(c) NASA, Dryden Flight Research Center, Library, Building 4800, Room 2149, Edwards AFB, CA 93523.

(d) Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Visitors Lobby, Building 249, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA 91109 (818–354–5179).

(e) NASA, Spaceport USA, Room 2001, John F. Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899. Please call Lisa Fowler beforehand at 407–867–2468 so that arrangements can be made.

(f) Kern County Library, Boron Branch, 27070 Highway 5, Boron, CA 93516.

(g) Kern County Library, Ridgecrest Branch, 131 East Las Flores Street, Ridgecrest, CA 93555.

(h) Los Angeles County Library, Lancaster Branch, 1150 West Avenue J, Lancaster, CA 93524.

(i) Palmdale City Library, 700 East Palmdale Boulevard, Palmdale, CA 93550.

(j) San Bernadino County Library, Barstow Branch, 304 East Buena Vista, Barstow, CA 92311.

(k) Great Falls Public Library, 301 2nd Avenue North, Great Falls, MT 59401.

(l) Moses Lake Library, 418 East 5th Street, Moses Lake, WA 98837.

(m) Dugway Proving Ground Library, 5124 Kisstler Avenue, Dugway, UT 84022.

(n) Tooele Library, 47 East Vine Street, Tooele, UT 84074.

(o) Salt Lake City Library, 209 East 500 South, Business/Science Department, Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

In addition, the FEIS may be examined at the following NASA locations by contacting the pertinent Freedom of Information Act Office:

(p) NASA, Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035 (650–604–4190).

(q) NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771 (301–286–0730).

(r) NASA, Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX 77058 (281–483–8612).

(s) NASA, Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23665 (757–864–2497).

(t) NASA, Lewis Research Center, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135 (216–433–2222).

(u) NASA, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529 (601–688–2164).

Limited copies of the FEIS are available, on a first request basis, by contacting Dr. Rebecca McCaleb at the address, telephone number, or electronic mail address provided below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Rebecca C. McCaleb, NASA, Marshall Space Flight Center, AE01/ Building 4201, Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812; telephone 205–544–4367; electronic mail (X33EIS@msfc.nasa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The X–33 test vehicle is planned as an approximately one-half scale reusable spaceplane. The vehicle would launch vertically and land horizontally. The X–33 vehicle would consist of a lifting body airframe with two cryogenic liquid propellant tanks (liquid hydrogen (LH2) and liquid oxygen (LOX)) placed within the aeroshell, and would use two linear aerospike main engines. Water would be the primary product of the LOX/LH2 combustion. The entire spaceplane (with all fuel tanks and engines) would launch and land as a single unit.

During the landing sequence, the spaceplane would be unpowered. Flight tests would involve speeds of up to Mach 15 and altitudes up to approximately 75,800 meters (250,000 feet). None of the X–33 test flights would achieve Earth orbit. Ground operations and servicing (*e.g.*, checkout, refueling, etc.) would be conducted with ''aircraft like'' procedures and systems. After each test flight, the X–33 would be ferried back to the flight operations site by a Boeing 747 aircraft in a manner similar to that used for the transport of Space Shuttle orbiters. The test program is currently baselined for a combined total of 15 flights.

Reasonable alternatives considered for this proposed action include:

- Flight operations (launch) sites:

(a) Edwards Air Force Base, California, Space Port 2000 site, and

(b) Edwards Air Force Base, California, Haystack Butte site;

- Short-range landing sites:

(a) Armitage Airfield, China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, California, and

(b) Silurian Lake, a dry lake bed, north of Baker, California;

- Mid-range landing sites:

(a) Michael Army Air Field, Dugway Proving Ground, Utah;

- Long-range landing sites (may serve as an alternative mid-range landing site):

(a) Malmstrom Air Force Base, Great Falls Montana, and,

(b) Grant County Airport, Moses Lake, Washington; and,—''No action.'' The ''no action'' alternative (*i.e.*, absence of the X–33 Program) would mean that the RLV Program, as planned could not proceed.

