

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**Comment Request: National Science Foundation Proposal/Award Information—Grant Proposal Guide**

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.
ACTION: Notice.

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

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; 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 should be received by April 7, 2000 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after the 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Suzanne Plimpton on (703) 306-1125 x 2017 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: "National Sciences Foundation Proposal/Award Information—Grant Proposal Guide".

OMB Approval Number: 3145-0058.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2002.

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

Proposed Project: The missions of NSF are to: increase the Nation's base of scientific and engineering knowledge and strengthen its ability to support research in all areas of science and engineering; and promote innovative science and engineering education programs that can better prepare the Nation to meet the challenges of the future. The Foundation is committed to ensuring the Nation's supply of scientists, engineers, and science educators. In its role as leading Federal supporters of science and engineering, NSF also has an important role in national science policy planning.

Use of the Information: The regular submission of proposals to the Foundation is part of the collection of information and is used to help NSF fulfill this responsibility by initiating and supporting merit-selected research and education projects in all the scientific and engineering disciplines. NSF receives more than 30,000 proposals annually for new projects, and makes approximately 10,000 new awards. Support is made primarily through grants, contracts, and other agreements awarded to approximately 2,800 colleges, universities, academic consortia, nonprofit institutions, and small businesses. The awards are based mainly on evaluations of proposal merit submitted to the Foundation (proposal review is cleared under OMB Control No. 3145-0060).

The Foundation has a continuing commitment to monitor the operations of its information collection to identify and address excessive reporting burdens as well as to identify 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).

Burden on the Public: The Foundation estimates that an average of 120 hours is expended for each proposal submitted. An estimated 38,000 proposals are expected during the course of one year. These figures compute to an estimated 4,560,000 public burden hours annually.

Dated: February 2, 2000.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,
NSF Reports Clearance Officer.

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BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**Workshop Concerning the Revision of the Oversight Program for Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facilities**

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Notice of Public Workshop.

SUMMARY: NRC will host a public workshop in Rockville, Maryland to provide the public, those regulated by the NRC, and other stakeholders, with information about and an opportunity to provide views on how NRC plans to revise its oversight program for nuclear fuel cycle facilities. This workshop follows the recent public stakeholder workshop held in Rockville, Maryland on December 15, 1999. Presentations and other documents provided at each workshop, together with a transcript of each workshop, are placed on the NRC INTERNET web page (<http://www.nrc.gov>).

Similar to the revision of the oversight program for commercial nuclear power plants, NRC initiated an effort to improve its oversight program for nuclear fuel cycle facilities. This is described in SECY-99-188 titled, "EVALUATION AND PROPOSED REVISION OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE FACILITY SAFETY INSPECTION PROGRAM." SECY-99-188 is available in the Public Document Room and on the NRC Web Page at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/COMMISSION/SECYS/index.html>.

Purpose of Workshop

To obtain stakeholder views for improving the NRC oversight program for ensuring licensee and certificate holders maintain protection of worker and public health and safety, protection of the environment, and safeguards for nuclear material in the interest of national security. The oversight program applies to nuclear fuel cycle facilities regulated under 10 CFR Parts 40, 70, and 76. The facilities currently include gaseous diffusion plants, highly enriched uranium fuel fabrication facilities, low-enriched uranium fuel fabrication facilities, and a uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) production facility. These facilities possess large quantities of materials that are potentially hazardous (i.e., radioactive, toxic, and/or flammable) to the workers, public, and environment. In revising the oversight program, the goal is to have an oversight program that: (1) provides earlier and more objective indications of acceptable and changing safety and safeguards performance, (2) increases

stakeholder confidence in the NRC, and (3) increases regulatory effectiveness and efficiency. In this regard, the NRC desires the revised oversight program to be more risk-informed and performance-based and more focused on significant risks and poorer performers.

The workshop will focus on:

- Industry initiatives for identification, resolution, and correction of problems
- Objective and scope of safety and safeguards oversight program cornerstones
- Key safety and safeguards risk attributes for each cornerstone
- Safety and safeguards performance attributes the NRC needs to monitor and assess to ensure cornerstone objectives are met
- Performance monitoring attributes and means

DATES: The workshop, which is open for public participation, is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 22, and Wednesday, February 23, 2000.

