

equity in engineering for women and men, and for all racial/ethnic groups and persons with disabilities, can be established starting with the culture of the centers.”

Not only is the wording more in keeping with the principles of inclusion and nondiscrimination, but it is generally illegal for the government to show favoritism or even use classifications based on race, ethnicity, or sex. See *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña*, 515 U.S. 200, 227 (1995) (“all racial classifications . . . must be analyzed by a reviewing court under strict scrutiny”); *Mississippi University for Women v. Hogan*, 458 U.S. 718 (1982) (gender classifications require an “exceedingly persuasive justification”). See also Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 2000d (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in federally funded programs). Indeed, such classifications and favoritism are “presumptively invalid” (see *Personnel Administrator v. Feeney*, 442 U.S. 256 (1979)). The wording we suggest is in line with that used by many other federal agencies in their **Federal Register** notices. See, for example, 76 FR 13422 (DHS), 77 FR 27013 (USDA), 77 FR 24268 (DoTreasury), 75 FR 78705 (HHS), 76 FR 8366 (EPA), 77 FR 15745 (DoEnergy), 77 FR 35063 (DoL), etc.

*Response:* In response to the comment, the Need and Use of Information Collection section was modified to:

The NSF Engineering Research Centers (ERCs) were established in 1985 with one of the goals being the development of a diverse, globally competitive engineering workforce. The ERCs provide information regarding diversity in the Centers through 10-year diversity strategic plans and annual reporting that includes demographic data. However, beyond the numbers, NSF does not have a good understanding of the culture for diversity inside these centers and how it impacts faculty, students and their success. This information will enable NSF to have an unprecedented perspective of the ERC diversity culture. From this knowledge, a benchmark for progress towards creating a path of equity in engineering for women and men, all racial/ethnic groups and persons with disabilities, can be established starting with the culture of the centers. Also, with a better understanding of the diversity efforts and diversity culture within the ERCs, the information will enable us to assess, refine, and improve diversity efforts. We want the ERCs to be inclusive environments for all. This diversity

climate survey will enable us to evaluate how close we are to that goal.

For outside technical expertise, NSF has consulted with the Center for Biorenewable Chemicals (CBiRC) and the Computer Integrated Surgical Systems and Technology (CISST) Engineering Research Centers that have executed similar diversity surveys across their member institutions. These centers had success in developing a survey with content specifically designed to address the experiences unique to ERC personnel. The education, outreach and diversity staff within these specific ERCs have been available for consultation in the developmental process of the survey.

After consideration of this comment, we are moving forward with our submission to OMB.

*Title of Collection:* Engineering Research Center’s Diversity Climate Survey.

*OMB Number:* 3145–NEW.

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

#### Abstract

*Proposed Project:* We would like to use Survey Monkey to administer a diversity climate survey to the 17, active NSF Engineering Research Centers. This survey will have a mix of rating and open-ended questions. Our goal is to gain an understanding of the climate of diversity within the ERCs.

*Need and Use of Information Collection:* The NSF ERCs were established in 1985 with one of the goals being the development of a diverse, globally competitive engineering workforce. The ERCs provide information regarding diversity in the Centers through 10-year diversity strategic plans and annual reporting that includes demographic data. However, beyond the numbers, NSF does not have a good understanding of the culture for diversity inside these centers and how it impacts faculty, students and their success. This information will enable NSF to have an unprecedented perspective of ERC diversity culture. From this knowledge, a benchmark for progress towards creating a path of equity in engineering for women, and especially for racial/ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities can be established starting with the culture of the centers. Also, with a better understanding of the diversity efforts and diversity culture within the ERCs, the information will enable us to assess, refine, and improve diversity efforts. We want the ERCs to be inclusive environments for all. This diversity

climate survey will enable us to evaluate how close we are to that goal.

*Estimate of the Burden:* This survey will have 1,418 respondents and should take no more than 30 minutes to complete. This yields a burden time of 709 hours.

*Respondents:* Individuals; not-for-profit institutions

*Estimated Number of Responses per Survey:* One

Dated: September 25, 2013.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.*

[FR Doc. 2013–23769 Filed 9–27–13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555–01–P**

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Notice of Permits Issued Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice of permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation of 1978, Public Law 95–541.

**SUMMARY:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish notice of permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. This is the required notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Adrian Dahood, ACA Permit Officer, Division of Polar Programs, Rm. 755, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. Or by email: [ACApermits@nsf.gov](mailto:ACApermits@nsf.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 22, 2013 the National Science Foundation published a notice in the **Federal Register** of a permit application received. The permit was issued on September 25, 2013 to: Jennifer Martin, Permit No. 2014–008.

**Nadene G. Kennedy,**

*Polar Coordination Specialist, Division of Polar Programs.*

[FR Doc. 2013–23718 Filed 9–27–13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555–01–P**

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. NRC–2013–0108]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of the Office of Budget and Management (OMB) review of

information collection and solicitation of public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has recently submitted to OMB for review the following proposal for the collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). The NRC hereby informs potential respondents that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and that a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The NRC published a **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period on this information collection on June 6, 2013 (78 FR 34134).

1. *Type of submission, new, revision, or extension:* Extension.

2. *The title of the information collection:* The Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs Requests to Agreement States for Information.

3. *Current OMB approval number:* 3150-0029.

4. *The form number if applicable:* N/A.

5. *How often the collection is required:* One time or as needed.

6. *Who will be required or asked to report:* Thirty-Seven Agreement States who have signed Section 274(b) Agreements with the NRC.

7. *An estimate of the number of annual responses:* 738.

8. *The estimated number of annual respondents:* 37.

9. *An estimate of the total number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request:* 3,690.

10. *Abstract:* The Agreement States are asked on a one-time or as-needed basis to respond to a specific incident, to gather information on licensing and inspection practices or other technical and training-related information. In 2007, the NRC policy changed to begin funding training for Agreement State materials licensing and inspection staff and associated travel to attend courses offered through the NRC training program. The results of such information requests, which are authorized under Section 274(b) of the Atomic Energy Act, are utilized in part by the NRC in preparing responses to Congressional inquiries.

The Agreement State comments are also solicited in the areas of proposed procedures, implementing guidance, and in the development of new and revised regulations and policies.

The public may examine and have copied for a fee publicly-available documents, including the final supporting statement, at the NRC's

Public Document Room, Room O-1F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20874. The OMB clearance requests are available at the NRC's Web site: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment/omb/>. The document will be available on the NRC's home page site for 60 days after the signature date of this notice.

Comments and questions should be directed to the OMB reviewer listed below by October 30, 2013. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but assurance of consideration cannot be given to comments received after this date.

Chad Whiteman, Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (3150-0029), NEOB-10202, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

Comments can also be emailed to [Chad\\_S\\_Whiteman@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Chad_S_Whiteman@omb.eop.gov) or submitted by telephone at 202-395-4718.

The NRC Clearance Officer is Tremaine Donnell, telephone: 301-415-6258.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 24th day of September, 2013.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Tremaine Donnell,**

*NRC Clearance Officer, Office of Information Services.*

[FR Doc. 2013-23661 Filed 9-27-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. NRC-2013-0213]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**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 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) invites public comment about our intention to request the OMB's approval for a new information collection that is summarized below. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Information pertaining to the requirement to be submitted:

1. *The title of the information collection:* Voluntary Reporting of Planned Licensing Request Submittals.

2. *Current OMB approval number:* 3150-XXXX.

3. *How often the collection is required:* Annually.

4. *Who is required or asked to report:* All operating power reactors whose licensing actions are handled by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing.

5. *The number of annual respondents:* 62.

6. *The number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request:* 310.

7. *Abstract:* The NRC is seeking information on the licensing actions that licensees plan to submit over the next three years. The information would be used by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation to better plan its resource utilization. Specifically, the office would use the information to (1) inform its budget development, (2) identify potential impacts from multiple actions utilizing the same resources, (3) develop solutions, if possible, to resource conflicts, and (4) communicate scheduling impacts to stakeholders.

Submit, by November 29, 2013, 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?

The public may examine and have copied for a fee publicly available documents, including the draft supporting statement, at the NRC's Public Document Room, Room O-1F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The OMB clearance requests are available at the NRC's Web site: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment/omb/>.

The document will be available on the NRC's home page site for 60 days after the signature date of this notice. Comments submitted in writing or in electronic form will be made available for public inspection. Because your comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information, the NRC cautions you against including any information in your submission that you do not want to be publicly disclosed. Comments submitted should