NASA's preferred launch site is the Haystack Butte site at Edwards AFB. The preferred landing sites are at Silurian Lake (short-range), Dugway Proving Ground (mid-range), and Malmstrom AFB (long-range). Based on the preferred set of landing sites, NASA analyzed three potentially reasonable flight test options:

(a) A baseline plan involving all three landing sites,

(b) A plan involving only Silurian Lake and Malmstrom AFB, and

(c) An option only involving Dugway Proving Ground and Malmstron AFB.

Comments on the draft environmental impact statement were solicited from Federal, State and local agencies, organizations, and the general public through: (a) notices published in the **Federal Register**—NASA notice on July 3, 1997 (62 FR 36081), and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notice on July 3, 1997 (62 FR 36062; (b) notices in newspapers of general circulation in areas potentially subject to environmental impacts and (c) a series of public participation meetings. Comments received have been addressed in the FEIS.

Benita A. Cooper,

Associate Administrator for Management Systems and Facilities.

[FR Doc. 97–26130 Filed 10–1–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510–01–M

NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE CENTER

Privacy Act of 1974; Establishment of a New System of Records

AGENCY: National Counterintelligence Center (NACIC).

ACTION: Establishment of Privacy Act system of records including statement of routine uses and detailed description of system.

SUMMARY: On February 27, 1997, the National Counterintelligence Center (NACIC) published for public comment a notice for the establishment of a new Privacy Act system of records. It was provided in that notice that the system of records would become effective without further notice 40 days after publication unless modified by a subsequent notice in order to incorporate comments received from the public.

Although no comments were received from members of the public, reviews internally and by representatives of the Department of Justice approved the ''routine uses'' as published but otherwise suggested several clarifications to the descriptions set forth in the sections entitled ''Categories of records in the system'' and ''Exemptions claimed for the system.'' Inasmuch as the Privacy Act requires only that the portion of the system description which describes the ''routine uses'' of a system be published

for comment, the NACIC Privacy Act declaration, is set forth in its entirety below.

DATES: This system of records notice is effective October 2, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE: Information and Privacy Coordinator, Executive Secretariat Office, National Counterintelligence Center, 3W01 NHB, Washington, DC 20505.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a, NACIC hereby establishes a new system of records to be maintained at the NACIC headquarters. The purpose of this notice is to announce the creation and character of the system of records subject to the Privacy Act which is maintained by NACIC.

For the convenience of the public, the above referenced clarifications to the previously published notice include:

(a) Several modifications to the listed categories of records have been deemed appropriate for record system NACIC–1; they include:

(1) The categories numbered 1–5 and 7 in the notice are deleted in that these categories of records are neither indexed nor retrievable by name or other personal identifier and thus do not meet the basic definition of a Privacy Act system of records;

(2) The category entitled ''Publications, Training Materials and Regional Seminar Records'' and numbered 8 in the notice is clarified to include not only ''lists of speakers'' but also speaker qualifications and courses in which they have participated to the extent such data exists; it is also clarified in that the materials previously covered by the term ''case studies'' are now separately listed as a ''Counterintelligence Damage Assessments and Incident Files'';

(3) The category entitled ''Personnel files'' and numbered 9 in the notice is modified to include NACIC personnel who are independent contractors;

(4) A new category entitled ''Counterintelligence Damage Assessments and Incident Files'' is added and includes copies of the finished assessments of the damage to U.S. intelligence sources and methods resulting from significant and particular espionage cases as well as summaries of significant counterintelligence incidents including the circumstances and characteristics of the target, the circumstance of the event, and the particular threat presented;

(5) A new category entitled ''Computer and Physical Security Files'' is added and includes data such as the names, passwords, accesses and special accesses to both physical locations and computer systems, relevant audit trails for such accesses, and particular clearances and certifications of clearances; the individuals covered include all personnel assigned to NACIC as well as other individuals holding national security clearances and having authorized access to NACIC facilities and/or computer systems.

