

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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received by May 12, 2006 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**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 e-mail to [splimpto@nsf.gov](mailto:splimpto@nsf.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Suzanne Plimpton on (703) 292-7556 or send e-mail to [splimpto@nsf.gov](mailto: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 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Title of Collection:* "Biological Sciences Proposal Classification Form".

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

*Type of Request:* Intent to seek approval to establish an information collection for three years.

*Proposed Project:* Three divisions within the Directorate of Biological Sciences of the National Science Foundation will use the Biological Sciences Proposal Classification Form. They are the Division of Biological Infrastructure, the Division of Evolutionary Biology, and the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences. All scientists submitting proposals to these divisions will be asked to complete an electronic version of the Proposal Classification Form. The form consists of brief questions about the substance of the research and the investigator's previous Federal support. Each division will have a slightly different version of the form. In this way, submitters will only confront response choices that are relevant to their discipline.

*Use of the Information:* The information gathered with the Biological Sciences Proposal Classification Form serves two main purposes. The first is facilitation of the proposal review process. Since peer review is a key component of NSF's grant-making process, it is imperative that proposals are reviewed by scientists with appropriate expertise. The information collected with the Proposal Classification Form helps ensure that the proposals are evaluated by specialists who are well versed in appropriate subject matter. This helps maintain a fair and equitable review process.

The second use of the information is program evaluation. The Directorate is committed to investing in a range of substantive areas. With data from this collection, the Directorate can calculate submission rates and funding rates in specific areas of research. Similarly, the information can be used to identify emerging areas of research, evaluate changing infrastructure needs in the research community, and track the amount of international research. As the National Science Foundation is committed to funding cutting-edge science, these factors all have implications for program management.

The Directorate of Biological Sciences has a continuing commitment to monitor its information collection in order to preserve its applicability and necessity. Through periodic updates and revisions, the Directorate ensures that only useful, non-redundant information is collected. These efforts will reduce excessive reporting burdens.

*Burden on the Public:* The Directorate estimates that an average of five minutes is expended for each proposal submitted. An estimated 6,000 responses are expected during the course of one year for a total of 500 public burden hours annually.

*Expected Respondents:* Individuals.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 6,000.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 6,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 500 hours.

*Frequency of Responses:* On occasion.

Dated: March 7, 2006.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**  
*Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.*

[FR Doc. 06-2342 Filed 3-10-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555-01-M**

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETINGS:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**DATES:** Weeks of March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 2006.

**PLACE:** Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

**STATUS:** Public and Closed.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

#### Week of March 13, 2006

*Monday, March 13, 2006*

1:30 p.m.—Briefing on Office of Information Services (OIS) Programs, Performance, and Plans (Public Meeting). (Contact: Edward Baker, 301-415-8700.)

This meeting will be Webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

*Wednesday, March 15, 2006*

9:30 a.m.—Briefing on Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) Programs, Performance, and Plans (Public Meeting). (Contact: Evelyn S. Williams, 301-415-7011.)

This meeting will be Webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

1:30 p.m.—Discussion of Security Issues. (Closed—Ex. 1 & 3.)

*Thursday, March 16, 2006*

9:30 a.m.—Briefing on Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) Programs, Performance, and Plans (Public Meeting). (Contact: Cynthia Carpenter, 301-415-1275.)

This meeting will be Webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

#### Week of March 20, 2006—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of March 20, 2006.

#### Week of March 27, 2006—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of March 27, 2006.

#### Week of April 3, 2006—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of April 3, 2006.

#### Week of April 10, 2006—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of April 10, 2006.

#### Week of April 17, 2006—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of April 17, 2006.

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\*The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short

notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415-1292. Contact person for more information: Michelle Schroll, (301) 415-1662.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Additional Information:* By a vote of 5-0 on March 3, 2006, the Commission determined pursuant to U.S.C. 552b(e) and § 9.107(a) of the Commission's rules that "Affirmation of Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station)" be held March 3, 2006, and on less than one week's notice to the public.

An Affirmation Session tentatively planned for Thursday, March 9, 2006, has been cancelled.

\* \* \* \* \*

The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/policy-making/schedule.html>.

\* \* \* \* \*

The NRC provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in these public meetings, or need this meeting notice or the transcript or other information from the public meetings in another format (e.g., braille, large print), please notify the NRC's Disability Program Coordinator, Deborah Chan, at 301-415-7041, TDD: 301-415-2100, or by e-mail at [DLC@nrc.gov](mailto:DLC@nrc.gov). Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

\* \* \* \* \*

This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to the distribution, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20555 (301-415-1969). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to [dkw@nrc.gov](mailto:dkw@nrc.gov).

Dated: March 8, 2006.

**R. Michelle Schroll,**

*Office of the Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 06-2426 Filed 3-9-06; 12:06 pm]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Proposed Generic Communication; Endorsement of Nuclear Energy Institute Guidance "Enhancements to Emergency Preparedness Programs for Hostile Action"

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

**ACTION:** Notice of opportunity for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The NRC is proposing to issue a regulatory issue summary (RIS) to endorse the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) guidance entitled "Enhancements to Emergency Preparedness Programs for Hostile Action" (revised in November 2005) as an acceptable implementation methodology that licensees may use when adopting the program enhancements discussed in NRC Bulletin 2005-02, "Emergency Preparedness and Response Actions for Security-Based Events."

The NEI document attached to this RIS may be found in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML053290326. This document may also be found on the NRC's generic communications Web page at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/docs4comment.html>.

This **Federal Register** notice (FRN) is available through the NRC's ADAMS Accession No. ML060610032.

**DATES:** Comment period expires May 12, 2006. Comments submitted after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but assurance of consideration cannot be given except for comments received on or before this date.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop T6-D59, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and cite the publication date and page number of this FRN. Written comments may also be delivered to NRC Headquarters, 11545 Rockville Pike (Room T-6D59), Rockville, Maryland, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Michael B. Norris at 301-415-4098 or by e-mail [mbn@nrc.gov](mailto:mbn@nrc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2006-XX

*Endorsement of Nuclear Energy Institute Guidance "Enhancements to Emergency Preparedness Programs for Hostile Action"*

Addressees

All holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

Intent

The NRC is issuing this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to endorse the NEI guidance entitled "Enhancements to Emergency Preparedness Programs for Hostile Action" (revised in November 2005) as an acceptable implementation methodology that licensees may use when adopting the program enhancements discussed in NRC Bulletin 2005-02, "Emergency Preparedness and Response Actions for Security-Based Events." This RIS requires no action or written response by addressees.

Background Information

Nuclear power plant emergency preparedness (EP) programs are designed to address a wide range of event scenarios. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, NRC evaluated the EP planning basis to ensure it continued to protect the public health and safety in the current threat environment. In 2002, NRC issued orders requiring compensatory measures for nuclear security and EP. The NRC staff has reviewed all of the responses to the 2002 orders. The NRC staff has observed licensee performance during security-event-based EP drills and exercises and security force-on-force exercises. The NRC staff has discussed security-related EP issues with Federal, State and local government officials and with licensees. The NRC staff determined that the EP planning basis continues to protect public health and safety, however, the NRC staff recognizes that enhancements are necessary to ensure effective plan implementation during security-related events. Examples of such enhancements include more timely NRC notification, improvement to onsite protective actions and revision of emergency action levels to identify security-related emergencies more succinctly.

The NRC staff issued NRC Bulletin 2005-02 on July 18, 2005, to obtain information from licensees on progress in implementing security-event-related