

National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), will hold a public webinar on Thursday, July 31, 2014. The purpose of this webinar is to provide a forum to answer questions related to the Federal Government's "Progress Review on the Coordinated Implementation of the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) 2011 Environmental, Health, and Safety Research Strategy." Discussion during the webinar will focus on the research activities undertaken by NNI agencies to advance the current state of the science as highlighted in the progress review. Representative research activities as provided in the Progress Review will be discussed in the context of the 2011 NNI EHS Research Strategy's six core research areas: Nanomaterial Measurement Infrastructure, Human Exposure Assessment, Human Health, the Environment, Risk Assessment and Risk Management Methods, and Informatics and Modeling.

DATES: The public webinar will be held on Thursday, July 31, 2014, from 12:00 p.m. to 13:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: For information about the webinar, please visit www.nano.gov.

Submitting Questions: Questions on the progress review document may be submitted to webinar@nnco.nano.gov beginning at noon (EDT) Thursday, July 24, 2014, through the close of the webinar at 13:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 31, 2014.

The Webinar: During the question-and-answer segment of the webinar, submitted questions will be considered in the order received. A moderator will identify relevant questions and pose them to the panel of NNI agency representatives. Due to time constraints, not all questions may be addressed. The moderator reserves the right to group similar questions and to skip questions, as appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Tarek Fadel, 703-292-7926, tfadel@nnco.nano.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A public copy of the "Progress Review on the Coordinated Implementation of the National Nanotechnology Initiative 2011 Environmental, Health, and Safety Research Strategy" can be accessed at www.nano.gov/2014EHSPROGRESSREVIEW. The 2011 NNI EHS Research Strategy can be accessed at www.nano.gov/node/681.

Ted Wackler,

Deputy Chief of Staff and Assistant Director.

[FR Doc. 2014-17189 Filed 7-21-14; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Critical and Strategic Materials Supply Chains

ACTION: Notice of Request for Information.

SUMMARY: The U.S. economy's requirements for raw materials have and will change over time, especially with the introduction of new products and processing technologies. Furthermore, as the global economy grows, there are increasing concerns regarding the availability and access to the raw materials that will be necessary to sustain U.S. economic growth and advance other national policies. As the criticality of materials shifts over time, studying the early warning signs and the underlying forces of potential material supply disruption can inform proactive policy development for emerging critical materials. One of the roles of the Critical and Strategic Minerals Supply Chain Subcommittee (CSMSC Subcommittee) of the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability is to develop a methodology for identifying critical materials and monitoring changes in criticality on an ongoing basis, providing "early warning" to policymakers and other stakeholders. The views of U.S. industry and other stakeholders are important to inform both an understanding of current conditions and the characterization of anticipated future demand for critical materials.

DATES: Responses must be received by August 31, 2014, to be considered.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* criticalmaterials@ostp.gov. Include [Critical and Strategic Materials Supply Chains] in the subject line of the message.
- *Fax:* (202) 456-6071, Attn: Cyrus Wadia.
- *Mail:* Attn: Cyrus Wadia, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, 1650 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20504.

Instructions: Electronic responses must be provided as attachments to an email. It is recommended that attachments with file sizes exceeding 25MB be compressed (i.e., zipped) to ensure message delivery. Please identify your answers by responding to a specific question or topic if possible. Respondents may answer as many or as few questions as they wish. Any information obtained as a result of this

RFI is intended to be used by the Government on a non-attribution basis for planning and strategy development. OSTP will review the responses in its formulation of program strategies for the identified materials of interest that are the subject of this request.