(b) Several corrections to the section of the notice entitled ''Exemptions claimed for the system'' have been determined necessary as a result of an editing error prior to submission of the notice to the **Federal Register** they include:

(1) The specific reference to Privacy Act exemption (k)(1) was inadvertently omitted from the discussion of the exemption for classified national security information and is now included;

(2) The listings of Privacy Act exemptions (k) (2)–(6) as authorized by the Act were also inadvertently omitted and are now included although their invocation, given the mission of NACIC, will be rare;

(3) And, the reference to Privacy Act exemption (j)(1) is clarified so that it applies only to that information in the joint custody of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and NACIC where the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) has determined that such information should be exempt from certain specified provisions of the Privacy Act pursuant to the National Security Act of 1947 and the CIA Act of 1949;

(c) An addition to the sections of the notice entitled ''Record access procedures'' and ''Contesting record procedures'' has also been determined to be appropriate in order specifically to inform members of the public of their right to and procedures to effect an administrative appeal in the event of a denial of their request.

Accordingly, the notice regulating the management of an public access to the Privacy Act record system maintained by NACIC are set forth in their entirety below.

Statement of General Routine Uses

The following routine uses apply to, and are incorporated by reference into each system of records maintained by NACIC. It should be noted that, before the individual record system notices begin, the blanket routine uses of the records are published below only once in the interest of simplicity, economy and to avoid redundancy.

1. *Routine Use-Law Enforcement:* In the event that a system of records maintained by NACIC to carry out its functions indicates a violation or potential violation of law, whether civil, criminal or regulatory in nature, and whether arising by general statute or by regulation, rule or order issued pursuant thereto, the relevant records in the system of records maybe referred, as a routine use, to the appropriate agency whether Federal, state, local or foreign, charged with the responsibility of investigating or prosecuting such violation or charged with enforcing or implementing the statute, rule, regulation or order issued pursuant thereto.

2. *Routine Use-Disclosure When Requesting Information:* A record from a system of records maintained by this component may be disclosed as a routine use to a Federal, state, or local agency maintaining civil, criminal, or other relevant enforcement information or other pertinent information, if necessary to obtain information relevant to a component decision concerning the hiring or retention of an employee, the issuance of a security clearance, the letting of a contact, or the issuance of a license, grant or other benefit.

3. *Routine Use-Disclosure of Requested Information:* A record from a system of records maintained by this component may be disclosed to a Federal agency, in response to its request, in connection with the hiring or retention of an employee, the issuance of a security clearance, the reporting of an investigation of an employee, the letting of a contract, or the issuance of a license, grant or other benefit by the requesting agency, to the extent that the information is relevant and necessary to the requesting agency's decision on the matter.

4. *Routine Use-Congressional:* Inquiries from a system of records maintained by this component maybe made to a Congressional office from the record of an individual in response to an inquiry from the Congressional office made at the request of that individual.

5. *Routine Use-Disclosures Required by International Agreements:* A record from a system of records maintained by this component may be disclosed to foreign law enforcement, security, investigatory, or administrative authorities in order to comply with requirements imposed by, or to claim rights conferred in, international agreements and arrangements including those regulating the stationing and status in foreign countries of Department of Defense military and civilian personnel.

6. *Routine Use-disclosure to the Department of Justice for Litigation:* A record from a system of records maintained by this component may be disclosed as routine use to any component of the Department of Justice

for the purpose of representing any officer, employee or member of this component in pending or potential litigation to which the record is pertinent.

7. *Routine Use-Disclosure of Information to the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO):* A record from a system of records maintained by this component may be disclosed as a routine use to the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) or any other executive branch entity authorized to conduct inspections or develop security classification policy for the purpose of records management inspections conducted under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906.

8. *Routine Use-Disclosure of Information to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA):* A record from a system of records maintained by this component may be disclosed as a routine use to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for the purpose of records management inspections conducted under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906.

9. *Routine Use-Disclosure to the Merit Systems Protection Board:* A record from a system of records maintained by this component may be disclosed as a routine use to the Merit Systems Protection Board, including the Office of the Special Counsel for the purpose of litigation including administrative proceedings, appeals special studies of the civil service and other merit systems, review of OPM or component rules and regulations, investigation of alleged or possible prohibited personnel practices; including administrative proceedings involving any individual subject of investigation, and such other functions, promulgated in 5 U.S.C. 1205 and 1206, or as may be authorized by law.

