

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Public Consultation on Personnel Reliability Issues

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of public consultation meeting on personnel reliability of individuals with access to Select Agents.

SUMMARY: The National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB), an advisory committee of the Federal Government, is hosting a public consultation to engage the scientific community and general public in a discussion of personnel reliability, with a focus on optimal characteristics of individuals with access to Select Agents. This public consultation is an opportunity for members of the scientific community and general public to provide input on these important issues.

DATE AND TIME: The one day public consultation will be held on April 3, 2009 from 8 a.m.—5:15 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Bethesda Marriott, 5151 Pooks Hill Rd., Bethesda, MD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Ronna Hill, NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities, by e-mail at hillro@od.nih.gov or by telephone at 301-435-2137. Faxes may be sent to the NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities at 301-496-9839.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Given heightened concerns about insider threats at organizations that work with highly pathogenic agents, the Federal government has charged the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) with recommending a personnel reliability program for individuals with access to Select Agents. A portion of their recommendations will address the measures that institutions should undertake to assess whether individuals are trustworthy and reliable to work with these agents.

The Board appreciates the potential impact that any future requirements for personnel reliability programs would have on institutions and investigators, and thus is hosting a public consultation meeting to engage the scientific community, research organizations, and other stakeholders, including the general public, in a discussion of the personnel reliability

attributes being considered by the NSABB.

The meeting will be structured around several discussion panels. The first panel will be background presentations on extant personnel reliability programs and aspects of the current Select Agent Programs that address personnel reliability. Two subsequent panels will explore personnel reliability characteristics under consideration by the NSABB and approaches for assessing them. The personnel characteristics include scientific and professional integrity, compliance with biosafety and biosecurity standards, emotional stability, sound judgment, and freedom from vulnerability to coercion. Each panel will include ample time for in-depth plenary discussion of the issues surrounding each topic. Specific discussion questions will be posted ahead of time on the NSABB Web site at: <http://www.biosecurityboard.gov>.

The Board is interested in hearing perspectives from such individuals as investigators who work with Select Agents, senior research officials at institutions registered for Select Agent work, security think tank analysts, responsible officials under the Select Agent program, and individuals who promote the responsible conduct of research and have studied issues of research integrity. Others are equally welcomed and encouraged to participate.

The meeting is open to the public and free of charge. Due to limited space, pre-registration is encouraged. To register, please connect to <http://www.biosecurityboard.gov>. Notice of this meeting will also be published in the **Federal Register**. Any groups or individuals who cannot attend the meeting are encouraged to submit in advance of the meeting written comments to: nsabb@od.nih.gov. Please note that this meeting will not be Web cast. More information about the NSABB is available at <http://www.biosecurityboard.gov>.

Dated: March 9, 2009.

Amy P. Patterson,

Director, Office of Biotechnology Activities, National Institutes of Health.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

[Docket ID: FEMA-2009-0001]

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Notice; 60-day notice and request for comments; revision of a currently approved information collection; OMB No. 1660-0001; FEMA Form 646-0-1 (new number assignment replacing FEMA Form 85-3), National Defense Executive Reserve Personal Qualifications Statement.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on a proposed extension, without change, of a currently approved information collection. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this Notice seeks comments concerning the application process by which FEMA uses to fill positions within the National Defense Executive Reserve Program.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 12, 2009.

ADDRESSES: To avoid duplicate submissions to the docket, please use only one of the following means to submit comments:

(1) *Online.* Submit comments at <http://www.regulations.gov> under docket ID FEMA-2009-0001. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

(2) *Mail.* Submit written comments to Office of Chief Counsel, Regulation and Policy Team, DHS/FEMA, 500 C Street, SW., Room 835, WASH, DC 20472-3100.

(3) *Facsimile.* Submit comments to (703) 483-2999.

(4) *E-mail.* Submit comments to FEMA-POLICY@dhs.gov. Include docket ID FEMA-2009-0001 in the subject line.

All submissions received must include the agency name and docket ID. Regardless of the method used for submitting comments or material, all submissions will be posted, without change, to the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>, and will include any personal information you provide. Therefore, submitting this information makes it public. You may wish to read the Privacy Act notice that is available on