the production of charcoal existed in more than an isolated incident, in early 2013 ILAB staff conducted follow-up qualitative research to determine the current situation of child labor in the Namibian charcoal industry. The research included a desk review of documentation and in-country field research, which included key informant interviews and site visits.

The key informant interviews in Namibia consisted of interviews with a total of 30 informants, interviewed individually and in groups, including government officials at the national and regional levels, charcoal producers, former chairmen of the Namibian Charcoal Producers' Association, workers and employers' associations, international organizations, and NGOs. In total, 14 organizations were interviewed. Site visits were conducted to two charcoal producing farms in Otjozondjupa Region, one in Grootfontein and the other in Otjiwarango. The interviews and site visits conducted by ILAB staff in Namibia validated that there is ''no significant incidence of child labor or forced labor'' in the production of charcoal, and, after considering the factors in the Procedural Guidelines, ILAB determined that it no longer has ''reason to believe'' that the use of child labor in charcoal production in Namibia is more than isolated. Thus, ILAB is removing Namibian charcoal from the List.

C. Research on Child Labor in Diamond Production in Zimbabwe

In 2006, diamonds were discovered in the Marange region of southeastern Zimbabwe, precipitating a rush to the area by artisanal miners. Based on sources documenting worst forms of child labor in artisanal mining from 2006–2008—including working long hours, carrying heavy loads, and deprivation of food and water—ILAB added diamonds from Zimbabwe to the List.

However, beginning in October 2008, the Government of Zimbabwe cracked down on artisanal mining, and in 2010 began awarding concessions to private companies to mine diamonds. According to reports from 2011 onward, the little artisanal mining that remained was carried out mostly by informal mining syndicates involving the government's security forces and private security guards, and did not involve children.

Following up on these reports, ILAB carried out research in 2012 and 2013 to understand the current labor conditions in Zimbabwe's diamond sector, analyze the factors that may have affected changes in the sector, and determine whether child labor had been significantly reduced or eliminated. ILAB carried out a qualitative assessment that included a desk review, field research to Zimbabwe for key informant interviews, and follow-up interviews with other key informants. In all, 17 documents were analyzed and 24 interviews were conducted. Interviewees included government officials, workers' associations, international organizations, NGOs, and members of the Kimberley Process, a joint government, industry and civil society initiative to stem worldwide flows of rough diamonds used by rebel movements to finance wars against legitimate governments. Informants reported that artisanal mining was virtually non-existent in Marange. In the concessioned areas, Kimberley Process monitors who had visited the mines had seen no child labor, and other informants felt that child labor was extremely unlikely, in part due to the more formal hiring processes in place in the privately-run mines.

ILAB concluded that the change in the diamond industry from informal artisanal mining to tightly-controlled concessioned mines has caused a significant reduction in child labor. Accordingly, ILAB is now removing diamonds from Zimbabwe from the List. This determination was based solely on ILAB's criteria for removal from the List, which do not include consideration of other human rights abuses in Zimbabwe's diamond sector that have been reported by other U.S. Government agencies, such as murder, torture, and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 17th day of September, 2013.

Carol Pier,

Acting Deputy Undersecretary, Bureau of International Labor Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2013–23223 Filed 9–30–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510–28–P

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

NATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY COORDINATION OFFICE

Request for Information: NNI Nanotechnology for Sensors and Sensors for Nanotechnology Signature Initiative

ACTION: Notice of request for information.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to enhance the value of the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) and of the Nanotechnology Signature Initiative (NSI) entitled Nanotechnology for Sensors and Sensors for Nanotechnology in particular, by reaching out to the nanotechnology stakeholder community for input regarding specific needs for the accelerated development and commercialization of nanosensors. This RFI is intended to inform planning for a public workshop organized under the auspices of the sensors NSI.

DATES: Responses to this RFI will be accepted through 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 15, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Responses to this RFI may be submitted electronically in the body of or as an attachment to an email sent to *NNISensorsRFI@nnco.nano.gov.* Questions and responses may also be sent by mail (please allow additional time for processing) to the address: National Nanotechnology Coordination Office, ATTN: NNI Sensors RFI, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Stafford II, Suite 405, Arlington, VA 22230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any questions about the content of this RFI should be sent to *NNISensorsRFI@nnco.nano.gov.* Additional information regarding this RFI can be found at *nano.gov* or by calling (703) 292–8626.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Nanotechnology Coordination Office is interested in responses that address one or more of the following Questions below that are broadly categorized under Standards, Testing, Manufacturing, Commercialization, and Regulation. When submitting your response, please indicate the question(s) you are answering. Please be specific and concise.

Background Information

The National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) is a U.S. Government research and development (R&D) initiative of 20 Federal departments, independent agencies, and independent commissions (hereafter referred to as 'agencies') working together toward the common challenging vision of a future in which the ability to understand and control matter at the nanoscale leads to a revolution in technology and industry that benefits society. The combined, coordinated efforts of these agencies have accelerated discovery, development, and deployment of nanotechnology towards agency missions and the broader national interest. Established in 2001, the NNI involves nanotechnology-related activities by the 20 member agencies.