10. *Routine Use-Counterintelligence Purposes:* A record from a system of records maintained by this component may be disclosed as a routine use outside the U.S. Government for the purpose of counterintelligence activities authorized by U.S. Law or executive Order or for the purpose of enforcing laws which protect the national security of the United States.

NACIC–1

SYSTEM NAME:

National Counterintelligence Center System of Records (NACIC–1)

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

The classification of individual records in the system range from UNCLASSIFIED to TOP SECRET Codeword.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

National Counterintelligence Center, 3W01 NHB, Washington, DC 20505

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

1. Individuals who are of foreign intelligence or foreign counterintelligence interest and relate in any manner to foreign intelligence threats to U.S. national and economic security;

2. Applicants for, and current and former personnel of NACIC who are federal employees;

3. Individuals associated with NACIC administrative operations or services including independent contractors, industrial contractor employees, or individuals otherwise associated with such operations and services;

4. And, any other individuals authorized access to NACIC information and facilities.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

1. *Counterintelligence Damage Assessments and Incident Files:* Maintained by the NACIC Threat Assessment Office (TAO); records include copies of the finished assessments of the damage to U.S. intelligence sources and methods resulting from significant and particular espionage cases as well as summaries of significant counterintelligence incidents including the circumstances and characteristics of the target, the circumstances of the event, and the particular threat presented;

2. *Compromised Names Database:* Maintained by the NACIC Threat Assessment Office (TAO); the database is utilized to notify U.S. intelligence community personnel whose names were potentially compromised as a result of espionage or other foreign intelligence collection activity; the database contains the names of persons potentially compromised, date of the memo sent to the person or their employer informing them, and documentary reference(s) to the compromised information;

3. *Computer and Physical Security Files:* Maintained by the NACIC Executive Secretariat Office (ESO); records include the names, passwords, accesses, and special accesses to both physical locations and computer systems, relevant audit trails for such accesses, and particular clearances and certifications of clearances;

4. *Publication, Training and Seminar Files:* Maintained by NACIC's Program Integration Office (PIO) Community Training Branch; records include letters of acceptance, enrollment forms, thank you letters, lists of attendees, lists of speakers, notes, case studies, syllabi, training packets, magazine or newspaper articles, and other records used either for course development purposes or to facilitate the presentation of seminars;

5. *Personnel Files:*

a. Specific types of personnel records are maintained by the NACIC Front Office (FO); these records are maintained in individual official personnel folders and include, inter alia, papers documenting personnel actions, performance appraisals, correspondence, travel documents, contracts, justifications, memorandums, and administrative material;

b. A second type of personnel records is maintained by the NACIC Executive Secretariat Office (ESO); these records are Memorandums of Agreement between the detailee's parent organization and NACIC;

c. The third type of personnel records is maintained by the NACIC Program Integration Office/Community Training Branch (PIO/CTB); these records include the training documents;

6. *Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)/Privacy Act (PA) Requests and Legal Files:* Files created in response to public requests for information and/or amendment of records under the FOIA/PA, consisting of the original request, a copy of the reply thereto, and all related supporting files which may include the official file copy of requested record or copy thereof; also, all similar records created in response to administrative appeals and litigations predicated on such initial requests;

7. *Special Search Files:* Files created in response to official United States or foreign government requests for information which may include requests from executive, congressional, judicial, or diplomatic sectors consisting of the original tasking or request, a copy of the reply thereto, and all related supporting files which may include the official file copy of the requested record or copy thereof.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

Section 506(a) of the Federal Records Act of 1950, codified at 44 U.S.C. 3101, and Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter XII, which require Federal agencies to insure that adequate and proper records are made and preserved to document the organization, functions, polices, decisions, procedures and transactions and to protect the legal and financial rights of the Federal Government.

PURPOSE(S):

NACIC was established by Presidential directive for the purpose of

coordinating national level counterintelligence activities of the United States. The purposes for the maintenance of these records include: Coordinating national strategic CI planning efforts, providing strategic guidance and assessing the effectiveness of CI operations, facilitating the development of and implementing training for the CI community, producing national-level foreign intelligence threat assessments, and coordinating assessments of damage to U.S. interests resulting from espionage cases.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

See Statement of General Routine Uses.

DISCLOSURE TO CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES:

None.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

Files are maintained in computerized form and hard copy form; computerized form may be stored in memory, on disk storage, on computer tape, and/or on a computer printed listing.

RETRIEVABILITY:

Names and related information are retrievable by automated or hand search based on extant indices and automated capabilities utilized in the normal course of business. Under applicable law and regulations, NACIC may not permit any organization, public or private, outside the NACIC to have direct access to NACIC files; accordingly, all searchers of NACIC databases and paper files will be performed on site, within NACIC space, by NACIC personnel.

SAFEGUARDS:

Records and databases are maintained in a restricted area within NACIC and are accessed only by NACIC personnel. All employees are checked to ensure that they hold currently valid security clearances, are cautioned about divulging classified or other privileged information contained in NACIC files, and are advised that failure to abide by these provisions may constitute a violation of federal criminal law and/or give rise to civil liability. Employees who resign or retire are also cautioned about divulging information acquired in their jobs. Registered mail is used to transmit routine hard copy records while highly classified records are hand carried by individuals holding appropriate security clearances. Highly classified or sensitive privacy information, which is electronically transmitted between NACIC and other offices, is transmitted in encrypted form to prevent interception.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

Records evaluated as historical and permanent will be transferred to the National Archives after established retention periods and administrative needs of the NACIC have elapsed.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

Information and privacy Coordinator, Executive Secretariat Office, National Counterintelligence Center, 3W01 NHB, Washington, DC 20505.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

See record access procedures, infra.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES;

A request for access to a record from the system shall be made in writing with the envelope and the letter clearly marked ''Privacy Act Request.'' Your request should include your full name, complete address, date of birth, place of birth, notarized signature (or declaration under penalty of perjury), and other identifying data you may wish to furnish to assist in making a proper search of NACIC records. A request for access to records must describe the records sought in sufficient detail to enable NACIC personnel to locate the system of records containing the record with a reasonable amount of effort. Whenever possible, a request for access should describe the nature of the record sought, and the data of the record or the period in which the record was compiled. The requester must also provide a return address for transmitting the information. Requests for access must be addressed to the System Manager as noted above.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCREDURES:

Individuals desiring to contest or amend information maintained in the system should also direct their request to the System Manager as noted above. Such requests should delineate the information believed to be incorrect and should include the information requested to be substituted or added to the record.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Record source categories include subject individuals pursuant to notice, official records and information disseminated to NACIC by other federal government entities, and official records and information provided to NACIC by other entities including foreign, state and local governments as well as individuals and business entities.

EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

Notice is hereby given that NACIC intends to exempt from certain provisions of the Privacy Act the following information pursuant to the following specified authority:

(a) Records or portions of records in the physical possession of NACIC which were originated by other federal agencies or which contain information originated by such agencies shall be deemed to be in the joint legal custody of and mutually maintained by both agencies. Accordingly, NACIC shall apply any applicable exemptive provisions when so informed by those agencies;

(b) Records or portions of records in the physical custody of NACIC which would reveal intelligence sources and methods in contravention of the National Security Act of 1947 are, pursuant to the exemptions previously authorized by the Director of Central Intelligence under the authority of section (j)(1), exempt from disclosure of accounting (section (c)(3)), disclosure (section (d)), notification of collection authority (section (e)(3) (A–D)), and notification of existence of records (sections (e)(4)(G) and (f)(1)); in such instances where confirmation of the existence of a record may itself jeopardize intelligence sources and methods, the Coordinator must neither confirm nor deny the existence of the record and shall advise the requester that there is no record which is available pursuant to the Privacy Act;

(c) Records or portions of records in the physical custody of NACIC which are currently and properly classified pursuant to Executive Order 12958 (or predecessor or subsequent Order) are, under the authority of section (k)(1), exempt from disclosure of accounting (section (c)(3)), disclosure (section (d)), and notification of existence of records (sections (e)(4)(G) and (f)(1));

(d) Records or portions of records in the physical custody of NACIC which are investigatory in nature and compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than material within the scope of section (j)(2) of the Act, are, under the authority of section (k)(2), exempt from disclosure (section (d)); provided however, that if an individual is denied any right, privilege, or benefit to which he/she is otherwise eligible, as a result of the maintenance of such material, then such material shall be provided to that individual except to the extent that the disclosure would reveal the identity of a source who furnished the information to the United States

Government under an express promise of confidentiality, or, prior to the effective date of this section, under an implied promise of confidentiality;

(e) Records or portions of records in the physical custody of NACIC which are maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or other individuals pursuant to 18 U.S.C. section 3056 are, under the authority of section (k)(3), exempt from disclosure (section (d));

(f) Records or portions of records in the physical custody of NACIC which are required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records are, under the authority of section (k)(4), exempt from disclosure (section (d));

(g) Records or portions of records in the physical custody of NACIC which are investigatory in nature and compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for federal civilian employment, military service, federal contracts, or access to classified information are, under the authority of section (k)(5), exempt from disclosure (section (d)); provided that and only to the extent that disclosure would reveal the identity of a source who furnished information to the United States Government under an express promise of confidentiality, or, prior to the effective date of this section, under an implied promise of confidentiality;

(h) And, records or portions of records in the physical custody of NACIC which are testing or examination material used solely to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in the federal service are, under the authority of section (k)(6), exempt from disclosure (section (d)); provided that and only to the extent that disclosure would compromise the objectivity or fairness of the testing or examination process.

Michael Waguespack,

Director, National Counterintelligence Center.

[FR Doc. 97–25952 Filed 10–1–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6310–02–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 August 29, 1997, the National Science Foundation published a notice in the **Federal Register** of permit applications received. Permits were issued on September 25, 1997 to the following applicants:

Art DeVries—Permit No. 98–007
Ian Whillans—Permit No. 98–008
Theodore Day—Permit No. 98–009
Bill J. Baker—Permit No. 98–011
Donald B. Siniff—Permit Nos. 98–012 and 98–013

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Permit Officer.

[FR Doc. 97–26063 Filed 10–1–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

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 of 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 October 27, 1997. Permit applications may be inspected by interested parties at the Permit Office, address below.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to the 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) 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 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:* Brenda Hall and George Denton, Institute of Quaternary Studies, University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469–5790. Permit Application No. 98–014

Activity for Which Permit is Requested

Enter Site of Special Scientific Interest

The applicants are carrying out a large mapping project to determine the former extent of a grounded ice sheet in the Ross Sea during the last glacial maximum (LGM). Much of the work has been concentrated on the Dry Valley regions where lobes of the grounded Ross Sea Ice Sheet flowed inland into the mouths of the valleys. Barwick Valley (SSSI #3) was last mapped in the 1960's. According to that work, inland ice advanced down Barwick Valley simultaneously with ice advance into Lower Victoria Valley from the Ross Sea. The Lower Victoria Valley deposits indicate the presence of a lake, not an ice tongue. Based on descriptions of Barwick Valley deposits from previous mapping and observations during last season's reconnaissance, the applicants believe a lake may have also extended into this area. The applicants have identified lacustrine sediments in Barwick Valley. A radiocarbon date of a fossil algae sample yielded an age of about 12,500 ^{14}C yr. B.P. for a high lake, similar to the age of a high lake in Victoria Valley. The lacustrine deposits may reflect the presence of lake that was part of a much larger lake that filled Victoria Valley. The applicants plan to make detailed measurements of the elevation of the lacustrine deposits in Barwick Valley, as well as collect tiny samples of fossil algae and carbonates for radiocarbon dating.

Work in the Barwick Valley will primarily involve mapping. Samples will be collected from key high-elevation lacustrine deposits to obtain fossil algae and carbonates in order to construct a radiocarbon chronology for lake level variation. The samples will be collected from 10 cm × 10 cm areas and all surface material will be replaced.