

standards for executive departments and agencies to follow in developing, operating, evaluating, and reporting on financial management systems. OMB is issuing this interim final version of a new appendix, Appendix D, to Circular A-123, to provide a framework for determining compliance with the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA) of 1996, bringing financial systems policy into greater alignment with financial management policy in Circular A-123 and with general IT guidance contained in OMB Circular No. A-130, "Management of Federal Information Resources." The new appendix to Circular A-123 supersedes, and makes it no longer necessary to maintain, Circular A-127. Accordingly, OMB is suspending application of Circular A-127.

DATES: The interim final version of Appendix D to OMB Circular No. A-123 is effective October 1, 2013. Comments on the interim final revision must be received on or before October 31, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted electronically at www.regulations.gov. In submitting comments, please search for recent submissions, which includes the full text of the new appendix to Circular A-123, and submit comments there.

To View This Issuance: The complete text of Appendix D of Circular A-123 is available on the OMB Web site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2013/m-13-23.pdf> under "Memoranda 2013." Copies of the OMB Circulars that are discussed in this notice are available on OMB's Web site at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_default/.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information about this interim final action, contact Michael S. Wetklow, Chief, Accountability, Performance, and Reporting Branch within OMB's Office of Federal Financial Management (mwetklow@omb.eop.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OMB is issuing a new appendix, Appendix D, to Circular A-123. The new appendix states new requirements for determining compliance with the FFMIA. In particular, the new appendix:

- Replaces "check the box" compliance approaches with an outcome based approach to assess FFMIA compliance and establishes a series of financial management goals that are common to all Federal agencies;
- Removes unnecessary financial management system requirements that drive complexity and cost and focuses

on requirements that emphasize the Federal Government's business and information needs;

- Eliminates the lengthy and resource intense financial system software test and certification program as well as the requirement that financial management system requirements be met through a single technology product and emphasizes the deployment of newer, cost-effective technology through shared service approaches; and

- Solidifies the Department of the Treasury's role in achieving Government-wide financial systems policy goals by adding responsibilities (1) to develop and maintain, in coordination with OMB and Federal agencies, Federal financial management system requirements and (2) to publish the requirements in the *Treasury Financial Manual*.

The new appendix builds on recent policies, including OMB Memorandum M-10-26 of June 28, 2010, *Immediate Review of Financial Systems IT Projects* (http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/memoranda_2010/m-10-26.pdf), and Memorandum M-13-08 of March 25, 2013, *Improving Financial Systems through Shared Services* (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2013/m-13-08.pdf>).

The new appendix is effective October 1, 2013. The new appendix supersedes, and makes it unnecessary to maintain, Circular A-127. Accordingly, OMB is suspending application of Circular A-127.

Norman S. Dong,
Deputy Controller.

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BILLING CODE P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review; comment request.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) has submitted the following information collection requirement to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This is the second notice for public comment; the first was published in the **Federal Register** at 78 FR 40518, and no comments were received. NSF is forwarding the proposed submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance simultaneously

with the publication of this second notice. The full submission (including comments) may be found at: <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

DATES: Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling 703-292-7556.

NSF may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments: Comments regarding (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for National Science Foundation, 725-17th Street NW., Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, and to Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1265, Arlington, Virginia 22230 or send email to 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).

Title of Collection: Grantee Reporting Requirements for Partnerships for Research and Education in Materials (PREM).

OMB Number: 3145-NEW

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to establish an information collection.

Overview of This Information Collection

NSF has standing authority to support activities to improve the participation of women and minorities in science and engineering under the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (Pub. L. 96-516), and authority to collect data on those issues.

The Partnerships for Research and Education in Materials (PREM) aims to enhance diversity in materials research and education by stimulating the development of formal, long-term, collaborative research and education relationships between minority-serving colleges and universities and centers, institutes and facilities supported by the NSF Division of Materials Research (DMR). With this collaborative model PREMs build intellectual and physical infrastructure within and between disciplines, weaving together knowledge creation, knowledge integration, and knowledge transfer. PREMs conduct world-class research through partnerships of academic institutions, national laboratories, industrial organizations, and/or other public/private entities. New knowledge thus created is meaningfully linked to society, with an emphasis on enhancing diversity.

PREMs enable and foster excellent education, integrate research and education, and create bonds between learning and inquiry so that discovery and creativity more fully support the learning process. PREMs capitalize on diversity through participation and collaboration in center activities and demonstrate leadership in the involvement of groups underrepresented in science and engineering.

PREMs will be required to submit annual reports on progress and plans, which will be used as a basis for performance review and determining the level of continued funding. To support this review and the management of the award PREMs will be required to develop a set of management and performance indicators for submission annually to NSF via the Research Performance Project Reporting module in Research.gov and an external technical assistance contractor that collects programmatic data electronically. These indicators are both quantitative and descriptive and may include, for example, the characteristics of personnel and students; sources of financial support and in-kind support; expenditures by operational component; research activities; education activities; patents, licenses; publications; degrees

granted to students involved in PREM activities; descriptions of significant advances and other outcomes of the PREM effort.

Each PREM's annual report will address the following categories of activities: (1) Research, (2) education, (3) knowledge transfer, (4) partnerships, (5) diversity, (6) management, and (7) budget issues.

For each of the categories the report will describe overall objectives for the year, problems the PREM has encountered in making progress towards goals, anticipated problems in the following year, and specific outputs and outcomes.

PREMs are required to file a final report through the RPPR and external technical assistance contractor. Final reports contain similar information and metrics as annual reports, but are retrospective.

Use of the Information: NSF will use the information to continue funding of PREMs, and to evaluate the progress of the program.

Estimate of Burden: 44 hours per PREM for 15 PREMs for a total of 660 hours.

Respondents: Non-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Responses per Report: One from each of the fifteen PREMs.

Dated: September 23, 2013.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 2013-23538 Filed 9-26-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permit Applications Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish a notice of permit applications received to conduct activities regulated under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. NSF has published regulations under the Antarctic Conservation Act at Title 45 Part 670 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This is the required notice of permit applications received.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit written data, comments, or views with respect to this permit application by October 28, 2013. This application may be inspected by interested parties at the Permit Office, address below.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Permit Office, Room 755, Division of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Adrian Dahood, ACA Permit Officer, at the above address or ACApermits@nsf.gov or (703) 292-7149.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-541), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996, has developed regulations for the establishment of a permit system for various activities in Antarctica and designation of certain animals and certain geographic areas requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

Application Details

Permit Application: 2014-020

1. *Applicant* Scott Borg, National Science Foundation, Arlington Virginia.

Activity for Which Permit Is Requested

The National Science Foundation funds numerous science projects to be conducted in Antarctica. The Program Officers sometimes need to experience the area where the work is conducted, observe the scientists at work or inspect facilities to help inform funding decisions.

Visits to the ASPAs listed in this application will be limited as operational, scientific conditions and the availability of transportation permit. Visits will take place in conjunction with scientific activities or with maintenance activities undertaken by the contractor (ASC).

Program officers visiting an ASPA will be accompanied by an escort. The escort will be either a scientist or staff hired by the contractor (ASC) who is currently working in the ASPA. The escort will be very familiar with the area and the management plan and will ensure that the requirements contained in the ASPA management plans and the Antarctic Conservation Act are followed.

Location

ASPAs 124: Cape Crozier, Ross Island.