

Based upon the recommendations of the staff, the Assistant Secretary has made a preliminary finding that Intertek Testing Services, NA, Inc., can meet the requirements as prescribed by 29 CFR 1910.7 for the expansion of recognition, subject to the above conditions. This preliminary finding, however, does not constitute an interim or temporary approval of the applications for ITSNA.

OSHA welcomes public comments, in sufficient detail, as to whether ITSNA has met the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.7 for expansion of its recognition as a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory. Your comment should consist of pertinent written documents and exhibits. To consider it, OSHA must receive the comment at the address provided above (see **ADDRESSES**), no later than the last date for comments (see "DATES" above). You may obtain or review copies of ITSNA's application, the on-site review report, and all submitted comments, as received, by contacting the Docket Office, Room N2625, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, at the above address. You should refer to Docket No. NRTL1-89, the permanent record of public information on ITSNA's recognition.

The NRTL Program staff will review all timely comments and, after resolution of issues raised by these comments, will recommend whether to grant ITSNA's expansion request. The Assistant Secretary will make the final decision on granting the expansion, and in making this decision, may undertake other proceedings that are prescribed in Appendix A to 29 CFR section 1910.7. OSHA will publish a public notice of this final decision in the **Federal Register**.

Signed at Washington, DC this 22d day of October, 2001.

John L. Henshaw,
Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-27450 Filed 10-31-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-P

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 01-138]

NASA Advisory Council (NAC); Meeting

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

announces an open meeting of the NASA Advisory Council (NAC).

DATES: Tuesday, November 6, 2001, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

ADDRESS: NASA Headquarters, 300 E Street, SW., Room 9H40, Washington, DC 20546.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Philip Cleary, Code IC, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546-0001, 202/358-4461.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting will be open to the public up to the seating capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting is to review and discuss the report of the International Space Station Management and Cost Evaluation (IMCE) Task Force. After the IMCE Task Force presents its findings and recommendations, the NASA Administrator will provide his comments to the report. The meeting will conclude with deliberation of the report by the NAC.

The planned release date of the IMCE Task Force report is November 2, 2001. A copy of the report may be obtained by contacting Mr. Daniel Hedin, Code ML, 202/358-1691, or by accessing <ftp://ftp.hq.nasa.gov/pub/pao/reports/2001/imce.pdf>.

Exceptional circumstances require that this meeting be held on November 6, 2001. A congressional hearing regarding this report is expected in early November 2001, and it is appropriate for the NAC to receive and discuss the results of the IMCE Task Force prior to any formal congressional review. Review and discussion by the NAC at this time, with the opportunity for members of the public to participate, will allow consideration of appropriate actions in response to the findings and recommendations in a timely manner for submission with the Agency's Fiscal Year 2003 budget request.

Following the meeting on November 6, 2001, the NAC will continue to consider the IMCE Task Force report at its next meeting, planned for early December 2001. Due to increased security measures at NASA Headquarters, please contact Ms. Kathy Dakon at 202/358-0732 if you plan to attend the meeting. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitor's register and will require escort within the NASA Headquarters building.

Beth M. McCormick,
Advisory Committee Management Officer,
National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

[FR Doc. 01-27461 Filed 10-29-01; 3:56 pm]

BILLING CODE 7510-01-P

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: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is announcing plans to request approval of this collection. In accordance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), we are providing an opportunity for public comment on this action. After obtaining and considering public comment, NSF will prepare the submission requesting that OMB approve clearance of this collection for no longer than 3 years.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by December 31, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the information collection and requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Rm. 295, Arlington, VA 22230, or by e-mail to splimpto@nsf.gov.

Comments: Written 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; or (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 295, Arlington, Virginia 22230; telephone (703) 292-7556; or send email 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: NSF Proposal Review Process.

OMB Control No.: 3145-0060.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 2002.

Proposed Project Proposal Evaluation Process

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent Federal agency created by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1861-75). The Act states the purpose of the NSF is "to promote the progress of science; [and] to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare" by supporting research and education in all fields of science and engineering."

