

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Intent To Extend an Information Collection

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the National Science Foundation (NSF) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects.

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 to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by April 10, 2006, to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

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 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 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday. You also may obtain a copy of the data collection instrument and instructions from Ms. Plimpton.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Request for Proposals.

OMB Approval Number: 3145-0080.
Expiration Date of Approval: May 31, 2006.

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

Proposed Project: The Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Subpart 15.2—"Solicitation and Receipt of Proposals and Information" prescribes policies and procedures for preparing and issuing Requests for Proposals. The

FAR System has been developed in accordance with the requirement of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act of 1974, as amended. The NSF Act of 1950, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1870, Section II, states that NSF has the authority to:

(c) Enter into contracts or other arrangements, or modifications thereof, for the carrying on, by organizations or individuals in the United States and foreign countries, including other government agencies of the United States and of foreign countries, of such scientific or engineering activities as the Foundation deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, and, at the request of the Secretary of Defense, specific scientific or engineering activities in connection with matters relating to international cooperation or national security, and, when deemed appropriate by the Foundation, such contracts or other arrangements or modifications thereof, may be entered into without legal consideration, without performance or other bonds and without regard to section 5 of title 41, U.S.C.

Use of the Information: Request for Proposals (RFP) is used to competitively solicit proposals in response to NSF need for services. Impact will be on those individuals or organizations who elect to submit proposals in response to the RFP. Information gathered will be evaluated in light of NSF procurement requirements to determine who will be awarded a contract.

Estimate of Burden: The Foundation estimates that, on average, 558 hours per respondent will be required to complete the RFP.

Respondents: Individuals; business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; Federal government; state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated Number of Responses: 75.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 41,850 hours.

Dated: February 3, 2006.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Regulatory Guide: Issuance, Availability

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued a new guide in the agency's Regulatory Guide Series. This series has been developed to describe and make available to the public such information as methods that are acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the NRC's regulations, techniques that the

staff uses in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and data that the staff needs in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

Regulatory Guide 1.203, "Transient and Accident Analysis Methods," provides guidance for NRC licensees and applicants to use in developing and assessing evaluation models that may be used to analyze transient and accident behavior that is within the design basis of a nuclear power plant. Evaluation models that the NRC has previously approved will remain acceptable and need not be revised to conform with the guidance given in this regulatory guide.

Chapter 15 of the NRC's "Standard Review Plan (SRP) for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-0800) and the "Standard Format and Content of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants" (Regulatory Guide 1.70) describe a subset of the transient and accident events that must be considered in the safety analyses required by Title 10, part 50, of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR part 50), "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," section 50.34, "Contents of Applications; Technical Information" (10 CFR 50.34). In particular, 10 CFR 50.34 specifies the following requirements regarding applications for construction permits and/or licenses to operate a facility:

(1) Safety analysis reports must analyze the design and performance of structures, systems, and components, and their adequacy for the prevention of accidents and mitigation of the consequences of accidents.

(2) Analysis and evaluation of emergency core cooling system (ECCS) cooling performance following postulated loss-of-coolant accidents (LOCAs) must be performed in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.46.

(3) The technical specifications for the facility must be based on the safety analysis and prepared in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.36.

An additional benefit is that evaluation models that are developed using the guidelines provided in Regulatory Guide 1.203 will provide a more reliable framework for risk-informed regulation and a basis for estimating the uncertainty in understanding transient and accident behavior.

In addition, the NRC is issuing section 15.0.2 of the SRP, which covers the same subject material as Regulatory Guide 1.203, and is intended to complement the guide. Specifically, section 15.0.2 provides guidance to NRC reviewers of transient and accident

analysis methods, while Regulatory Guide 1.203 provides practices and principles for the benefit of method developers. Chapter 15 of the SRP recommends using approved evaluation models or codes for the analysis of most identified events. The SRP also suggests that evaluation model reviews should be initiated whenever an approved model does not exist for a specified plant event. If the applicant or licensee proposes to use an unapproved model, an evaluation model review should be initiated.

