OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY


ACTION: Request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (ARPA), Public Law 98–373, established the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) to develop national Arctic research policy five-year Federal research plans to implement ARPA. Chaired by the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), IARPC is composed of representatives from ten agencies. More information on IARPC can be found at: http://www.nsf.gov/od/opp/arctic/iarpc/start.jsp.

The IARPC’s Arctic Research Plan: FY2013–2017 (Five-Year Plan) describes research priorities for the next five years that are expected to benefit from interagency collaboration; not all research conducted by Federal agencies is included in the Five-Year Plan. The Five-Year Plan focuses on seven priority areas designed to enhance the goals and objectives of Federal agencies in Arctic research:

(1) Sea ice and marine ecosystem studies.
(2) Terrestrial ecosystem studies.
(3) Atmospheric studies effecting energy flux.
(4) Observing systems.
(5) Regional climate models.
(6) Adaptation tools for sustaining communities.
(7) Human health.

DATES: This request will be active through June 22, 2012, 11:59 EST.

ADDRESSES: The Five-Year Plan and additional information, including any updates to this Federal Register notice, will be available at http://www.nsf.gov/od/opp/arctic/iarpc/arc_res_plan_index.jsp. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Email: agraefe@arctic.gov. Include “IARPC FIVE-YEAR PLAN COMMENT” in the subject line of the message.
Fax: 703–292–9082 Attention: “Linda Izzard, IARPC FIVE-YEAR PLAN COMMENT.”

All submissions must be in English and must include your name, return address and email address, if applicable. Please clearly label submissions as “IARPC FIVE-YEAR PLAN COMMENT.”

Please do not include classified, personally identifying information (such as social security numbers), copyrighted material, or business confidential information. Please note that your submission may be subject to public release “as is” under applicable law.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any questions about the content of this notice should be sent to A. Graefe, agraefe@arctic.gov. Include “IARPC FIVE-YEAR PLAN COMMENT” in the subject line of the message. Questions may also be sent by mail (please allow additional time for processing) to: IARPC, c/o Arctic Sciences Division, National Science Foundation, Suite 755S, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230. Attention: “Linda Izzard, IARPC FIVE-YEAR PLAN COMMENT.”

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For the purposes of research planning, we follow Section 112 of the ARPA in defining the Arctic as “all United States and foreign territory north of the Arctic Circle and all United States territory north and west of the boundary formed by the Porcupine, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Rivers [in Alaska]; all contiguous seas, including the Arctic Ocean and the Beaufort, Bering, and Chukchi Seas; and the Aleutian chain.”

Ted Wackler,
Deputy Chief of Staff and Assistant Director.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

FEDERAL REGISTER CITATION OF PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT: [77 FR 30338, May 22, 2012].

STATUS: Closed Meeting.
PLACE: 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC.
DATE AND TIME OF PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED MEETING: May 24, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.
CHANGE IN THE MEETING: Additional Item. The following matter will also be considered during the 2:00 p.m. Closed Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 24, 2012: A personnel matter. The General Counsel of the Commission, or his designee, has certified that, in his opinion, one or more of the exemptions as set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(2) and (6) and 17 CFR 200.402(a)(2) and (6), permit consideration of the scheduled matter at the Closed Meeting.

Commissioner Walter, as duty officer, voted to consider the item listed for the Closed Meeting in closed session, and determined that no earlier notice thereof was possible.

At times, changes in Commission priorities require alterations in the scheduling of meeting items. For further information and to ascertain what, if any, matters have been added, deleted or postponed, please contact the Office of the Secretary at (202) 551–5400.

Dated: May 24, 2012.
Kevin M. O’Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION


Self-Regulatory Organizations; Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.; Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change Amending FINRA Rule 14107 of the Code of Mediation Procedure To Provide the Director of Mediation With Discretion to Determine Whether Parties to a FINRA Mediation May Select a Mediator Who Is Not on FINRA’s Mediator Roster


I. Introduction

On February 9, 2012, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act” or “Act”) 1 and