

Comment: On September 20, 2005, we published in the **Federal Register** (70 FR 55174) a 60-day notice of our intent to request renewal of this information collection authority from OMB. In that notice, we solicited public comments for 60 days ending November 21, 2005. One comment was received in response to the public notice from B. Sachau of Florham Park, NJ, via e-mail on September 20, 2005. Ms. Sachau objected to the information collection but had no specific suggestions for altering the data collection plans other than suggesting that “ * * * (t)he “bonds” between NSF and industry have become far too strong, so that the full public interest is becoming lost with this agency.”

Response: NSF believes that because the comment does not pertain to the collection of information on the required forms for which NSF is seeking OMB approval, NSF is proceeding with the clearance request.

Title: Grantee Reporting Requirements for Science and Technology Centers (STC): Integrative Partnerships.

OMB Control Number: 3145-0194.

Abstract: The National Science Foundation (NSF) requests extension of data collection (annual reports) called “Grantee Reporting Requirements for Science and Technology Centers (STC): Integrative Partnerships”. The current data collection, designed to measure the Science and Technology Centers’ progress and plans, had been approved for use through January 2006. The annual reports have proven an effective means for efficiently gathering data from Centers. The data gathered through the annual reports under the current OMB approval has been used in making decisions about continued funding of individual Centers. In addition, a database of Centers’ characteristics, activities, and outcomes has been created using data from these annual reports.

The Science and Technology Centers (STC): Integrative Partnerships Program supports innovation in the integrative conduct of research, education and knowledge transfer. Science and Technology Centers build intellectual and physical infrastructure within and between disciplines, weaving together knowledge creation, knowledge integration, and knowledge transfer. STCs conduct world-class research through partnerships of academic institutions, national laboratories, industrial organizations, and/or other public/private entities. Thus, new knowledge created is meaningfully linked to society.

In addition, STCs enable and foster excellence in education, the integration

of research and education, and the creation of bonds between learning and inquiry so that discovery and creativity more fully support the learning process. STCs capitalize on diversity through participation in Center activities and demonstrate leadership in the involvement of groups underrepresented in science and engineering.

All Centers will be required to submit annual reports on progress and plans that are used as a basis for performance review and determining the level of continued funding. This continues the practice established under the previously approved data collection. To support this review and the management of a Center, new STCs are required to develop a set of management and performance indicators (continuing Centers have already developed these indicators). These indicators are submitted annually to NSF via FastLane. These indicators are both quantitative and descriptive and include, for example, the characteristics of Center personnel and students; sources of financial support and in-kind support; expenditures by operational component; characteristics of industrial and/or other sector participation; research activities; education activities; knowledge transfer activities; patents and licenses; publications; degrees granted to students involved in Center activities; descriptions of significant advances and other outcomes of the STCs efforts. The reporting will be added to the STC program database that has been compiled by an NSF evaluation technical assistance contractor to support decisions for continued funding of the Centers and will be made available for the 2007 program evaluation. This database captures specific information that demonstrates progress towards achieving the goals of the individual Centers and the goals of the program. Such reporting requirements are included in the cooperative agreement that is binding between the academic institution and the NSF.

Each Center’s annual report provides information about the following categories of activities: (1) Research, (2) education, (3) knowledge transfer, (4) partnerships, (5) diversity, (6) management, and (7) budget issues.

For each of the categories the report describes overall objectives for the year, problems the Center has encountered in making progress towards goals for the year, specific outputs and outcomes for the year, and expected accomplishments and anticipated problems in the coming year.

Use of the Information: NSF will use the information to make decisions on continued funding for the Centers, to evaluate the yearly progress of the program and to inform the upcoming 2007 Program Evaluation. The data will be analyzed to evaluate progress towards specific goals of the STC program.

Estimate of Burden: Total hours per center are estimated to be 90–120 hours, on average approximately 100 hours; the maximum burden is expected in the first year of reporting. In the years that follow, the burden often is reduced given that a Center’s internal practices and procedures are established. In most cases, the burden in subsequent years is reduced to 75% of the hourly burden in the first year, although we provide estimates allowing for the average maximum anticipated effort in the first year.

Total number of hours for 17 centers: approximately 1700 hours.

Respondents: Non-profit institutions; federal government.

Estimated Number of Responses per Report: One from each of the 13 funded Centers and 4 anticipated Centers.

Comments: Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance 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 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.

Dated: December 6, 2005.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 05-23888 Filed 12-8-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review; comment request.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) has submitted the following information collection requirement to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. This is the second notice for public comment; the first was published in the **Federal Register** at 70 FR 58243, and no comments were received. NSF is forwarding the proposed renewal submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance simultaneously with the publication of this second notice. Comments regarding (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (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 should be addressed to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for National Science Foundation, 725-17th Street, NW., Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, and to Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 295, Arlington, Virginia 22230 or send e-mail to splimpto@nsf.gov. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling 703-292-7556.

NSF may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: eRecruit.

OMB Control Number: 3145-0184.

Abstract: National Science Foundation (NSF), Division of Human Resources Management (HRM), as part of its Workforce Planning efforts, is continuing to reengineer its business

processes. Part of this reengineering effort is devoted to making the application and referral process for both internal and external applicants easier to use, more efficient and timely. Applicants apply on-line using a web-based resume, which prompts them to provide pertinent personal data necessary to apply for a position.

Use of the Information: The information is used by NSF to provide applicants with the ability to apply electronically for NSF positions and receive notification as to their qualifications, application dispensation and to request to be notified of future vacancies for which they may qualify.

In order to apply for vacancies, applicants are encouraged to submit certain data in order to receive consideration. Users only need access to the Internet for this system to work. This information is used to determine which applicants are best qualified for a position, based on applicant responses to a series of job related "yes/no" or "multiple choice" questions. The resume portion requires applicants to provide the same information they would provide were they submitting a paper OF-612. The obvious benefit being that the applicant may do so on-line, 24 hours a day/seven days a week and receive electronic notification about the status of their application or information on other vacancies for which they may qualify. Staff members of the Division of Human Resource Management and the selecting official(s) for specific positions for which applicants apply are the only ones privy to the applicant data. The most significant data is not the applicant personal data as address or phone number but rather their description of their work experience and their corresponding responses to those questions, which determine their overall rating, ranking, and referral to the selecting official.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 45 minutes to create the on line resume and potentially less than 45 minutes to apply for jobs on-line.

There is no financial burden on the applicant, in fact this relieves much of the burden the former paper-intensive process puts on applicants.

Respondents: Individuals. 7,104 applicants applied for NSF vacancies between October 2004 and September 2005.

Average Number of Applicants: Approximately 63 responses per job opening for vacancy announcements between October 2004 and September 2005.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: Approximately 45 minutes per respondent total time is all that is needed to complete the on-line application, for a total of 5,328 hours annually.

Frequency of Responses: Applicants need only complete the resume one time, and they may use that resume to apply as often as they wish for any NSF job opening.

Comments: 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 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.

Dated: December 7, 2005.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 05-23919 Filed 12-9-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

FEDERAL REGISTER CITATION OF PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT: 70 FR 72866, December 7, 2005.

STATUS: Closed meeting.

PLACE: 100 F Street, NE., Washington, DC.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADDITIONAL MEETING: Additional meeting.

A closed meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 2005 at 2 p.m.

Commissioners, Counsel to the Commissioners, the Secretary to the Commission, and recording secretaries will attend the closed meeting. Certain staff members who have an interest in the matters may also be present.

The General Counsel of the Commission, or his designee, has certified that, in his opinion, one or more of the exemptions set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(3), (5), (7), (9)(B) and (10) and 17 CFR 200.402(a)(3), (5), (7), 9(ii)