

1995 (PRA 95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.

Currently, the Employee Benefits Security Administration is soliciting comments concerning the information collection entitled Annual Report for Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements (Form M-1) contained in the Department's regulation at 29 CFR 2520.101-2, Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements and Certain Other Entities that Offer or Provide Medical Care to the Employees of Two or More Employers. A copy of the ICR may be obtained by contacting the office listed in the addresses section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office shown in the **ADDRESSES** section below on or before November 3, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Gerald B. Lindrew, Office of Policy and Research, U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N-5647, Washington, DC 20210. Telephone: (202) 693-8410; Fax: (202) 219-5333. These are not toll-free numbers.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Background**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), codified as part 7 of Title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), was enacted to improve the portability and continuity of health care coverage for participants and beneficiaries of group health plans. In the interest of assuring compliance with part 7, HIPAA also added section 101(g) to ERISA permitting the Secretary of Labor (the Secretary) to require multiple employer welfare arrangements (MEWA) as defined in section 3(40) of ERISA to report to the Secretary in such form and manner as the Secretary might determine. To assist MEWAs and other entities with reporting, the Department published a final rule providing guidance for determining compliance and a form to be used for the annual report. Form M-1, the information collection provision of the regulation, is required to be filed by MEWAs and by other entities described in the regulation. The purpose of the information collection is to provide the Secretary with information to determine the extent to which the requirements of part 7 of ERISA are being carried out in

connection with the provision of benefits consisting of medical care.

##### **II. Desired Focus of Comments**

The Department is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- 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, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

##### **III. Current Action**

This notice requests comments on the extension of the information collection request (ICR) included in the regulation, Form M-1. The Department is not proposing or implementing changes to the existing ICR at this time.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection of information.

*Agency:* Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor.

*Titles:* Annual Report for Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements and Certain Entities Claiming Exception (Form M-1).

*OMB Number:* 1210-0116.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

*Respondents:* 741.

*Frequency of Response:* Annually.

*Responses:* 3,718.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 2,336.

*Total Burden Cost (Operating and Maintenance):* \$143,650.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of the ICR; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 28, 2003.

**Gerald B. Lindrew,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Research, Employee Benefits Security Administration.*

[FR Doc. 03-22501 Filed 9-3-03; 8:45 am]

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## **NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES**

### **National Endowment for the Arts; National Council on the Arts Teleconference—Agenda Change**

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), as amended, notice is hereby given that the agenda for the teleconference of the National Council on the Arts, to be on September 12, 2003 from 2 p.m.-3 p.m. may include general discussion in addition to discussion of the American Jazz Masters award.

Any interested persons may participate, as observers, in Council discussions and reviews that are open to the public. If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Office of AccessAbility, National Endowment for the Arts, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20506, 202/682-5532, TTY-TDD 202/682-5429, at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Further information with reference to this teleconference meeting can be obtained from the Council Operations office, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC 20506, at 202/682-5433.

Dated: August 28, 2003.

**Kathy Plowitz-Worden,**

*Panel Coordinator, Office of Guidelines and Panel Operations.*

[FR Doc. 03-22486 Filed 9-3-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7537-01-P**

## **NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES**

### **National Endowment for the Arts; Fellowships Advisory Panel**

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), as amended, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Fellowships Advisory Panel, Literature section (Prose) to the National Council on the Arts will be held on September 22-24, 2003 in Room 415 at the Nancy Hanks Center, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20506.

A portion of this meeting, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on September 24th, will be open to the public for policy discussion. The remaining portions of this meeting, from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on September 22nd, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on September 23rd, and from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on September 24th, will be closed.

The closed portions of these meetings are for the purpose of panel review, discussion, evaluation, and

recommendation on applications for financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including information given in confidence to the agency by grant applicants. In accordance with the determination of the Chairman of April 30, 2003, these sessions will be closed to the public pursuant to (c)(6) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code.

