

templates and self-contained code modules for rapid development and ease of modification. A downloadable version will also be available for respondents who prefer a paper version that they can mail or fax to the external contractor.

Use of the Information: This information is required for effective program planning, administration, communication, program and project monitoring and evaluation, and for measuring attainment of NSF's program, project and strategic goals, as required by the President's Management agenda as represented by the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART); the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109-171) which established the Academic Competitiveness Council (ACC) and the NSF's Strategic Plan. The Foundation's FY 2006-2011 Strategic Plan describes four strategic outcome goals of Discovery, Learning, Research Infrastructure, and Stewardship. NSF's complete strategic plan may be found at: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf0648.

2. Expected Respondents

Individuals or households, not-for-profit institutions, business or other for profit, and Federal, State, local or tribal government. The expected respondents are principal investigators of all partnership and RETA projects; STEM and education faculty members and administrators who participated in MSP; school districts and IHEs that are partners in an MSP project; and teachers participating in Institute Partnerships.

3. Burden on the Public

Number of Respondents: 2,348.

Burden on the Public: The total estimate for this collection is 52,082 annual burden hours.

This figure is based upon the previous 3 years of collecting information under this clearance and anticipated collections. The average annual reporting burden is estimated to be between 2 and 22 hours per respondent depending on whether a respondent is a direct participant who is self-reporting or representing a project and reporting on behalf of many project participants. The majority of respondents (60%) are estimated to require fewer than two hours to complete the survey. The burden on the public is negligible because the study is limited to project participants that have received funding from the MSP Program.

Dated: March 11, 2008.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. E8-5223 Filed 3-14-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permit Applications Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. 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 April 16, 2008. 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 requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

The applications received are as follows:

1. *Applicant:* H. William Detrich, III, Department of Biology, 134 Mugar Hall, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02067. Permit Application No. 2009-001.

Activity for Which Permit Is Requested

Introduce non-indigenous species. The applicant plans to use *E. coli* bacteria for the production of ³⁵S-labeled proteins to be used in protein assays performed in the Palmer Station laboratories. The focus of the research is the reconstitution of a cold-functioning chaperonin protein folding system from testis tissue of the Antarctic fish *Notothenia coriiceps*. In order to demonstrate that the chaperonin is functional, protein substrates labeled with ³⁵S-methionine must be used. To obtain these proteins they need to express *N. coriiceps* actin and tubulin substrates in *E. coli* in a medium supplemented with ³⁵S-methionine. Cultures will be autoclaved to kill the bacteria and the waste will be disposed using approved protocols.

Location: Palmer Station, Anvers Island, Antarctic Peninsula.

Dates: April 27, 2008 to July 4, 2008.

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Permit Officer, Office of Polar Programs.

[FR Doc. E8-5266 Filed 3-14-08; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Notice of pending NRC action to submit an information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and solicitation of public comment.

SUMMARY: The NRC is preparing a submittal to OMB for review of continued approval of information collections under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

1. *The title of the information collection:* 48 CFR 20, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Acquisition Regulation (NRCAR).

2. *Current OMB control number:* 3150-0169.

3. *How often the collection is required:* on occasion; one time.

4. *Who is required or asked to respond:* There are 355 potential contractors who could respond to NRC solicitations.

5. *The number of annual responses:* 3,482 annually from 355 respondents.

6. *The number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request:* There is both a reporting and

recordkeeping burden associated with this collection. The NRC estimates there will be 3,482 report submissions amounting to 25,462 burden hours annually. The annual recordkeeping burden is estimated to be 633 hours for 65 respondents. This amounts to an overall annual burden of 26,095 hours.

7. *Abstract:* The mandatory requirements of the NRCAR implement and supplement the government-wide Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), and ensure that the regulations governing the procurement of goods and services within the NRC satisfy the particular needs of the agency. Because of differing statutory authorities among Federal agencies, the FAR authorizes agencies to issue regulations to implement FAR policies and procedures internally and to include additional policies and procedures, solicitation provisions or contract clauses to satisfy the specific need of the agency.

