

Polar Programs, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 755, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292-8033.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), with research funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (NPD), plans to conduct a multi-institution marine seismic survey across the Arctic Ocean from northern Alaska to Svalbard during the period 5 August to 30 September 2005 (approximately). This project will be operated in conjunction with a sediment coring project intended to collect paleoenvironmental and paleoceanographic evidence that will reveal information about the recent history of the Arctic Ocean and its climate during the last ten thousand years. The purpose of the seismic survey is to study the history of the ridges and basins of the Arctic Ocean.

Several species of cetaceans and pinnipeds inhabit the Arctic Ocean. The increased underwater noise from the research may result in avoidance behavior by some marine mammals and fish, and other forms of disturbance. An integral part of the planned survey is a monitoring and mitigation program to minimize impacts of the proposed activities on marine species present, and on fishing and subsistence activities, and to document the nature and extent of any effects. Injurious impacts to marine mammals have not been proven to occur near equipment proposed to be used in this research; however, the planned monitoring and mitigation measures would minimize the possibility of such effects should they otherwise occur.

With the planned monitoring and mitigation measures, unavoidable impacts to each of the species of marine mammal that might be encountered are expected to be limited to short-term localized changes in behavior and distribution near the seismic vessel. At most, such effects may be interpreted as falling within the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) definition of "Level B Harassment" for those species managed by NMFS. No long-term or significant effects are expected on individual marine mammals, or the populations to which they belong, or their habitats. The agency is currently consulting with both the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Fish & Wildlife Service regarding species within their respective jurisdictions potentially affected by this proposed activity.

Copies of the draft Environmental Assessment titled, An Environmental Assessment of a Marine Geophysical

Survey by the Coast Guard Cutter Healy Across the Arctic Ocean, August-September 2005, are available upon request from: Dr. Polly A. Penhale, National Science Foundation, Office of Polar Programs, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 755, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292-8033 or at the agency's Web site at: http://www.nsf.gov/od/opp/arctic/arc_envir/healy_ea.pdf. The National Science Foundation invites interested members of the public to provide written comments on this draft Environmental Assessment.

Dr. Polly A. Penhale,

Environmental Officer, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation.
[FR Doc. 05-7183 Filed 4-8-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee #13883; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following Astronomy and astrophysics Advisory Committee (#13883) meeting:

Date and Time: May 16-17, 2005, 8:30 am-5 pm.

Place: National Science Foundation, Room 595, Stafford II Building, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA, 22230.

Type of Meeting: Open.

Contact Person: Dr. G. Wayne Van Citters, Director, Division of Astronomical Sciences, Suite 1045, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 2230. Telephone: 703-292-4908.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and recommendations to the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on issues within the field of astronomy and astrophysics that are of mutual interest and concern to the agencies.

Agenda: To hear presentations of current programming by representatives from NSF, NASA, DOE and other agencies relevant to astronomy and astrophysics; to discuss current and potential areas of cooperation between the agencies; to formulate recommendations for continued and new areas of cooperation and mechanisms for achieving them.

Dated: April 5, 2005.

Susanne E. Bolton,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-7135 Filed 4-8-05; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Business and Operations Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting:

Name: Business and Operations Advisory Committee (9556).

Date/Time: May 5, 2005; 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (EST). May 6, 2005; 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (EST).

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room Stafford II Rm. 555, Arlington, VA.

Type of Meeting: Open.

Contact Person: Joan Miller, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230 (703) 292-8200.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice concerning issues related to the oversight, integrity, development and enhancement of NSF's business operations.

Agenda: May 5, 2005, PM: Welcome and Introduction of new members; Updates—Office of Budget, Finance, and Award Management, Office of Information and Resource Management, Chief Information Officer activities. Review of Facilities Subcommittee meeting. Presentation and Discussion—NSF Assessment of Organizational Excellence.

May 6, 2005, AM: Presentation and Discussion—Topics TBD (potential topics include Management of Human Capital and Updates of eGov activities and NSF Business Analysis); Meeting with NSF Director; Committee Discussion; Planning for next meeting; feedback; other business.

Dated: April 5, 2005.

Susanne Bolton,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-7136 Filed 4-8-05; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Proposal Review Panel for Computing Communication Foundations (1192); Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting:

Name: Kennedy Site Visit, Proposal Review Panel for Computing Communication Foundations (1192).

Date/Time: April 28-29, 2005; 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Place: Houston, TX; Rice University Duncan Hall.

Type of Meeting: Partially open.

Contact Person: Michael Foster, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 1115, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292-8910.