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Jean H. Ellen,

Chief Docket Clerk.

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Extend a Current Information Collection

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice and Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), and as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the National Science Foundation (NSF) is inviting the general public or other Federal agencies to comment on this proposed continuing information collection. The National Science Foundation (NSF) will publish periodic summaries of the proposed projects.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Foundation, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Foundation's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by July 7, 2008 to be assured consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Send comments to address below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 295, Arlington, Virginia 22230; telephone (703) 292-7556; or send e-mail to splimpto@nsf.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.

OMB Approval Number: 3145-0062.

Expiration Date of Approval: July 31, 2008.

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to extend an information collection for three years.

1. Abstract

The Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS) is sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. The GSS originated in 1966 and has been conducted annually since 1972. The GSS is a census of all departments in science, engineering and health fields within academic institutions with post-baccalaureate programs in the United States. The total number of respondents surveyed in 2006, the last year for which complete response rate data are available, was 12,321 departments located in 707 schools (reporting units) at 586 degree-granting institutions. The GSS is the only national survey that collects information on the characteristics of graduate enrollment for specific science, engineering and health disciplines at the department level. It collects information on race/ethnicity, citizenship, gender, sources of support, mechanisms of support, and enrollment status for graduate students; and gender, citizenship and sources of support for postdoctorates. It also collects counts by gender of other non-faculty research staff with doctorates.

The National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as subsequently amended, includes a statutory charge to “* * * provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering resources, and to provide a source of information for policy formulation by other agencies of the Federal Government.” The GSS is designed to comply with these mandates by providing information on the characteristics of academic graduate enrollment and postdoctoral components in science, engineering and health fields.

The GSS (along with other academic sector surveys from both NSF and the National Center of Education Statistics) is one of the inputs into the WebCASPAR data system. Among other uses, this NSF on-line database is used by NSF to review changing enrollment levels to assess the effects of NSF initiatives, to track student support patterns and to analyze participation in S&E fields by targeted groups for all

disciplines or for selected disciplines and for selected groups of institutions.

The Foundation also uses the GSS information to prepare congressionally mandated reports such as *Women, Minorities and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering* and *Science and Engineering Indicators*. A public use file is also made available on the world-wide Web.

Data are obtained primarily by Web survey (with paper worksheets made available upon request) and starts each fall in mid-October. The data are solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. All information will be used for statistical purposes only. Participation in the survey is voluntary.

2. Expected Respondents

The GSS is census of all eligible academic institutions in the U.S. with post-baccalaureate programs in science, engineering and health fields and their related departments. The response rate is calculated on the number of departments that respond to the survey.

3. Estimate of Burden

The initial GSS data request is sent to the designated respondent (School Coordinator) at each academic institution in the fall. The School Coordinator may complete or delegate all or part of forms 811 (listing of eligible departments, programs, research centers and health care facilities) and 812 (data collection form). In all cases, the School Coordinator is responsible for the Form 811. Usually, the School Coordinator delegates the Form 812 to departmental respondents. The amount of time it takes to provide the information on Forms 811 and 812 varies dramatically and depends to a large degree on the extent to which the school's records are centrally stored and computerized.

The 2007 GSS asked the School Coordinators to provide an estimate of the time spent in filling out Form 811 and the department respondents to estimate the time spent completing Form 812. The School Coordinators estimated the burden for completing Form 811 as 4.13 hours per school and the department respondents estimated 2.07 hours per department for completing Form 812. Using the 2007 estimates for the time required for the two forms and using the current 2007 number of schools (700) and departments (12,671) and assuming the same response rates as 2006 (96% for the schools and 97% for the departments), the total estimated respondent burden of the GSS would be 28,217 hours annually, for a total of

84,652 hours over the 3-year clearance period.

Dated: April 30, 2008.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,
Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. E8-9783 Filed 5-2-08; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-271; License No. DPR-28]

Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.; Notice of Issuance of Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206

Notice is hereby given that the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, has issued a Director's Decision with regard to a petition dated August 27, 2007, filed pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), § 2.206, by Mr. Raymond Shadis on behalf of the New England Coalition (NEC), hereinafter referred to as the "petitioner." The petition was supplemented on October 3, 2007. The NEC petition requested that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) promptly restore reasonable assurance of adequate protection of public health and safety that is now degraded by the failure of the licensee and its employees to report adverse conditions leading to a reduction in plant safety margins at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee), or otherwise to order a derate or shutdown of Vermont Yankee until it can be determined to what extent Vermont Yankee is being operated in an unanalyzed condition. Specifically, the petition requested the following actions: (1) NRC completion of a Diagnostic Evaluation Team examination or Independent Safety Assessment of Vermont Yankee to determine the extent of condition of non-conformances, reportable items, hazards to safety, and the root causes thereof; (2) NRC completion of a safety culture assessment to determine why worker safety concerns were not previously reported and why assessments of safety culture under the Reactor Oversight Process failed to capture the fact or reasons that safety concerns have gone unreported; (3) derate Vermont Yankee to 50% of licensed thermal power with a mandatory hold at 50% until a thorough and detailed structural and performance analysis of the cooling towers, including the alternate cooling system, has been completed by the licensee; reviewed

and approved by NRC; and until the above steps (1) and (2) have been completed; and (4) NRC investigation and determination of whether or not similar non-conforming conditions and causes exist at other Entergy-run nuclear power plants. On September 6, 2007, the NRC staff notified the petitioner that, based on the recommendation of the Petition Review Board (PRB), the request for immediate action to derate or shutdown Vermont Yankee was denied because the petition did not identify any safety hazards sufficient to warrant those actions.

Mr. Raymond Shadis, in his capacity as the petitioner's consultant, participated in two telephone conference calls with the NRC's PRB on September 12, 2007, and October 3, 2007, to discuss the petition. Those discussions were considered in reaching the PRB's final recommendation regarding the petitioner's request for action and in establishing the schedule for the review of the petition. The PRB confirmed its initial recommendation to reject requests (1), (2), and (4) for review under the Section 2.206 process and accept a portion of request (3) related to the cooling tower cell collapse.

In an acknowledgment letter dated November 6, 2007, the NRC informed the petitioner that the petition was accepted, in part, for review under 10 CFR 2.206, and had been referred to the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation for appropriate action. The petitioner's request to derate Vermont Yankee was denied, but the petition was granted, in part, by the NRC staff's review of Entergy's evaluation and analysis of the partial cooling tower collapse and associated causes.

The NRC staff sent a copy of the proposed Director's Decision to the petitioner for comment on February 29, 2008. The NRC staff did not receive any comments on the proposed DD.

The Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation has determined that the NRC has in effect granted the petitioner's request. The reasons for this decision are explained in the Director's Decision pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206 (DD-08-01). The petitioner's concern regarding the partial collapse of the cooling tower cell at Vermont Yankee has been adequately resolved such that no further action is needed.

The documents cited in this Director's Decision are available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, Public File Area O1 F21, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland and from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public

Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdrr@nrc.gov.

A copy of the Director's Decision will be filed with the Secretary of the Commission for the Commission to review in accordance with 10 CFR 2.206 of the Commission's regulations. As provided for by this regulation, the Director's Decision will constitute the final action of the Commission 25 days after the date of the decision, unless the Commission, on its own motion, institutes a review of the Director's Decision within that time.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of April 2008.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

J.E. Dyer,

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. E8-9798 Filed 5-2-08; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Southern Nuclear Operating Company; Notice of Receipt and Availability of Application for a Combined License

On March 31, 2008, Southern Energy Operating Company (SNC), acting on behalf of itself and Georgia Power Company, Oglethorpe Power Corporation (an Electric Membership Corporation), Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, and the City of Dalton, Georgia, an incorporated municipality in the State of Georgia acting by and through its Board of Water, Light and Sinking Fund Commissioners (Dalton Utilities), herein referred to as the applicant, filed with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC, the Commission) pursuant to Section 103 of the Atomic Energy Act and Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants," an application for combined licenses (COLs) for two AP1000 advanced passive pressurized water reactors at the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) site located in Burke County, Georgia. The reactors are to be identified as VEGP Units 3 and 4 and will occupy that portion of the VEGP site for which SNC is seeking an Early Site Permit (ESP).