

463, as amended), the National Science Foundation (NSF) announces the following meeting:

*Name and Committee Code:* Proposal Review Panel for Office of International Science and Engineering—PIRE: Black Hole Astrophysics in the Era of Distributed Resources and Expertise—Reverse Site Visit (#10749).

*Date and Time:* February 13, 2020; 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

*Place:* National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria VA 22314.

*Type of Meeting:* Part open.

*Contact Person:* Cassandra Dudka, PIRE Program Manager, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314; Telephone 703/292-7250.

*Purpose of Meeting:* NSF reverse site visit to conduct a review during year 3 of the five-year award period. To conduct an in-depth evaluation of performance, to assess progress towards goals, and to provide recommendations.

*Agenda:* See Attached.

*Reason for Closing:* Topics to be discussed and evaluated during closed portions of the reverse site review will include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; and information on personnel. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: January 14, 2020.

**Crystal Robinson,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

**National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314**

**Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE)**

**Reverse Site Visit Agenda**

*PIRE: Black Hole Astrophysics in the Era of Distributed Resources and Expertise*

**(PI: Psaltis)**

**NSF Room W17000**

*Date: February 13, 2020*

8:00 a.m. Panelists arrive. Coffee/light refreshments available.

8:15 a.m.—8:45 a.m. Panel Orientation (CLOSED)

PIRE Rationale and Goals

Charge to Panel

8:45 a.m. PIs Arrive/Introductions

9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. PIRE Project Presentation

Overview of the Project and Project Management

Research Accomplishments and

Impacts to Date

Benefits of International Partnerships

Integrating Research and Education Educational Impact on Students Research Plan and Future Activities to Achieve the Projects Goals

11:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Questions and Answers

12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m. Working Lunch—Panel Discussion—(CLOSED)

1:30 p.m.—2:00 p.m. Student recruitment

Diversity

Communication and Outreach

Evaluation and Assessment

Institutional Support

2:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. Initial Feedback to the PIRE Project Team (CLOSED)

3:00 p.m. PIRE Project Team is dismissed

3:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m. Panel Meets to Prepare Reverse Site Visit Report (CLOSED)

4:30 p.m.—4:45 p.m. Panel Meets with NSF Staff to Discuss the Report (CLOSED)

5:00 p.m. End of Reverse Site Visit

[FR Doc. 2020-00714 Filed 1-16-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555-01-P**

## **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**[Docket No. 50-286; NRC-2020-0019]**

### **Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.; Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3: Revise Technical Specifications 3.7.6 and 3.7.7**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** License amendment application; opportunity to comment, request a hearing, and petition for leave to intervene.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an amendment to Renewed Facility Operating License No. DPR-64, issued to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the licensee), for operation of Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 (Indian Point Unit 3 or IP3). The proposed amendment would modify Technical Specification (TS) 3.7.7, “City Water (CW),” Surveillance Requirement (SR) 3.7.7.2, and TS 3.7.6, “Condensate Storage Tank (CST),” Required Action A.1.

**DATES:** Submit comments by February 18, 2020. Requests for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene must be filed by March 17, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search

for Docket ID NRC-2020-0019. Address questions about NRC docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Jennifer Borges; telephone: 301-287-9127; email: [Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov). For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *Mail comments to:* Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see “Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments” in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Richard V. Guzman, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-1030; email: [Richard.Guzman@nrc.gov](mailto:Richard.Guzman@nrc.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments**

#### *A. Obtaining Information*

Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2020-0019 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2020-0019.

- *NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select “Begin Web-based ADAMS Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC’s Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by email to [pdr.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov). The license amendment request dated November 21, 2019, is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML19325E913.

- *NRC’s PDR:* You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC’s PDR, Room O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

#### *B. Submitting Comments*

Please include Docket ID NRC-2020-0019 in your comment submission.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly

disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC will post all comment submissions at <https://www.regulations.gov> as well as enter the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

## II. Introduction

The NRC is considering issuance of an amendment to Renewed Facility Operating License No. DPR-64 issued to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., for operation of Indian Point Unit 3, located in Westchester County, New York. Specifically, the proposed amendment would revise TS SR 3.7.7.2 to allow one of the backflow preventer isolation valves on the Indian Point Unit 3 city water (CW) header supply to be maintained closed when in the modes of applicability for TS Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) 3.7.7 (*i.e.*, during Modes 1, 2, and 3, and Mode 4 when the steam generators are relied upon for heat removal), provided that the requirements of TS LCO 3.7.6 are met. The proposed change would eliminate intrusion of CW into the auxiliary feedwater (AFW) system and the CST due to leak-by past a downstream isolation valve and allow removal of a temporary modification that provides continuous flushing of the 33 AFW pump suction line. In addition, the proposed amendment would revise TS 3.7.6 Required Action A.1 to require the closed backflow preventer isolation valve on the Indian Point Unit 3 CW header supply to be reopened immediately in the event that the CST is declared inoperable.

Before any issuance of the proposed license amendment, the NRC will need to make the findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and NRC regulations.

The NRC has made a proposed determination that the license amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the NRC's regulations in section 50.92 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), this means that operation of the facility in accordance

with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

1. Does the proposed amendment involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?

*Response:* No.

The proposed amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

The proposed amendment would modify IP3 TS SR 3.7.7.2 to allow one of the backflow preventer isolation valves on the IP3 CW Header Supply to be maintained closed, provided the requirements of TS LCO 3.7.6 are met. In addition, the proposed change to TS 3.7.6 Required Action A.1 would require the closed backflow preventer isolation valve to be re-opened immediately in the event the CST is declared inoperable. The proposed changes to SR 3.7.7.2 and TS 3.7.6, Required Action 1 do not affect any initiator or precursor of any accident previously evaluated. Therefore, the proposed change does not involve a significant increase in the probability of an accident previously evaluated.

The CST is the preferred source of water for the AFW System, and this remains unchanged. The consequences of accidents or events in which the AFW is credited or required are normally mitigated by operation of the AFW System. The CW system can be used as a backup to the CST in the event the CST is unavailable for any reason, including due to CST damage from a tornado-generated missile.

In order to place the CW System in service, the proposed changes will add a field action by a nuclear plant operator to open one of the backflow preventer isolation valves on the IP3 CW Header Supply, in addition to the already required manual action to open the individual AFW pump suction valves from the control room. The proposed changes will also require the closed backflow preventer isolation valve on the IP3 CW Header Supply to be re-opened immediately in the event the CST is declared inoperable. As a result, the CW system will continue to provide a reliable means of backup cooling to the AFW pumps. Therefore, the proposed amendment does not involve a significant increase in the consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. Does the proposed amendment create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated?

*Response:* No.

The proposed changes do not create the possibility of a new or different kind of

accident from any accident previously evaluated.

The proposed amendment would modify IP3 TS SR 3.7.7.2 to allow one of the backflow preventer isolation valves on the IP3 CW Header Supply to be maintained closed, provided the requirements of TS LCO 3.7.6 are met. In addition, the proposed changes to TS 3.7.6, Required Action A.1 would require the closed backflow preventer isolation valve to be re-opened immediately in the event the CST is declared inoperable.

The proposed amendment will not involve any physical changes to the existing plant, so no new malfunctions could create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident. The proposed amendment makes no changes to conditions external to the plant that could create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident. The proposed change will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident as no new accident initiators, precursors, failure mechanisms, or malfunctions are being introduced by the proposed changes.

The AFW System, the CST, and the CW System will continue to perform their design basis cooling functions for previously evaluated accidents or events for which the AFW System is credited or required. The normal source of CST cooling water for the AFW pumps is unaffected by the proposed changes. The AFW System is provided sufficient redundancy of water supplies such that the alternate source of water from the CW System is available in the event the CST is unavailable.

Therefore, the proposed amendment does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated.

3. Does the proposed amendment involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety?

The proposed amendment does not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

The proposed amendment would modify IP3 TS SR 3.7.7.2 to allow one of the backflow preventer isolation valves on the IP3 CW Header Supply to be maintained closed, provided the requirements of TS LCO 3.7.6 are met. In addition, the proposed changes to TS 3.7.6, Required Action A.1 would require the closed backflow preventer isolation valve to be re-opened immediately in the event the CST is declared inoperable.

The change does not exceed or alter any controlling numerical value for a parameter established in the FSAR [Final Safety Analysis Report] or elsewhere in the IP3 licensing basis related to design basis or safety limits. Entergy has performed a risk assessment in support of the proposed amendment and concluded that this change is not risk significant.

The proposed changes only affect the manual actions required to place the CW system in service. No automatic actions are affected by the proposed changes. This request does not replace an automatic action with a manual action, isolate a safety related source of water that was previously unisolated, or close a valve that was previously required to be locked open. The CW system will continue to provide a

reliable means of backup cooling to the AFW pumps.

Therefore, the proposed amendment does not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the license amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The NRC is seeking public comments on this proposed determination that the license amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of 60 days after the date of publication of this notice. The Commission may issue the license amendment before expiration of the 60-day notice period if the Commission concludes the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. In addition, the Commission may issue the amendment prior to the expiration of the 30-day comment period if circumstances change during the 30-day comment period such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility. If the Commission takes action prior to the expiration of either the comment period or the notice period, it will publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of issuance. If the Commission makes a final no significant hazards consideration determination, any hearing will take place after issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

### III. Opportunity To Request a Hearing and Petition for Leave To Intervene

Within 60 days after the date of publication of this notice, any persons (petitioner) whose interest may be affected by this action may file a request for a hearing and petition for leave to intervene (petition) with respect to the action. Petitions shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure" in 10 CFR part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.309. The NRC's regulations are accessible electronically from the NRC Library on the NRC's website at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/cfr/>. Alternatively, a copy of the regulations is available at the NRC's Public Document Room, located at One

White Flint North, Room O1-F21, 11555 Rockville Pike (First Floor), Rockville, Maryland 20852. If a petition is filed, the Commission or a presiding officer will rule on the petition and, if appropriate, a notice of a hearing will be issued.

As required by 10 CFR 2.309(d) the petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following general requirements for standing: (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner; (2) the nature of the petitioner's right to be made a party to the proceeding; (3) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (4) the possible effect of any decision or order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.309(f), the petition must also set forth the specific contentions which the petitioner seeks to have litigated in the proceeding. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner must provide a brief explanation of the bases for the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to the specific sources and documents on which the petitioner intends to rely to support its position on the issue. The petition must include sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant or licensee on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions must be limited to matters within the scope of the proceeding. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to satisfy the requirements at 10 CFR 2.309(f) with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene. Parties have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing with respect to resolution of that party's admitted contentions, including the opportunity to present evidence, consistent with the NRC's regulations, policies, and procedures.

Petitions must be filed no later than 60 days from the date of publication of this notice. Petitions and motions for leave to file new or amended contentions that are filed after the deadline will not be entertained absent

a determination by the presiding officer that the filing demonstrates good cause by satisfying the three factors in 10 CFR 2.309(c)(1)(i) through (iii). The petition must be filed in accordance with the filing instructions in the "Electronic Submissions (E-Filing)" section of this document.

If a hearing is requested, and the Commission has not made a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to establish when the hearing is held. If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing would take place after issuance of the amendment. If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, then any hearing held would take place before the issuance of the amendment unless the Commission finds an imminent danger to the health or safety of the public, in which case it will issue an appropriate order or rule under 10 CFR part 2.

A State, local governmental body, Federally-recognized Indian Tribe, or agency thereof, may submit a petition to the Commission to participate as a party under 10 CFR 2.309(h)(1). The petition should state the nature and extent of the petitioner's interest in the proceeding. The petition should be submitted to the Commission no later than 60 days from the date of publication of this notice. The petition must be filed in accordance with the filing instructions in the "Electronic Submissions (E-Filing)" section of this document, and should meet the requirements for petitions set forth in this section, except that under 10 CFR 2.309(h)(2) a State, local governmental body, or Federally-recognized Indian Tribe, or agency thereof does not need to address the standing requirements in 10 CFR 2.309(d) if the facility is located within its boundaries. Alternatively, a State, local governmental body, Federally-recognized Indian Tribe, or agency thereof may participate as a non-party under 10 CFR 2.315(c).

If a hearing is granted, any person who is not a party to the proceeding and is not affiliated with or represented by a party may, at the discretion of the presiding officer, be permitted to make a limited appearance pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.315(a). A person

making a limited appearance may make an oral or written statement of his or her position on the issues but may not otherwise participate in the proceeding. A limited appearance may be made at any session of the hearing or at any prehearing conference, subject to the limits and conditions as may be imposed by the presiding officer. Details regarding the opportunity to make a limited appearance will be provided by the presiding officer if such sessions are scheduled.

#### IV. Electronic Submissions (E-Filing)

All documents filed in NRC adjudicatory proceedings, including a request for hearing and petition for leave to intervene (petition), any motion or other document filed in the proceeding prior to the submission of a request for hearing or petition to intervene, and documents filed by interested governmental entities that request to participate under 10 CFR 2.315(c), must be filed in accordance with the NRC's E-Filing rule (72 FR 49139; August 28, 2007, as amended at 77 FR 46562; August 3, 2012). The E-Filing process requires participants to submit and serve all adjudicatory documents over the internet, or in some cases to mail copies on electronic storage media. Detailed guidance on making electronic submissions may be found in the Guidance for Electronic Submissions to the NRC and on the NRC website at <https://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html>. Participants may not submit paper copies of their filings unless they seek an exemption in accordance with the procedures described below.

