

(September 23, 1975), all applicants for registration to import basic class of any controlled substance in Schedule I or II are and will continue to be required to demonstrate to the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration that the requirements for such registration pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 958(a), 21 U.S.C. 823(a), and 21 CFR 1311.42(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) are satisfied.

Dated: September 2, 2003.

**Laura M. Nagel,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration.*

[FR Doc. 03-26962 Filed 10-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-09-M

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Notice of Permit Applications Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-541)

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice of permit applications received under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978, Public Law 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 this permit application by November 26, 2003. This application 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) 292-7405.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-541), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996, has developed regulations for the 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 Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

The applications received are as follows:

1. Applicant: Permit Application No. 2004-017, Paul R. Renne, Berkeley Geochronology Center, 2455 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA 94709.

#### Activity for Which Permit Is Requested

Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Area. The applicant proposes to collect rock samples from 6 locations within the Barwick and Balham Valleys (ASPA #123), as part of a larger strategy to provide a new quantitative tool providing data on the ages and evolution of surfaces. The rock samples are an essential part of an on-going project constraining the terrestrial production rate of the cosmogenic nuclide  $^{38}\text{Ar}$ . The McMurdo Dry Valleys are an ideal location for this type of study due to their very long exposure history (millions of years) combined with generally high elevations, low erosion and soil build up and high latitude: all factors which act to maximize cosmogenic nuclide production. Large scale flat surfaces with long exposure and high elevation within the Valleys, however, are scarce, and the flat plateau area formed by the Insel Range creates the most ideal surface for this type of sampling.

#### Location

Barwick and Balham Valleys (ASPA #123).

#### Dates

December 15, 2003 to January 30, 2004.

**Nadene G. Kennedy,**

*Permit Officer, Office of Polar Programs.*

[FR Doc. 03-27034 Filed 10-24-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 70-143]

### Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., Environmental Assessment and Issuance of Finding of No Significant Impact Related to Proposed Amendment to License No. SNM-124 for the Blended Low-Enriched Uranium Preparation Facility

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Finding of no significant impact and availability of environmental assessment.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kevin Ramsey, Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop T8-A33, Washington DC 20555-0001, telephone (301) 415-7887 and email [kmr@nrc.gov](mailto:kmr@nrc.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Introduction

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering the issuance of a license amendment to NRC Materials License No. SNM-124 to authorize operation of the Blended Low-Enriched Uranium Preparation Facility (BPF) in Erwin, Tennessee and has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) in support of this action. Based upon the EA, the NRC has concluded that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate, and, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) request for the proposed action was initially noticed by the NRC along with a notice of opportunity to provide comments and request a hearing on January 7, 2003 (see 68 FR 796).

##### II. Environmental Assessment

###### Background

The NFS facility in Erwin, TN is authorized under SNM-124 to manufacture high-enriched nuclear reactor fuel. NFS is undertaking the Blended Low-Enriched Uranium Project (BLEU Project) to manufacture low-enriched nuclear reactor fuel. NFS is constructing a new complex at the Erwin site to house the operations involving low-enriched uranium. On July 27, 2003, Amendment 39 to License SNM-124 was issued to authorize storage of low-enriched uranium in the new complex. This was the first of three amendments planned for the BLEU Project. Manufacturing operations in the new complex have not been authorized yet.

NFS is requesting this amendment to authorize operations at the Blended Low-Enriched Uranium Preparation Facility (BPF). This is the second of the three amendments planned for the BLEU Project. The BLEU Project involves blending high-enriched uranium with unenriched (natural) uranium to produce low-enriched uranium. This is called "downblending." Much of the