

*For Additional Information or Comments:* Contact Suzanne Plimpton, the NSF Reports Clearance Officer, phone (703) 292-7556, or send email to [splimpto@nsf.gov](mailto:splimpto@nsf.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Title of Collection:* Evaluation of National Science Foundation's Partnerships for International Research and Education Program.

*OMB Control Number:* 3145-NEW.

*Abstract.* This is a request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approve, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, a three year clearance for Abt Associates Inc. to conduct data collection efforts for an outcome evaluation of the National Science Foundation's Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) Program. The PIRE program offers researchers an opportunity to forge collaborative relationships with foreign scientists and engineers and provides educational and professional development opportunities for U.S.-based postdoctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students to acquire on-site research experience at an international laboratory, institution or research site, whether university-, industry- or government-based. The PIRE program funds projects across a broad array of scientific and engineering disciplines in an effort to catalyze long-term, sustainable international partnerships for collaborative research. Across its first four award cohorts in 2005, 2007, 2010 and 2012, PIRE has made a total of 59 awards. PIRE grant awards range from \$2.5 million to \$5 million and typically last five years. These projects range from relatively small, bi-national consortia (e.g., two U.S. and two non-U.S. institutions in one foreign country) to large, multi-national, multi-institutional awards (e.g., a dozen U.S. institutions and 11 non-U.S. institutions representing eight foreign nations). Many are multi-disciplinary, combining, for example, the expertise of econometricians with researchers in fluid dynamics; and, notably, many feature partnerships between academic and industrial or non-profit institutions. Collectively, these 59 PIRE projects have provided research and educational opportunities for more than 100 postdoctoral fellows, more than 625 graduate students and approximately 600 undergraduates. More than 600 U.S.-based and over 400 foreign-based faculty and researchers at university and non-academic institutions have participated in one or more PIRE-funded collaborations.

To assess the program's outcomes, NSF plans to collect data to explore the

number and quality of publications produced by PIRE projects and participants, the international experiences of participants, their educational and career outcomes, the extent to which program participants establish and maintain collaborations with foreign researchers, and what effect the PIRE program has on policies and practices at U.S. and foreign institutions. The primary methods of data collection will include analyses of NSF program records and bibliometric data, and web-based surveys of principal investigators, postdoctoral and student participants, foreign senior investigators, and administrative officials at U.S. institutions.

*Expected Respondents.* Include PIRE principal and co-principal investigators; postdoctoral, graduate student and undergraduate PIRE participants; foreign senior investigators (individuals with whom PIRE principal investigators have formed partnerships); administrative officials within international affairs and/or study abroad offices at U.S. institutions of the lead PIRE principal investigators; and principal or co-principal investigators, postdoctoral and graduate student participants in NSF-funded projects other than PIRE, selected for similarity to PIRE based on award year, amount, and duration, research fields, and degree of emphasis on international collaboration.

*Use of the Information.* The purpose of these studies is to provide NSF with outcome data on the PIRE program. These data will be used for internal program management and for reporting to stakeholders within and outside of NSF.

*Burden on the Public.* NSF estimates 3,102 survey responses collected one time at an average of 26 minutes per response for a total of 1,417 hours.

#### **Consult With Other Agencies and the Public**

NSF has not consulted with other agencies. However, the contractor conducting the evaluation has gathered information from an external working group of subject matter experts on the study design and data collection plan.

Dated: July 9, 2014.

**Suzanne Plimpton,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.*

[FR Doc. 2014-16399 Filed 7-11-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555-01-P**

## **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[Docket No. NRC-2014-0135]

### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of pending NRC action to submit an information collection request to the Office of Management of Budget (OMB) and solicitation of public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) invites public comment about our intention to request the OMB's approval for renewal of an existing information collection that is summarized below. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Information pertaining to the requirement to be submitted:

1. *The title of the information collection:* 48 CFR 20, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Acquisition Regulation (NRCAR).
2. *Current OMB approval number:* 3150-0169.
3. *How often the collection is required:* On occasion; one time.
4. *Who is required or asked to report:* NRC contractors and potential contractors.
5. *The number of annual respondents:* 2,473 respondents.
6. *The number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request:* 20,095 (18,750 reporting plus 1,345 recordkeeping).

7. *Abstract:* The mandatory requirements of the NRCAR implement and supplement the Government-wide Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), and ensure that the regulations governing the procurement of goods and services within the NRC satisfy the particular needs of the agency. Because of differing statutory authorities among Federal agencies, the FAR authorizes agencies to issue regulations to implement FAR policies and procedures internally to satisfy the specific need of the agency.

Submit, by September 12, 2014, comments that address the following questions:

1. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the NRC to properly perform its functions? Does the information have practical utility?
2. Is the burden estimate accurate?
3. Is there a way to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?

4. How can the burden of the information collection be minimized, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

The public may examine and have copied for a fee, publicly-available documents, including the draft supporting statement, at the NRC's Public Document Room, Room O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The OMB clearance requests are available at the NRC's Web site: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment/omb/>. The document will be available on the NRC's home page site for 60 days after the signature date of this notice.

Comments submitted in writing or in electronic form will be made available for public inspection. Because your comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information, the NRC cautions you against including any information in your submission that you do not want to be publicly disclosed. Comments submitted should reference Docket No. NRC-2014-0135. You may submit your comments by any of the following methods: Electronic comments go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket No. RC-2014-0135. Mail comments to Acting NRC Clearance Officer, Kristen Benney (T-5 F50), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the Acting NRC Clearance Officer, Kristen Benney, (T5 F50), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 2055-0001; telephone: 301-415-6355, or by email to [INFOCOLLECTS.Resource@NRC.GOV](mailto:INFOCOLLECTS.Resource@NRC.GOV).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of July, 2014.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Kristen Benney,**

*Acting NRC Clearance Officer, Office of Information Services.*

[FR Doc. 2014-16357 Filed 7-11-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

## **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[NRC-2014-0166]

### **Design Response Spectra for Seismic Design of Nuclear Power Plants**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Regulatory guide; issuance.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing Revision 2

to Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.60, "Design Response Spectra for Seismic Design of Nuclear Power Plants." The NRC is issuing this revision without a public-comment period because there are only minor modifications with no substantive changes in the staff regulatory positions. This guide describes an approach that the NRC staff considers acceptable for defining response spectra for the seismic design of nuclear power plants.

**ADDRESSES:** Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2014-0166 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this action by the following methods:

- Federal Rulemaking Web site: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2014-0166. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301-287-3422; email: [Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov](mailto:Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov). For technical questions, contact the individual(s) listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS): You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the NRC Library at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "ADAMS Public Documents" and then select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by email to [pdr.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov). Revision 2 of RG 1.60 is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML13210A432.

- NRC's PDR: You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC's PDR, O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Regulatory guides are not copyrighted, and NRC approval is not required to reproduce them.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Sarah Tabatabai, Office of New Reactors, telephone: 301-415-1381, email: [Sarah.Tabatabai@nrc.gov](mailto:Sarah.Tabatabai@nrc.gov); or Edward O'Donnell, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, telephone: 301-251-7455, email: [Edward.ODonnell@nrc.gov](mailto:Edward.ODonnell@nrc.gov). Both are staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Introduction**

The NRC is issuing a revision to an existing guide in the NRC's "Regulatory Guide" series. Regulatory guides were

developed to describe and make available to the public information methods that are acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the agency's regulations, techniques that the staff uses in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and data that the staff needs in its review of applications for permits and licenses. The NRC typically seeks public comment on a draft version of a regulatory guide by announcing its availability for comment in the **Federal Register**. However, as explained in section III F of the Handbook for NRC Management Directive 6.6, "Regulatory Guides," (ADAMS Accession No. ML110330475) the NRC may directly issue a final regulatory guide without a draft version or public comment period if the changes to the regulatory guide are non-substantive.

The NRC is issuing Revision 2 of RG 1.60 directly as a final regulatory guide because the changes between Revision 1 and Revision 2 are non-substantive. The main reason for this revision was to update the reference materials, along with adding the ADAMS accession numbers, for the key technical basis documents in the reference section to facilitate public access to those documents.

##### **II. Backfitting and Issue Finality**

Issuance of this final regulatory guide does not constitute backfitting as defined in 10 CFR 50.109 (the Backfit Rule) and is not otherwise inconsistent with the issue finality provisions in 10 CFR part 52. The changes in Revision 2 of RG 1.60 are limited to editorial changes to improve clarity, to update references, and to facilitate public access to key technical basis documents. These changes do not fall within the kinds of agency actions that constitute backfitting or are subject to limitations in the issue finality provisions of part 52. Accordingly, the NRC did not address the Backfit Rule or issue finality provisions of part 52.

##### **III. Congressional Review Act**

This action is not a rule as defined in the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801-808).

##### **IV. Submitting Suggestions for Improvement of Regulatory Guides**

Revision 2 of RG 1.60 is being issued without public comment. However, you may at any time submit suggestions to the NRC for improvement of existing regulatory guides or for the development of new regulatory guides to address new issues. Suggestions can be submitted by the form available online at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading->