

citizenship; visa information (number, type, expiration date); passport information (number, country, expiration date); employer/affiliation information (name of institution, address, country, telephone); title/position of attendee; and home address to Ann Delo via email at [ann.b.delo@nasa.gov](mailto:ann.b.delo@nasa.gov) or by fax at (202) 358-2779. U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents (green card holders) are requested to submit their name and affiliation 3 working days prior to the meeting to Ann Delo.

It is imperative that the meeting be held on this date to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants.

**Harmony R. Myers,**

*Advisory Committee Management Officer,  
National Aeronautics and Space  
Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2015-04105 Filed 2-26-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7510-13-P**

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND  
SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

[Notice: (15-005)]

**NASA Advisory Council; Science  
Committee; Astrophysics  
Subcommittee; Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announces a meeting of the Astrophysics Subcommittee of the NASA Advisory Council (NAC). This Subcommittee reports to the Science Committee of the NAC. The meeting will be held for the purpose of soliciting, from the scientific community and other persons, scientific and technical information relevant to program planning.

**DATES:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Local Time.

**ADDRESSES:** NASA Headquarters, Room 6H41, 300 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20546.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Ann Delo, Science Mission Directorate, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546, (202) 358-0750, fax (202) 358-2779, or [ann.b.delo@nasa.gov](mailto:ann.b.delo@nasa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be open to the public up to the capacity of the room. The meeting will be available telephonically and by

WebEx. Any interested person may call the USA toll free conference call number 877-917-4912, Passcode APSMARCH to participate in this meeting by telephone. The WebEx link is <https://nasa.webex.com/>; the meeting number on March 17 is 394 075 603, Password is APS@March17; and the meeting number on March 18 is 393 861 072, Password is APS@March18. The agenda for the meeting includes the following topics:

- Astrophysics Division Update
- Update of Flight missions
- Reports from Program Analysis Groups

Attendees will be requested to sign a register and to comply with NASA security requirements, including the presentation of a valid picture ID to Security before access to NASA Headquarters. Foreign nationals attending this meeting will be required to provide a copy of their passport and visa in addition to providing the following information no less than 10 working days prior to the meeting: Full name; gender; date/place of birth; citizenship; visa information (number, type, expiration date); passport information (number, country, expiration date); employer/affiliation information (name of institution, address, country, telephone); title/position of attendee; and home address to Ann Delo via email at [ann.b.delo@nasa.gov](mailto:ann.b.delo@nasa.gov) or by fax at (202) 358-2779. U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents (green card holders) are requested to submit their name and affiliation 3 working days prior to the meeting to Ann Delo.

It is imperative that the meeting be held on this date to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants.

**Harmony R. Myers,**

*Acting Advisory Committee Management Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2015-04103 Filed 2-26-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7510-13-P**

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND  
SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

[Notice: (15-006)]

**NASA Advisory Council; Science  
Committee; Heliophysics  
Subcommittee; Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public

Law 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announces a meeting of the Heliophysics Subcommittee of the NASA Advisory Council (NAC). This Subcommittee reports to the Science Committee of the NAC. The meeting will be held for the purpose of soliciting, from the scientific community and other persons, scientific and technical information relevant to program planning.

**DATES:** Monday, March 30, 2015, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., and Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Local Time.

**ADDRESSES:** NASA Headquarters, Room 6H41, 300 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20546.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Ann Delo, Science Mission Directorate, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546, (202) 358-0750, fax (202) 358-2779, or [ann.b.delo@nasa.gov](mailto:ann.b.delo@nasa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be open to the public up to the capacity of the room. This meeting will also be available telephonically. Any interested person may call the USA toll free conference call number 1-800-779-8718, passcode 13089, to participate in this meeting by telephone. The agenda for the meeting includes the following topics:

- Heliophysics Division Overview and Program Status
- Heliophysics Budget Update
- Flight Mission Status Report
- Senior Review Guidelines

Attendees will be requested to sign a register and to comply with NASA security requirements, including the presentation of a valid picture ID to Security before access to NASA Headquarters. Foreign nationals attending this meeting will be required to provide a copy of their passport and visa in addition to providing the following information no less than 10 working days prior to the meeting: Full name; gender; date/place of birth; citizenship; visa information (number, type, expiration date); passport information (number, country, expiration date); employer/affiliation information (name of institution, address, country, telephone); title/position of attendee; and home address to Ann Delo via email at [ann.b.delo@nasa.gov](mailto:ann.b.delo@nasa.gov) or by fax at (202) 358-2779. U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents (green card holders) are requested to submit their name and affiliation 3 working days prior to the meeting to Ann Delo. It is imperative that the meeting be held on this date to

accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants.

**Harmony R. Myers,**

*Acting Advisory Committee Management Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2015-04104 Filed 2-26-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7510-13-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:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), and as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the National Science Foundation (NSF) is inviting the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this proposed information collection.

*Comments:* Comments are invited on:

(a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Foundation, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Foundation's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Written comments on this notice must be received by April 28, 2015, to be assured consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Send comments to address below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1265, Arlington, Virginia 22230; telephone (703) 292-7556; or send email 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, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including federal holidays).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title Of Collection:* Generic Clearance of Survey Improvement Projects From the National Science Foundation.

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

*Type of Request:* Intent to seek approval to establish a generic clearance for survey improvement projects for the National Science Foundation.

*Abstract:* The National Science Foundation (NSF) requests that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) grant a generic clearance that will allow NSF to rigorously develop, test, and evaluate its survey instruments and methodologies. NSF has a mandate to "provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering resources and to provide a source of information for policy formulation by other agencies of the Federal Government." This request is part of an ongoing initiative to improve NSF surveys as recommended by both its own guidelines and those of OMB.<sup>1</sup>

In the last decade, state-of-the art data collection and analysis methods have been increasingly instituted by NSF and other federal agencies, and are now routinely used to improve the quality and timeliness of data and analyses. These new methods or techniques many times help reduce respondents' cognitive workload and burden. The purpose of this generic clearance is to allow NSF to continue to adopt and use these methods or techniques to improve its current data collections on science, engineering, and technology inputs, outputs and outcomes. They will be used to improve the content of existing surveys, to aid in the development of new data collections to capture changes in the U.S. science and engineering (S&E) enterprise, and to fill gaps in coverage of the S&E enterprise in the existing NSF portfolio.

Following standard OMB requirements, NSF will submit to OMB an individual request for each survey improvement project it undertakes under this generic clearance. NSF will request OMB approval in advance and provide OMB with a copy of the questionnaire (if one is used) and materials describing the project.

NSF envisions using a variety of survey improvement techniques, as appropriate to the individual projects, such as focus groups, cognitive and usability laboratory and field techniques, exploratory interviews,

behavior coding, respondent debriefing, pilot studies, pretests and split-panel tests. NSF has used such techniques in previous activities conducted under generic clearances granted to individual divisions.

a. *Focus Groups.* A qualitative methodology that brings together a small number of relatively homogenous subjects to discuss pre-identified topics. A protocol containing questions or topics focused on a particular issue or issues is used to guide these sessions, and is administered by a trained facilitator. Focus groups are useful for exploring and identifying issues with either respondents or stakeholders. Focus groups are a good choice during the development of a survey or survey topic, when a pre-existing questionnaire or survey questions on the topic do not yet exist. NSF has used focus groups for several projects under the Science Resources Statistics generic clearance (OMB Control Number 3145-0174) to assist with redesign of surveys when it became evident that the content of a survey was outdated and did not reflect current issues or the context that respondents were facing.

b. *Cognitive and Usability Laboratory and Field Techniques.* A qualitative methodology that refers to a set of tools employed to study and identify errors that are introduced during the survey process. These techniques are generally conducted by a researcher with an individual respondent, though observers may sometimes be present. Cognitive techniques are generally used to understand the question-response process, whereas usability is generally used to understand respondent reactions to the features of an electronic survey instrument, for instance, its display and navigation. In concurrent interviews, respondents are asked to think aloud as they actually answer the survey. In retrospective interviews, respondents answer the survey as they would normally, then 'think aloud' afterwards. Other techniques, which are described in the literature and which will be employed as appropriate include: Follow-up probing, memory cue tasks, paraphrasing, confidence rating, response latency measurements, free and dimensional sort classification tasks, and vignette classifications. The objective of all of these techniques is to aid in the development of surveys that work with respondents' thought processes, thus reducing response error and burden. These techniques are generally very useful for studying and revising a pre-existing questionnaire. NSF has used cognitive and usability testing in previous generic clearance projects (OMB Control Numbers 3145-

<sup>1</sup> NSF Information Quality Guidelines are available on <http://www.nsf.gov/policies/infoqual.jsp>. OMB Information Quality Guidelines are available on <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforg/infopoltech.html>. OMB standards and guidelines for statistical surveys are available on [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforg/statpolicy/standards\\_stat\\_surveys.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforg/statpolicy/standards_stat_surveys.pdf).