The NNI is managed within the framework of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), the Cabinet-level council by which the President coordinates science and technology across the Federal Government and interfaces with other sectors. The Nanoscale Science, Engineering, and Technology (NSET) Subcommittee of the NSTC coordinates planning, budgeting, program implementation, and review of the NNI. The NSET Subcommittee is composed of senior representatives from agencies participating in the NNI (*http://www.nano.gov*).

The Federal agencies participating in the NNI have identified focused areas of national importance that may be more rapidly advanced through enhanced coordination and collaboration of agency research and development efforts. These Nanotechnology Signature Initiatives (NSIs) provide a spotlight on critical areas and define the shared vision of the participating agencies for accelerating the advancement of nanoscale science and technology to address needs and exploit opportunities from research through commercialization.

The Nanotechnology Signature Initiative 'Nanotechnology for Sensors and Sensors for Nanotechnology: Improving and Protecting Health, Safety, and the Environment' was launched in July of 2012 and includes activities from the following collaborating agencies: Consumer Product Safety Commission; Department of Agriculture (National Institute of Food and Agriculture); Department of Commerce (National Institute of Standards and Technology); Department of Defense (Defense Threat Reduction Agency); Department of Health and Human Services (Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health, and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health); Environmental Protection Agency; National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and National Science Foundation.

The Sensors NSI addresses both the opportunity of using nanotechnology to advance sensor development and the challenges of developing sensors to keep pace with the increasingly widespread use of engineered nanomaterials. This signature initiative builds upon existing NNI member agency efforts to support research on nanomaterial properties and development of supporting technologies that enable next-generation sensing of biological, chemical, and nanoscale materials. This interagency effort coordinates and stimulates creation of the knowledge, tools, and methods necessary to develop and test nanosensors and to track the fate of engineered nanomaterials in the body, consumer products, the workplace, and the environment. The Sensors NSI will accomplish these objectives by means of two major thrusts to:

1. Develop and promote adoption of new technologies that employ nanoscale materials and features and the size-dependent properties of engineered nanomaterials to overcome technical barriers associated with conventional sensors, focusing on three goals:

1.1. Support research on nanomaterials and nanoscale device components to enable the next generation of sensors, including tunable, label-free, and enzymatic sensors

1.2. Support development of integrated and portable sensor devices, including information systems support for collection, analysis, and transfer of large amounts of sensor data

1.3. Accelerate commercialization and expand the application base of existing nanosensor technologies

2. Develop methods and devices to detect and identify engineered nanomaterials across their life-cycles in order to assess their potential impact on health, safety, and the environment, focusing on three goals:

2.1. Identify and quantify unique magnetic, optical, and electronic signatures of nanomaterials in specific matrices with minimal sample preparation

2.2. Identify ''surrogate'' indicators of nanomaterial presence

2.3. Design and develop ''tags'' for nanomaterials that will enable their detection and measurement if released into the environment

Questions

The National Nanotechnology Coordination Office seeks public comments in response to the following questions:

A. Standards

A1. What existing standards have helped to improve or illustrate sensor performance in meeting desired specifications?

A2. What existing standards have helped to improve the manufacturing of sensors (statistical process control)?

A3. What standards need to be developed (for performance or manufacturing) to meet industry/consumer expectations for emerging sensor technologies?

B. Testing

B1. How are you evaluating sensor performance?

B2. What facilities for standardized testing (e.g., testbeds) have you used to develop nanosensors?

B3. How did the testbed (formal or informal) help to improve sensor performance or manufacturability?

B4. What additional testing facilities would aid the sensor development community?

B5. What capabilities would be highest priority if new sensor testing facilities were to be developed?

B6. What sample types have you utilized to develop convincing demonstrations of sensor performance (e.g., real clinical samples, environmental samples/sites) and how were these samples obtained?

C. Manufacturing

C1. What are the largest technical challenges in scale up and manufacturing facing sensor development (e.g., integration, reliability)?

C2. What are the new tools for integration/engineering (e.g., Wi-Fi, programmable logic, signal processing software, etc.) that will have the greatest impact on sensor commercialization?

C3. What, if any, unique workforce issues might be expected for sensor manufacturing (e.g., cross-trained integrators/engineers, etc.)?

D. Commercialization

D1. What are the commercial applications where nanosensors will likely have the most immediate impact?

D2. What are the primary contributing factors to the existence of a ''valley of death'' for sensor development and commercialization (e.g., reliability, potential market size, investment capital, etc.)?

E. Regulation

E1. How can regulatory requirements be best shared with the sensors community?

Responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract or issue a grant. Information obtained as a result of this RFI may be used by the government for program planning on a non-attribution basis. Please do not include any information that might be considered proprietary, confidential, or personally identifying (such as home address or social security number).

Ted Wackler,

Deputy Chief of Staff and Assistant Director.

[FR Doc. 2013–23916 Filed 9–30–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720–F3–P