Submit, by May 16, 2008, comments that address the following questions:

1. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the NRC to properly perform its functions? Does the information have practical utility?
2. Is the burden estimate accurate?
3. Is there a way to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?
4. How can the burden of the information collection be minimized, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

A copy of the draft supporting statement may be viewed free of charge at the NRC Public Document Room, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Room O-1 F21, Rockville, MD 20852. OMB clearance requests are available at the NRC worldwide Web site: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment/omb/index.html>. The document will be available on the NRC home page site for 60 days after the signature date of this notice.

Comments and questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the NRC Clearance Officer, Margaret A. Janney (T-5 F52), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, by telephone at 301-415-7245, or by email to INFOCOLLECTS@NRC.GOV.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of March, 2008.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission;
Gregory Trussell,
Acting NRC Clearance Officer, Office of Information Services.

[FR Doc. E8-5264 Filed 3-14-08; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Criteria for Nominating Materials Licensees for the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Agency Action Review Meeting

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Request for comment.

SUMMARY: It is the policy of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to have its senior managers conduct an annual Agency Action Review Meeting (AARM). The AARM is an integral part of the evaluative process used by the agency to ensure the operational safety performance of nuclear licensees. As a part of the AARM process, the NRC reviews the actions concerning fuel cycle facilities and other materials licensees (including Agreement State licensees) with significant performance problems. In 2002, the NRC developed criteria for determining materials licensees that will be discussed at the AARM. These criteria may be found in Table 1 of SECY-02-0216 (ADAMS Accession Number: ML022410435).

The NRC is preparing to revise the criteria in Table 1 of SECY-02-0216. The revised criteria (which can be found in ADAMS at Accession Number: ML080600165 or in the supplementary information below) provides additional definition of the criteria requirements to incorporate NRC's current policies and procedures. This notice provides the revised criteria for public comment.

DATES: Please submit comments regarding the proposed criteria, by May 1, 2008. Comments received after this date will be considered if practical to do so, but the NRC staff is able to ensure consideration only for those comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Members of the public are invited and encouraged to submit written comments to Michael Lesar, Chief, Rulemaking, Directives, and Editing Branch, Office of Administration, Mail Stop T6-D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. You may hand-deliver comments attention to Michael Lesar, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays. Comments may also be sent electronically to NRCREP@nrc.gov.

Publicly available documents related to this notice, including public comments received, are available electronically through the NRC's Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/reading-rm/adams.html>. From this site, the public

can gain entry into the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. If there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the (PDR) Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737 or be e-mail to PDR@nrc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Duane White by telephone at 301-415-6272, e-mail: dew2@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In 2002, NRC developed a process for providing information on significant nuclear materials issues and adverse licensee performance. This process was provided in SECY-02-0216, "Proposed Process for Providing Information on Significant Nuclear Materials Issues and Adverse Licensee Performance," dated December 11, 2002. As part of this process, criteria were developed to determine nuclear material licensees with significant performance problems that will be discussed at the AARM.

The AARM is an agency meeting that allows senior NRC managers (1) to review agency actions resulting from the performance of nuclear reactor licensees for those nuclear power plants with significant performance problems as determined by the reactor oversight process (ROP) action matrix, (2) to review results of the staff's assessment of ROP effectiveness, (3) to review industry performance trends, and (4) to review agency actions concerning fuel cycle facilities and other materials licensees (including Agreement State licensees) with significant performance problems.

Discussion

NRC is preparing to revise the current criteria used to determine nuclear material licensees that will be discussed at the AARM. The agency currently identifies nuclear material licensees for AARM discussion based on operating performance, inspection results, and judgment of the severity of problems of safety performance. The proposed changes to the criteria will continue to be based on the same principles of the existing criteria. However, the new criteria provide additional definition of the criteria requirements and incorporate NRC's current policy and procedures.

Current Criteria for Determining Materials Licensees for the AARM

The current criteria for determining materials licensees for the AARM, as described in Table 1 of SECY-02-0216, is as follows: (1) Licensee has an event