The NRC previously solicited public comment on this guide by publishing a **Federal Register** notice (65 FR 77934) concerning Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1096 on December 13, 2000, followed by a **Federal Register** notice (68 FR 4524) concerning Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1120 on January 29, 2003. Following the closure of the latest public comment period on March 24, 2003, the staff considered all stakeholder comments in the course of preparing the new Regulatory Guide 1.203.

The NRC staff encourages and welcomes comments and suggestions in connection with improvements to published regulatory guides, as well as items for inclusion in regulatory guides that are currently being developed. You may submit comments by any of the following methods.

Mail comments to: Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Hand-deliver comments to: Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays.

Fax comments to: Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, at (301) 415-5144.

Requests for technical information about Regulatory Guide 1.203 may be directed to Shawn O. Marshall at (301) 415-5861 or via e-mail to SOM@nrc.gov.

Regulatory guides are available for inspection or downloading through the NRC's public Web site in the Regulatory Guides document collection of the NRC's Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections>. Electronic copies of Regulatory Guide 1.203 and SRP section 15.0.2 are also available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, under Accession Nos. ML053500170 and ML053550265, respectively.

In addition, regulatory guides are available for inspection at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), which is located at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland; the PDR's mailing address is USNRC PDR, Washington, DC 20555-0001. The PDR can also be reached by telephone at (301) 415-4737 or (800) 397-4205, by fax at (301) 415-3548, and by email to PDR@nrc.gov. Requests for single copies of draft or final guides (which may be reproduced) or for placement on an automatic distribution list for single copies of future draft guides in specific divisions should be made in writing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Reproduction and Distribution Services Section; by e-mail to DISTRIBUTION@nrc.gov; or by fax to (301) 415-2289. Telephone requests cannot be accommodated.

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(5 U.S.C. 552(a))

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 29th day of December, 2005.

For the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

James T. Wiggins,

Deputy Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Regulatory Guide: Issuance, Availability

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Regulatory Guide 1.201, "Guidelines for Categorizing Structures, Systems, and Components in Nuclear Power Plants According to Their Safety Significance," which is being issued for trial use, provides guidance for use in developing and assessing evaluation models for accident and transient analyses. An additional benefit is that evaluation models that are developed using these guidelines will provide a more reliable framework for risk-

informed regulation and a basis for estimating the uncertainty in understanding transient and accident behavior.

The NRC has promulgated regulations to permit power reactor licensees and license applicants to implement an alternative regulatory framework with respect to "special treatment," where special treatment refers to those requirements that provide increased assurance beyond normal industrial practices that structures, systems, and components (SSCs) perform their design-basis functions. Under this framework, licensees using a risk-informed process for categorizing SSCs according to their safety significance can remove SSCs of low safety significance from the scope of certain identified special treatment requirements.

The genesis of this framework stems from Option 2 of SECY-98-300, "Options for Risk-Informed Revisions to 10 CFR part 50, 'Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities,'" dated December 23, 1998.¹ In that Commission paper, the NRC staff recommended developing risk-informed approaches to the application of special treatment requirements to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden related to SSCs of low safety significance by removing such SSCs from the scope of special treatment requirements. The Commission subsequently approved the NRC staff's rulemaking plan and issuance of an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) as outlined in SECY-99-256, "Rulemaking Plan for Risk-Informing Special Treatment Requirements," dated October 29, 1999.

The Commission published the ANPR in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 11488) on March 3, 2000, and subsequently published a proposed rule for public comment (68 FR 26511) on May 16, 2003. Then, on November 22, 2004, the Commission adopted a new section, referred to as § 50.69, within Title 10, part 50, of the Code of Federal Regulations, on risk-informed categorization and treatment of SSCs for nuclear power plants (69 FR 68008).

This trial regulatory guide describes a method that the NRC staff considers acceptable for use in complying with the Commission's requirements in § 50.69 with respect to the

¹ Commission papers cited in this notice are available through the NRC's public Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/secys/>, and the related **Federal Register** notices are available through the Federal Register Web site sponsored by the Government Printing Office (GPO) at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.