Any person may observe meetings, or portions thereof, of advisory panels that are open to the public, and, if time allows, may be permitted to participate in the panel's discussions at the discretion of the panel chairman and with the approval of the full-time Federal employee in attendance.

If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Office of AccessAbility, National Endowment for the Arts, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20506, 202/682-5532, TDY-TDD 202/682-5496, at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Further information with reference to this meeting can be obtained from Ms. Kathy Plowitz-Worden, Office of Guidelines & Panel Operations, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC 20506, or call 202/682-5691.

Dated: August 28, 2003.

**Kathy Plowitz-Worden,**

*Panel Coordinator, Panel Operations,  
National Endowment for the Arts.*

[FR Doc. 03-22484 Filed 9-3-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7537-01-P**

## NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

### National Endowment for the Arts; Leadership Initiatives Advisory Panel—Notice of Change

Pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), as amended, notice is hereby given that a teleconference of the Leadership Initiatives Advisory Panel, AccessAbility section, previously scheduled for August 29, 2003, will be held by teleconference from 2 p.m.–3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 24, 2003 from Room 724 at the Nancy Hanks Center, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, 20506.

This meeting is for the purpose of Panel review, discussion, evaluation, and recommendations on financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including information given in confidence to the agency. In accordance

with the determination of the Chairman of April 30, 2003, these sessions will be closed to the public pursuant to (c)(6) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code.

Further information with reference to this meeting can be obtained from Ms. Kathy Plowitz-Worden, Panel Coordinator, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC, 20506, or call 202/682-5691.

Dated: August 28, 2003.

**Kathy Plowitz-Worden,**

*Panel Coordinator, Panel Operations,  
National Endowment for the Arts.*

[FR Doc. 03-22485 Filed 9-3-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7537-01-P**

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Notice of Permit Applications Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-541)

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice of permit applications received under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978, Public Law 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 at 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 this permit application by October 6, 2003. This application may be inspected by interested parties at the Permit Office, address below.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to 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) 292-7405.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-541), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996, has developed regulations for the establishment of a permit system for various activities in Antarctica and designation of certain animals and certain geographic areas as requiring special protection. The regulations

establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

The applications received are as follows:

1. Permit Application No. 2004-013.

*Applicant:* Gary D. Miller, Biology Department, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001.

*Activity for Which Permit is Requested:* Take and Import into the United States. The applicant proposes to continue investigations of the diseases of penguins and skuas around the Australian station, Davis, in east Antarctica. He proposes to collect blood and or tissue samples from penguins, skuas, and other seabirds to address the impact diseases may have on the reproductive success of skuas. Previous studies have confirmed the presence of bacterial, viral, and parasitic agents in Antarctic populations. Human activity at scientific stations and/or from tourism is one potential source of disease introduction, however, it is thought that migratory birds such as South Polar Skuas, Kelp Gulls and Sheathbills act as natural vectors to introduce diseases to Antarctica. In addition to collecting blood and tissues samples the applicant plans to monitor the nesting success of skuas, and track adult skuas using small VHF transmitters.

In addition, the applicant will continue analysis of the phylogenetic relationships and population genetics of two major genera of penguins. Blood and tissue samples will be collected from Magellanic, Adelie, Chinstrap, Gentoo, Macaroni, and Emperor penguins throughout their distribution. The applicant will serve as a lecturer onboard a tourist vessel that will give him access to various areas in the Antarctic. All samples will be returned to Dr. Shellum's lab in Perth, Australia or the laboratory at the University of New Mexico for processing. All other remains will be archived.

*Location:* Davis Station, East Antarctica, and various coastal areas accessible via tourist vessels.

*Dates:* November 1, 2003, to April 1, 2005.

2. Permit Application No. 2004-014.

*Applicant:* Scott Borg, Head, Antarctic Sciences Section, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

*Activity for Which Permit is Requested:* Enter Antarctic Specially Protected Area. Annex V of the Environmental Protocol was adopted at the XXVI Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Madrid, Spain in June 2003, and requires permits for access to any of