ADDRESSES: NRC's Two White Flint North Auditorium, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. Visitor parking around the NRC is limited; however, the meeting site is located adjacent to the White Flint Station on the Metro Red Line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Walter Schwink, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301) 415-7253, e-mail wss@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 1st day of February 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Walter Schwink,

Assistant Chief, Operations Branch, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 00-2709 Filed 2-4-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Revised Reactor Oversight Process Workshop

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing significant revisions to its processes for overseeing the safety performance of commercial nuclear power plants that include integrating the inspection, assessment, and enforcement processes. As part of its proposal, the NRC staff

established a new regulatory oversight framework with a set of performance indicators and associated thresholds, developed a new baseline inspection program that supplements and verifies the performance indicators, and created a continuous assessment process that includes a method for consistently determining the appropriate regulatory actions in response to varying levels of safety performance. The changes are the result of continuing work on a concept as described in SECY-99-007, "Recommendations for Reactor Oversight Process Improvements" dated January 8, 1999, and SECY-99-007A, "Recommendations for Reactor Oversight Improvements (Follow-Up to SECY-99-007)" dated March 22, 1999. On June 18, 1999, the Staff Requirements Memorandum on SECY-99-007 and SECY-99-007A was issued which approved the scope and concepts for the revised reactor oversight process (RROP), and approved the staff's plan for conducting a pilot program. The six-month pilot program for the RROP was conducted at two sites per region from May 30, 1999, to November 27, 1999. The purpose of the pilot program was to apply the RROP and collect lessons learned so that the various processes and procedures could be refined and revised as necessary prior to initial implementation.

Now that the pilot program is complete and lessons learned identified, the NRC will hold public workshops in each of the four NRC regions. The workshop will provide information to NRC, industry, and the public on the NRC's Revised Reactor Oversight Process that is currently scheduled to be implemented starting April 2, 2000, pending NRC Commission approval. The workshop will focus on the key attributes of the new oversight process and their associated program documents.

Information about the revised reactor oversight process and the pilot program is available on the Internet at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/index.html

A preliminary agenda for the workshop will consist of the following:

Day 1: registration, background and concept review, workshop objectives, performance indicators—overview, performance indicator threshold review, examples, and recent changes

Day 2: baseline inspection program—overview, program review, procedure review, and recent changes supplemental inspection program, inspection planning and documentation regional inspection planning significance determination processes

(SDP)—reactor and non-reactor, including recent changes

Day 3: reactor and non-reactor SDPs) examples of SDP and enforcement (parallel breakout sessions for enforcement and recent changes event response inspection activities assessment process, examples, and recent changes wrap-up/closing remarks

DATES: Registration for the workshop will be held from 8:00 to 10:00 on the first day of the workshop. There is no pre-registration. The workshop will run from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. the first day and from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. the second and third day.

Workshop Locations

Region III

Date: Feb 22-24

Address: Hilton Lisle/Naperville, IL, 3003 Corporate West Dr, Lisle, IL 60532.

Telephone: (630)-505-0900.

Special Rate: \$89.00*

Cut off date: 1/31/2000

Region II

Date: March 6-8, 2000

Address: Georgia International Convention Center (Location is Tentative), 1902 Sullivan Road, College Park, GA 30337-0506.

Hotel: There are a number of Hotels in the immediate area. The convention center does not have sleeping facilities.

Region IV

Date: March 14-16, 2000.

Address: Wyndham Arlington, 1500 Convention Center Drive, Arlington, TX 76011.

Telephone: (800)-442-7275.

Special Rate: \$77*.

Cut off date: 2/11/2000.

Region I

Dated: March 21-23, 2000.

Address: Holiday Inn, Independence Mall, 400 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA.

Telephone: (800)-843-2355.

Special Rate: \$139*.

Cut off date: 2/28/2000.

* Special group rate is available when registering with the hotel and asking for the "NRC's Regulatory Oversight Process Workshop" block of rooms. The group rate is subject to applicable state and local taxes and availability.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Alan Madison, Mail Stop: O5-H4, Inspection Program Branch, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-001, telephone 301-415-1490.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of January 2000.