

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Office of the Secretary****Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Petitions for Mine Safety Standard Modification****ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL) is submitting the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) sponsored information collection request (ICR) titled, "Petitions for Mine Safety Standard Modification," to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval for continued use in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

DATES: Submit comments on or before January 14, 2013.

ADDRESSES: A copy of this ICR with applicable supporting documentation; including a description of the likely respondents, proposed frequency of response, and estimated total burden may be obtained from the RegInfo.gov Web site, <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>, on the day following publication of this notice or by contacting Michel Smyth by telephone at 202-693-4129 (this is not a toll-free number) or sending an email to DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov.

Submit comments about this request to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for DOL-MSHA, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503, Fax: 202-395-6881 (this is not a toll-free number), email: OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michel Smyth by telephone at 202-693-4129 (this is not a toll-free number) or by email at DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 section 101(c), 30 U.S.C. 811(c), provides that a mine operator or a representative of miners may petition the Secretary of Labor to modify the application of a mandatory safety standard. A petition for modification may be granted if the Secretary determines (1) that an alternative method of achieving the results of the standard exists and that it will guarantee, at all times, no less than the same measure of protection for the miners affected as that afforded by the standard or (2) that the application of the standard will result in a diminution

of safety to the miners affected. Upon receipt of a petition, the MSHA publishes a notice in the **Federal Register** advising interested parties that they may provide comments or other relevant information on the proposed modification. Thereafter, the MSHA conducts an investigation to determine the merits of the petition for the purpose of deciding whether to grant the request and, if granted, whether there is a need for any additional terms or conditions.

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless it is approved by the OMB under the PRA and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a valid Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6. The DOL obtains OMB approval for this information collection under Control Number 1219-0065. The current approval is scheduled to expire on January 31, 2013; however, it should be noted that existing information collection requirements submitted to the OMB receive a month-to-month extension while they undergo review. For additional information, see the related notice published in the **Federal Register** on August 3, 2012 (77 FR 46525).

Interested parties are encouraged to send comments to the OMB, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section within 30 days of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. In order to help ensure appropriate consideration, comments should mention OMB Control Number 1219-0065. The OMB 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.

Agency: DOL-MSHA.

Title of Collection: Petitions for Mine Safety Standard Modification.

OMB Control Number: 1219-0065.

Affected Public: Private Sector—businesses or other for profits and not-for-profit institutions.

Total Estimated Number of Respondents: 80.

Total Estimated Number of Responses: 80.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 2,560.

Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden: \$37,514.

Dated: December 10, 2012.

Michel Smyth,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-30200 Filed 12-13-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-43-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employee Benefits Security Administration****Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans; Notice of Charter Renewal**

In accordance with section 512(a)(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and its implementing regulations issued by the General Services Administration (GSA), the charter for the Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans is renewed.

The Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans shall advise the Secretary of Labor on technical aspects of the provisions of ERISA and shall provide reports and/or recommendations each year on its findings to the Secretary of Labor. The Council shall be composed of fifteen members appointed by the Secretary. Not more than eight members of the Council shall be of the same political party. Three of the members shall be representatives of employee organizations (at least one of whom shall be a representative of any organization members of which are participants in a multiemployer plan); three of the members shall be representatives of employers (at least one of whom shall be a representative of employers maintaining or contributing to multiemployer plans); three members shall be representatives

appointed from the general public (one of whom shall be a person representing those receiving benefits from a pension plan); and there shall be one representative each from the fields of insurance, corporate trust, actuarial counseling, investment counseling, investment management, and accounting.

The Advisory Council will report to the Secretary of Labor. It will function solely as an advisory body and in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and its charter will be filed under the Act. For further information, contact Larry I. Good, Executive Secretary, Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693-8668.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 7th day of December, 2012.

Phyllis C. Borzi,

Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration.

[FR Doc. 2012-30191 Filed 12-13-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Establish an Information Collection

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is announcing plans to request approval 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.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden or any other aspect of this collection of information requirements by February 12, 2013.

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 email to splimpto@nsf.gov.

Comments: Written 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; or (d) ways to 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.

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 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, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including federal holidays).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Program Evaluation of the Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) Program

OMB Approval Number: 3145-NEW
Expiration Date: Not applicable.

Overview of this information

collection: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is supporting an evaluation of the Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) Program, which operates within NSF's Division of Undergraduate Education. The evaluation will include surveys of principal investigators, surveys of a sample of S-STEM scholarship recipients, and focus groups and interviews with project personnel and students during site visits to S-STEM awardee institutions. The S-STEM Program awards grants to a geographically diverse set of two- and four-year institutions of higher education (IHEs) that then provide scholarships for academically talented students, in science and engineering disciplines, who have demonstrated financial need. The institutions also provide resources and support services to assist students in becoming and/or remaining engaged in science and engineering through to the successful attainment of associate, baccalaureate, or graduate-level degrees. Funding for

the S-STEM Program comes from H-1B VISAs, funding which was reauthorized in FY 2005 through Public Law 108-447. NSF is committed to providing stakeholders with information regarding the expenditures of taxpayer funds. The evaluation of the S-STEM Program will explore the strategies, practices, and characteristics of the implementation of exemplary S-STEM awardees; investigate S-STEM Program outcomes related to awarding scholarships to talented STEM students with demonstrated financial need; and investigate institutional-related outcomes of S-STEM grantees. If NSF cannot collect information from S-STEM participants, NSF will have no other means to consistently document the outcomes, strategies, and experiences related to the program.

Consult With Other Agencies and the Public

NSF has not consulted with other agencies. However, the contractor conducting the evaluation has gathered information from an external evaluation group of subject matter experts on the study design and data collection plan. A request for public comments will be solicited through announcement of data collection in the **Federal Register**.

Background

The evaluation will involve data from extant sources, web surveys and site visits. OMB approval is being sought for the new data that will be collected for the study. Primary data sources will include web surveys of S-STEM Program Principal Investigators (PIs) and S-STEM scholarship recipients and in-depth interviews or focus groups with a series of respondents during site visits to a subset of awardee institutions.

Respondents: Individuals (Principal Investigators, S-STEM scholarship recipients, other campus officials involved in the S-STEM program).

Number of Respondents: 8,907.

Average Time per Response: 24 minutes.

Burden on the Public: 3,563 total hours.

Dated: December 11, 2012.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 2012-30177 Filed 12-13-12; 8:45 am]

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