gentoo chicks, plus 150 adults of each of all three penguin species, will be branded. Up to 50 adults of each penguin species will be fitted with radio transmitters and time-depth recorders to continue studying penguin foraging habits. The study also involves stomach pumping of 40 adult penguins per species. In addition the principal avian predators of the penguins, mentioned above, will also be studied, requiring adults and chicks to be banded, if possible. One (1) milliliter sample of blood will be collected from each of a maximum of 20 breeding

adults of each penguin species for DNA analysis. All captured birds will be released unharmed. Carcasses and skeletons of penguins and other birds salvaged at the study site will be imported into the U.S. for educational and scientific study.

*Location:* SSSI #8—Western Shore of Admiralty Bay, King George Island, South Shetland Islands, Antarctica.

*Dates:* October 1, 1997–April 1, 1998.

#### 4. Applicant

Robert Wharton, Jr., Desert Research Institute, P.O. Box 60220, Reno, Nevada 89506  
Permit Application No. 98-006

#### Activity for Which Permit Is Requested

Enter Site of Special Scientific Interest. The applicant proposes to enter the Barwick Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest #3 to obtain hydrological data on lake levels and ice thickness. Besides extending baseline data in Barwick Valley, these data will contribute to ongoing investigations of lake ice dynamics in the Dry Valleys carried out by the LTER and NASA Exobiology projects. Data collection will be done by completely non-intrusive means. There will be no drilling, sample collection, or environmental manipulations of any kind. Lake leveling will be done with optical survey instruments, and ice thickness will be performed with ground penetrating radar (GPR). The applicant plans to enter the SSSI during two day trips in November. Personnel will be put down by helicopter outside the SSSI boundaries, establish a small tent camp, then hike into the SSSI to Lake Vashka (approximately 5 km).

*Location:* SSSI #3—Barwick Valley, Victoria Land, Antarctica.

*Dates:* November 1, 1997 to November 15, 1997.

#### Nadene G. Kennedy,

*Permit Office, Office of Polar Programs.*

[FR Doc. 97-14143 Filed 5-29-97; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-255]

### Consumers Power Company; Palisades Plant; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DRP-20, issued to Consumers Power Company, (CPCo, the licensee), for

operation of the Palisades Plant, located in Van Buren County, Michigan.

#### Environmental Assessment

##### Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would revise the Facility Operating License No. DRP-20 and the Technical Specifications (TS) appended to Facility Operating License No. DPR-20 for the Palisades Plant. Specifically, the proposed action would amend the license to reflect the change in the licensee's name from Consumers Power Company to Consumers Energy Company.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated March 27, 1997.

##### The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is to revise the company name in the license to reflect the corporate name change that occurred on March 11, 1997.

##### Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed changes to the license and TS. According to the licensee, the name change will not impact the existing ownership of the Palisades Plant or the existing entitlement to power and will not alter the existing antitrust license conditions applicable to CPCo or CPCo's ability to comply with these conditions or with any of its other obligations or responsibilities. As stated by the licensee, "The corporate existence continues uninterrupted, and all legal characteristics remain the same. Thus, there is no change in the ownership, State of incorporation, registered agent, registered office, directors, officers, rights or liabilities of the Company, nor is there a change in the function of the Company or the way in which it does business. The Company's financial responsibility for the Palisades Plant and its sources of funds to support the facility will remain the same. Further, this name change does not impact the Company's ability to comply with any of its obligations or responsibilities under the license." Therefore, the change 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 will be no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed