

of 95 percent is anticipated for the Follow-up panel survey. The amount of time required to complete the questionnaire is estimated to be 30 minutes for both the NSRCG and the Follow-up panel survey.

Send comments to Herman Fleming, National Science Foundation Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 485, Arlington, VA 22230.

Written comments should be received by December 1, 1996.

Dated: September 30, 1996.

Herman G. Fleming,

NSF Clearance Officer.

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Proposed Data Collection: Comment Request; Title of Proposed Collection: National Survey of College Graduates

In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the National Science Foundation (NSF) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call the NSF Clearance Officer on (703) 306-1243.

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 to be collected; 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.

Proposed Project: The National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG), formerly called National Survey of Natural and Social Scientists and Engineers, has been conducted biennially since the 1970's. In the 1997 NSCG, persons identified as trained and/or working in science and engineering, who responded to the 1995 survey, will be contacted again. The purpose of this longitudinal study is to provide national estimates on the science and engineering workforce and changes in employment, education and demographic characteristics. The study is one of three components of the Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data

System (SESTAT), formerly called the Scientific and Technical Personnel Data System (STPDS), which produces national estimates of the size and characteristics of the nation's science and engineering population.

The National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as subsequently amended, includes a statutory charge 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.” The National Survey of College Graduates is designed to comply with these mandates by providing information on the supply and utilization of nation's scientists and engineers. The NSCG provides the majority of records into the SESTAT data system. The NSF uses this information to prepare congressionally mandated reports such as Science and Engineering Indicators and Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering. A public release file of collected data, edited to protect respondent confidentiality, will be made available to researchers on CD-ROM and on the World Wide Web.

The Bureau of the Census, as in the past, will conduct the study for NSF through an interagency agreement. Respondents from the 1995 NSCG, who had at least a bachelor's degree in science engineering as of 1990 Decennial Census, or who worked in science and engineering jobs as of April 1993, will be contacted in 1997. The sample design included oversampling of minority college graduate population and varying sampling rates to represent specific fields of science and engineering. Sample members will be sent mail questionnaires, and non-respondents to the mail questionnaire will be followed up by telephone or personal visit interview.

The 1997 NSCG sample size will be about 53,000 and an unweighted response rate of 95 percent is anticipated (94 percent was obtained on the previous cycle). The amount of time required to complete the questionnaire may vary depending on individuals' circumstances but on the average, it will take about 25 minutes. The survey will be collected in conformance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the individual's response to the survey will be entirely voluntary. NSF will insure that all information collected will be kept strictly confidential and will be used only for research or statistical purposes, analyzing data, and preparing scientific reports and articles.

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Written comments should be received by December 1, 1996:

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Herman G. Fleming,

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Proposed Data Collection: Comment Request; Title of Proposed Collection: Survey of Doctorate Recipients

In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the National Science Foundation (NSF) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call the NSF Clearance Officer on (703) 306-1243.

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 to be collected; 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.

Proposed Project: The Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR) has been conducted biennially since 1973. For the 1997 cycle, a sample of individuals under the age of 76 who have earned doctoral degrees in science and engineering from U.S. institutions will be surveyed. The purpose of the study is to provide national estimates describing the relationship between education and employment for Ph.D. recipients in science and engineering. The study is one of three components of the Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT), formerly called the Scientific and Technical Personnel Data System (STPDS).

The National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as subsequently amended, includes a statutory charge to “* * * provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering