Dated: March 3, 2004.

Jeffrey Shuren,

Assistant Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 04–5757 Filed 3–12–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–01–S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Partner and Customer Satisfaction Surveys

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of section 3506(c)(2)(A) (of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for the opportunity for public comment on the proposed data collection projects, the Center for Scientific Review (CSR), National Institutes of Health (NIH), has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve the information collection listed below. This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register** on November 3, 2003, page 62304 and allowed 60 days for public comment. No public comments were received. The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comment. The National Institutes of Health may not conduct or sponsor, the respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection that has been extended, revised, or implemented on or after October 1, 1995, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

PROPOSED COLLECTION: *Title:* Customer Satisfaction Surveys. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Reinstatement. *Need and Use of Information Collection:* The information collected in these surveys will be used by the Center for Scientific Review management and personnel: (1) To assess the quality of the modified operations and processes now used by CSR to review grant applications; (2) to assess the quality of service provided by CSR to our customers; (3) to examine and assess the effectiveness of the reorganization and reconfiguration of the peer review study committees based on customer input; (4) to develop new modes of operation based on customer need and customer feedback about the efficacy of implemented modifications. These surveys will almost certainly lead to quality improvement activities that will enhance and/or streamline CSR's operations. The major mechanism by which CSR will request input is through surveys. The survey for customers, *i.e.,* past and present grant applicants, is generic, but will have slight variations tailored to the scientific subject category of each major Integrated Review Group (IRG). The next major reorganized IRGs to be evaluated consist of the Behavioral and Social Sciences peer review study sections. Surveys will be collected via Internet. Information gathered from these surveys will be presented to, and used directly by, CSR management to enhance the operations, processes, organization of, and services provided by the Center.

Frequency of Response: The participants will respond once, unless there is a compelling reason for a subsequent survey.

Affected Public: Universities, not-for-profit institutions, business or other for-profit, small businesses and organizations, and individuals. *Type of Respondents:* Adult scientific professionals. The annual reporting burden is as follows: It is estimated that the survey form will take 20 minutes to complete. The estimated annual cost burden for respondents for each year for which the generic clearance is requested is $16,000 for FY 2004, $13,333 for FY 2005, $18,667 for FY 2006, and $24,000 for FY 2007. Thus, the combined total FY 2004–2007 potential hour burden on the respondents is estimated to be 1,800 hours for 5,400 respondents for all surveys which would be conducted under this generic clearance. If all planned surveys are conducted, the total four-year cost to respondents is estimated to be $72,000. Respondents should incur no additional costs. There will be dissemination and analysis costs for the survey originators. There are no capital, operating, or maintenance costs to report.

REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS: Written comments and/or suggestions from the public and affected agencies are invited on one or more of the following points: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the CSR, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) 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; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond while maintaining their anonymity, including the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DIRECT COMMENTS TO OMB: Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time, should be directed to the: Office of Management and Budget, Office of Regulatory Affairs, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, Attention: Desk Officer for NIH.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans, contact: Karl F. Malik, Ph.D., Assistant to the Deputy Director, Office of the Director, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, Rm 3016, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20814–9692, or call non-toll free: 301–435–1114, or e-mail your request or comments, including your address to: *malikk@csr.nih.gov*.

DATES: Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Brent Stanfield,

Acting Director, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 04–5814 Filed 3–12–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Galveston National Laboratory for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research Facility in Galveston, TX

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health (NIH), HHS.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the Galveston National Laboratory for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research facility in Galveston, TX.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), announces its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate a proposed new National Laboratory for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research facility in Galveston, TX. This EIS is being prepared and considered in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, regulations of the President's

Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), and NEPA Compliance Procedures of the DHHS General Administration Manual, Part 30 (Environmental Protection) February 25, 2000.

Cooperating Agencies: There are not cooperating agencies for this project.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), a component of the NIH, conducts and supports research on infectious diseases and the human immune system. Its resources and expertise have been applied to studying emerging infectious diseases such as SARS, West Nile virus and Lyme disease and organisms that might be used as agents of bioterrorism such as anthrax and tularemia. Knowledge of how these organisms cause disease and the response of the immune system to these organisms is desperately needed. This knowledge will be used to develop new and improved diagnostic tests, vaccines, and therapies to protect civilians.

Since fall 2001, NIAID has greatly accelerated its biodefense research program. Achievement of its research goals requires the construction and certification of biological containment laboratories with facilities and procedures for handling potentially lethal infectious agents. Equally important is the need to minimize potential threats from infectious agents to laboratory personnel working within these facilities and to adjacent communities. The Federal Government has awarded a grant in the amount of $110 million to partially fund the Galveston National Laboratory for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research in Galveston, TX as a crucial element of this NIH initiative.

This proposed action is the funding of the construction of the Galveston National Laboratory for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research facilities in Galveston, TX, a new building comprised of laboratories designed and constructed to Biosafety Levels –2, –3, and –4 standards that will allow the safe conduct of biomedical research concerning emerging infectious diseases including agents of bioterror. The proposed new facility will also contain administrative support offices. It will occupy approximately 1 acre on the campus of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in Galveston, TX, and will be owned and operated by the university in support of NIAID's Biodefense Research Agenda. The laboratory will also be prepared and available to assist national, state and local public health efforts in the event of a bioterrorism emergency.

Significant issues to be analyzed in the EIS will include safety of laboratory operations; public health and safety; handling, collection, treatment, and disposal of biomedical research waste related to the proposal; and analysis of other risks, as well as concerns for pollution prevention and impacts of the proposed action on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, water resources, land use, and socioeconomic resources. The No Action alternative under which the new facility would not be built will also be considered. Additional alternatives may be identified during the Scoping Process.

Public Participation: The DHHS will invite full public participation to promote open communication and better decision-making. All interested persons and organizations, including minority, low income, disadvantaged, and Native American groups, are urged to participate in this NEPA environmental analysis process. Assistance will be provided upon request to anyone having difficulty with learning how to participate.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to the proposed action and the scope of this EIS are addressed, oral and written comments are invited from all interested parties, including appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies and private organizations and citizens. Pursuant to this, a Public Scoping meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 31, 2004 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Mainsail Room, second floor conference center of the San Luis Hotel, 5222 Seawall Boulevard, Galveston, TX.

This Notice of Intent initiates the scoping process that guides the development of the EIS. The DHHS invites written comments and suggestions on the proposed actions, including any issues to consider, as well as any concerns relevant to the analysis. Comments and questions should be directed to the address listed below and should be postmarked no later than May 15, 2004. Additional formal opportunities for pubic participation after the Pubic Scoping are tentatively scheduled as follows:

Review and comment on Draft EIS (including a public meeting): Summer, 2004.

Review of Final EIS: Fall, 2004.

Notices of availability for the Draft EIS, Final EIS and Record of Decision will be provided through direct mail, the Federal Register, and other media. Notification also will be sent to federal, state, and local agencies and persons and organizations that submit comments or questions. Precise schedules and locations for public meetings will be announced in the local news media. Interested individuals and organizations may request to be included on the mailing list for public distribution of meeting announcements and associated documents.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Valerie Nottingham, Chief, Environmental Quality Branch, Division of Environmental Protection, Office of Research Facilities, National Institutes of Health, DHHS, B13/2W64, Bethesda, MD 20892; by telephone (301) 496–7775; fax (301) 480–8056; or e-mail *nottingv@ors.od.nih.gov.*

Dated: March 9, 2004.

Robert Ostrowski,

Scientific Resource Manager, National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 04–5785 Filed 3–10–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council.

The meeting will be open to the public, with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

Name of Committee: Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council.

Date: April 8–9, 2004.

Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Agenda: A Report of the Director addressing OAR initiatives. The meeting will focus on current progress and scope of HIV/AIDS vaccine research, development, and clinical testing.

Place: National Institutes of Health. Building 31, 31 Center Drive, Room 6C10, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Contact Person: Jack Whitescarver, Director, Office of AIDS Research, OD, National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 2, Room 4E14, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496–0357.

Information is also available on the Institute's/Center's Home page: *http://www.nih.gov/od/oar/index.htm*, where an agenda and any additional information for the meeting will be posted when available.

Any member of the public interested in presenting oral comments to the committee