To comply with the procedural requirements of E-Filing, at least 10 days prior to the filing deadline, the participant should contact the Office of the Secretary by email at [hearing.docket@nrc.gov](mailto:hearing.docket@nrc.gov), or by telephone at 301-415-1677, to (1) request a digital identification (ID) certificate, which allows the participant (or its counsel or representative) to digitally sign submissions and access the E-Filing system for any proceeding in which it is participating; and (2) advise the Secretary that the participant will be submitting a petition or other adjudicatory document (even in instances in which the participant, or its counsel or representative, already holds an NRC-issued digital ID certificate). Based upon this information, the Secretary will establish an electronic docket for the hearing in this proceeding if the Secretary has not already established an electronic docket.

Information about applying for a digital ID certificate is available on the

NRC's public website at <https://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals/getting-started.html>. Once a participant has obtained a digital ID certificate and a docket has been created, the participant can then submit adjudicatory documents. Submissions must be in Portable Document Format (PDF). Additional guidance on PDF submissions is available on the NRC's public website at <https://www.nrc.gov/site-help/electronic-sub-ref-mat.html>. A filing is considered complete at the time the document is submitted through the NRC's E-Filing system. To be timely, an electronic filing must be submitted to the E-Filing system no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the due date. Upon receipt of a transmission, the E-Filing system time-stamps the document and sends the submitter an email notice confirming receipt of the document. The E-Filing system also distributes an email notice that provides access to the document to the NRC's Office of the General Counsel and any others who have advised the Office of the Secretary that they wish to participate in the proceeding, so that the filer need not serve the document on those participants separately. Therefore, applicants and other participants (or their counsel or representative) must apply for and receive a digital ID certificate before adjudicatory documents are filed so that they can obtain access to the documents via the E-Filing system.

A person filing electronically using the NRC's adjudicatory E-Filing system may seek assistance by contacting the NRC's Electronic Filing Help Desk through the "Contact Us" link located on the NRC's public website at <https://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html>, by email to [MSHD.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:MSHD.Resource@nrc.gov), or by a toll-free call at 1-866-672-7640. The NRC Electronic Filing Help Desk is available between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, excluding government holidays.

Participants who believe that they have a good cause for not submitting documents electronically must file an exemption request, in accordance with 10 CFR 2.302(g), with their initial paper filing stating why there is good cause for not filing electronically and requesting authorization to continue to submit documents in paper format. Such filings must be submitted by: (1) First class mail addressed to the Office of the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff; or (2) courier, express mail, or expedited delivery service to the Office of the

Secretary, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff. Participants filing adjudicatory documents in this manner are responsible for serving the document on all other participants. Filing is considered complete by first-class mail as of the time of deposit in the mail, or by courier, express mail, or expedited delivery service upon depositing the document with the provider of the service. A presiding officer, having granted an exemption request from using E-Filing, may require a participant or party to use E-Filing if the presiding officer subsequently determines that the reason for granting the exemption from use of E-Filing no longer exists.

Documents submitted in adjudicatory proceedings will appear in the NRC's electronic hearing docket which is available to the public at <https://adams.nrc.gov/ehd>, unless excluded pursuant to an order of the Commission or the presiding officer. If you do not have an NRC-issued digital ID certificate as described above, click "Cancel" when the link requests certificates and you will be automatically directed to the NRC's electronic hearing dockets where you will be able to access any publicly available documents in a particular hearing docket. Participants are requested not to include personal privacy information, such as social security numbers, home addresses, or personal phone numbers in their filings, unless an NRC regulation or other law requires submission of such information. For example, in some instances, individuals provide home addresses in order to demonstrate proximity to a facility or site. With respect to copyrighted works, except for limited excerpts that serve the purpose of the adjudicatory filings and would constitute a Fair Use application, participants are requested not to include copyrighted materials in their submission.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's application dated November 21, 2019 (ADAMS Accession No. ML19325E913).

*Attorney for licensee:* Bill Glew, Associate General Counsel, Entergy Services, Inc., 639 Loyola Avenue, 22nd Floor, New Orleans, LA 70113.

*NRC Branch Chief:* James G. Danna.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of January, 2020.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Richard V. Guzman, Sr.,**

*Project Manager, Plant Licensing Branch I,  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing,  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 2020-00695 Filed 1-16-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

## OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

### Request for Public Comment on Draft Desirable Characteristics of Repositories for Managing and Sharing Data Resulting From Federally Funded Research

**AGENCY:** Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

**ACTION:** Request for Comments.

**SUMMARY:** The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy is seeking public comments on a draft set of desirable characteristics of data repositories used to locate, manage, share, and use data resulting from Federally funded research. The purpose of this effort is to identify and help Federal agencies provide more consistent information on desirable characteristics of data repositories for data subject to agency Public Access Plans and data management and sharing policies, whether those repositories are operated by government or non-governmental entities. Optimization and improved consistency in agency-provided information for data repositories is expected to reduce the burden for researchers. Feedback obtained through this Request for Comments (RFC) will help to inform coordinated agency action.

**DATES:** To ensure that your comments will be considered, please submit your response on or before 11:59 p.m. ET on March 6, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be submitted online to: [OpenScience@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:OpenScience@ostp.eop.gov). Email submissions should be machine-readable [pdf, word] and not copy-protected. Submissions should include "RFC Response: Desirable Repository Characteristics" in the subject line of the message.

**Instructions:** Response to this RFC is voluntary. Each individual or institution is requested to submit only one response. Submission should not exceed 5 pages in 12 point or larger font, and should be paginated. Responses should include the name and organizational affiliation(s) of the person(s) filing the comment. Additionally, to assist in analyzing responses, respondents are requested to indicate the primary scientific discipline(s) in which they

work (e.g., life sciences, physical sciences, social sciences) and their role (e.g., researcher, librarian, data manager, administrator). Comments containing references, studies, research, and other empirical data that are not widely published should include copies or electronic links of the referenced materials. Comments containing profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language or content will not be considered.

Comments submitted in response to this notice are subject to FOIA. Responses to this RFC may also be posted, without change, on a Federal website. Therefore, we request that no business proprietary information, copyrighted information, or personally identifiable information (beyond filing name and institution) be submitted in response to this RFC.

In accordance with FAR 15.202(3), responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract. Additionally, those submitting responses are solely responsible for all expenses associated with response preparation.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lisa Nichols at [OpenScience@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:OpenScience@ostp.eop.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Subcommittee on Open Science (SOS) of the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on Science (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/nstc/>) convenes more than twenty Federal departments and agencies (hereafter "agencies") that support research and development (R&D). It aims to advance open science and foster implementation of agency Public Access Plans that were developed in response to the 2013 White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) memorandum entitled "Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research" that called for improved access to data and publications resulting from Federally funded R&D. [For more information on agency Public Access Plans, see [https://www.cendi.gov/projects/Public\\_Access\\_Plans\\_US\\_Fed\\_Agencies.html](https://www.cendi.gov/projects/Public_Access_Plans_US_Fed_Agencies.html). For more explanation regarding Federally funded research data, see 2 CFR 200.315(e)(3).] One goal of the Subcommittee's efforts is to improve the consistency of guidelines and best practices that agencies provide about the long-term preservation of data from Federally funded research, including suitable repositories for preserving and providing access to such data, considering agency missions, best

practices, and relevant standards. According to OMB Circular A-81, section 200.315, "Research data means the recorded factual material commonly accepted in the scientific community as necessary to validate research findings, but not any of the following: preliminary analyses, drafts of scientific papers, plans for future research, peer reviews, or communications with colleagues." [See: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2013/12/26/2013-30465/uniform-administrative-requirements-cost-principles-and-audit-requirements-for-federal-awards#sec-200-315>.] These efforts are consistent with and supportive of other Administration priorities, such as the Federal Data Strategy and its associated set of Practices to leverage data as a strategic asset [For more information on Federal Data Strategy Practices, see <https://strategy.data.gov/practices/>].

In support of its work, the SOS has developed a proposed set of desirable characteristics of data repositories for data resulting from Federally funded research. The proposed characteristics could apply to repositories operated by government or non-governmental entities. They draw from agency experience in developing and supporting data repositories and build on existing information for selecting repositories that agencies developed as part of their public access policies. Through public comment, the SOS aims to refine and develop a common set of characteristics that Federal R&D-funding agencies can use to support their Public Access and data sharing efforts.

These characteristics are not intended to be an exhaustive set of design features for data repositories. Federal agencies would not plan to use these characteristics to assess, evaluate, or certify the acceptability of a specific data repository, unless otherwise specified for a particular agency program, initiative, or funding opportunity. Rather, the set of characteristics is intended to be used as a tool for agencies and Federally funded investigators when, for example, they are:

- Assisting Federally funded investigators in identifying data repositories to use for storing and providing access to research data (e.g., when funding agencies do not host the data and/or have not designated specific repositories for use);
- Identifying specific repositories that a Federal agency might designate for use for particular types of research data resulting from Federally funded research;