From those first days, NSF has had a unique place in the Federal Government: It is responsible for the overall health of science and engineering across all disciplines. In contrast, other Federal agencies support research focused on specific missions such as health or defense. The Foundation also is committed to ensuring the nation's supply of scientists, engineers, and science and engineering educators.

The Foundation fulfills this responsibility by initiating and supporting merit-selected research and education projects in all the scientific and engineering disciplines. It does this through grants and cooperative agreements to more than 2,000 colleges, universities, K-12 school systems, businesses, informal science organizations and other research institutions throughout the U.S. The Foundation accounts for about one-fourth of Federal support to academic institutions for basic research.

The Foundation relies heavily on the advice and assistance of external advisory committees, ad-hoc proposal reviewers, and to other experts to ensure that the Foundation is able to reach fair and knowledgeable judgments. These scientists and educators come from colleges and universities, nonprofit research and education organizations, industry, and other Government agencies.

In making its decisions on proposals the counsel of these merit reviewers has proven invaluable to the Foundation both in the identification of meritorious projects and in providing sound basis for project restructuring.

Review of proposals may involve large panel sessions, small groups, or use of a mail-review system. Proposals

are reviewed carefully by scientists or engineers who are expert in the particular field represented by the proposal. About 50% are reviewed exclusively by panels of reviewers who gather, usually in Arlington, VA, to discuss their advice as well as to deliver it. About 35% are reviewed first by mail reviewers expert in the particular field, then by panels, usually of persons with more diverse expertise, who help the NSF decide among proposals from multiple fields or subfields. Finally, about 15% are reviewed exclusively by mail.

Use of the Information

The information collected is used to support grant programs of the Foundation. The information collected on the proposal evaluation forms is used by the Foundation to determine the following criteria when awarding or declining proposals submitted to the Agency: (1) What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity? (2) What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?

The information collected on reviewer background questionnaires is used by managers to maintain an automated database of reviewers for the many disciplines represented by the proposals submitted to the Foundation. Information collected on gender, race, ethnicity is used in meeting NSF needs for data to permit response to Congressional and other queries into equity issues. These data are also used in the design, implementation, and monitoring of NSF efforts to increase the participation of various groups in science, engineering, and education.

Confidentiality

When a decision has been made (whether an award or a declination), verbatim copies of reviews, excluding the names of the reviewers, and summaries of review panel deliberations, if any, are provided to the PI. Proposers also may request and obtain any other releasable material in NSF's file on their proposal. Everything in the file except information that directly identifies either reviewers or other pending or declined proposals is usually releasable to the proposer.

While listings of panelists' names are released, the names of individual reviewers, associated with individual proposals, are not released to anyone.

Because the Foundation is committed to monitoring and identifying any real or apparent inequities based on gender, race, ethnicity, or disability of the proposed principal investigator(s)/project director(s) or the co-principal investigator(s)/co-project director(s), the

Foundation also collects information regarding race, ethnicity, disability, and gender. This information is also protected by the Privacy Act.

Burden on the Public

The Foundation estimates that anywhere from one hour to twenty hours may be required to review a proposal. It is estimated that approximately five hours are required to review an average proposal. Each proposal receives an average of 8.5 reviews.

Dated: October 29, 2001.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

NSF Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-27453 Filed 10-31-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission

DATE: Weeks of October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 26, December 3, 2001.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of October 29, 2001

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of October 29, 2001.

Week of November 5, 2001—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of November 5, 2001.

Week of November 12, 2001—Tentative

Thursday, November 15, 2001

2 p.m.

Discussion of Intragovernmental Issues (Closed-Ex. 1).

Week of November 19, 2001—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of November 19, 2001.

Week of November 26, 2001—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of November 26, 2001.

Week of December 3, 2001—Tentative

Monday, December 3, 2001

2 p.m.

Briefing on Status of Steam Generator Action Plan (Public Meeting) (Contact: maitri Banerjee, 301-415-2277).

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

1:25 p.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed).

1:30 p.m.

Meeting with Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) (Public