OSTP will not respond to individual submissions or publish publicly a compendium of responses, except as required by applicable law. A response to this RFI will not be viewed as a binding commitment to develop or pursue the project or ideas discussed. OSTP will not pay for information provided under this RFI. This RFI is not accepting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives. OSTP has no obligation to respond to those who submit comments, and/or give any feedback on any decision made based on the responses received.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cyrus Wadia, (202) 456-4444, criticalmaterials@ostp.gov. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

PURPOSE: The purpose of this RFI is to solicit feedback from industry, academia, research laboratories, government agencies, and other stakeholders on issues related to demand, supply and supply chain structure, R&D, and technology transitions related to raw materials (including, but not limited to, minerals and gases) used in the U.S. economy. The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), which co-chairs the NSTC's Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability, is specifically interested in information on raw materials of interest to the public. Input on the current and future production of and demand for relevant materials, concerns related to raw material availability, and overall market dynamics are topics of additional relevance, as are the role of emerging technologies, trends in nationally important sectors and global shifts in product markets.

Request for Information Categories

Category 1: Demand

- What materials will be particularly important, and of concern (due to availability, price, etc.) to your technologies and/or your industry over the next 5 years?

- What is the growth in demand forecast for your technologies? What factors drive this assessment?

- At what point(s) in technology or product development or manufacturing do you select raw materials? How do you consider price? How do you

consider performance characteristics? How do you consider availability?

- What investments, if any, are you making to identify raw material input alternatives?
- Are there any emerging disruptive technologies or technology transitions (e.g., new applications or substitutes) that would dramatically change demand in the near term (5 years) or long term (15 years)?

Category 2: Exploration, Mining, and Smelting/Refining

- What barriers exist to exploration for additional resources of raw materials in the United States and globally?
- Once discovered, what barriers exist to the timely development of raw materials in the United States and globally?
- Is current North American separation, smelting, and/or refining capacity adequate to ensure reliable material supplies?
- What innovations in separation, smelting/refining technology or processes might affect U.S. or global resource supplies? What are the environmental impacts of these innovations?
- Are the mining, separation, smelting, and/or refining sites of the minerals required for your technologies adequately diversified to account for potential market failures or political risks?
- How do market size, market price, capital availability and other economic factors affect production decisions?

Category 3: Supply and Supply Chain

- What are the supply chains for the technologies identified as being important to your manufacturing processes and industry? How would you describe the significant stages of the supply chain?
- Are there vulnerabilities in the supply chain (domestic, foreign, sole source, import reliance, etc.) that lead to concerns regarding the supply of any of these materials and/or the ability to manufacture these technologies?
- How do you assess supply chain vulnerabilities and their impact?

Category 4: Market Dynamics

- How would you describe the market dynamics of your supply chains, including the overall supply of materials of interest?
- Are there any market distortions in the supply chain, such as opacity, lack of information, or trade-related distortions?
- Is there price volatility? If so, what factors drive this volatility?

Category 5: Mitigation

- What are some strategies you employ to mitigate supply chain concerns? (e.g., stockpiles, hedging, etc.)
- How do you cope with price volatility?
- Do you consider using technologies available with slightly reduced performance to avoid price and availability concerns?

Category 6: Other

- Is there additional information, not requested above, that you believe the CSMSC Subcommittee should consider in identifying emerging critical materials? If so, please provide here.

Ted Wackler,

Deputy Chief of Staff and Assistant Director.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[SEC File No. 270-003, OMB Control No. 3235-0009]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of FOIA Services, 100 F Street NE., Washington, DC 20549-2736.

Extension: Regulation S-X

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Information collected and information prepared pursuant to Regulation S-X focus on the form and content of, and requirements for, financial statements filed with periodic reports and in connection with the offer and sale of securities. Investors need reasonably current financial statements to make informed investment and voting decisions.

The potential respondents include all entities that file registration statements or reports pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a, *et seq.*), the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a, *et seq.*) or the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1, *et seq.*).

Regulation S-X specifies the form and content of financial statements when those financial statements are required

to be filed by other rules and forms under the federal securities laws. Compliance burdens associated with the financial statements are assigned to the rule or form that directly requires the financial statements to be filed, not to Regulation S-X. Instead, an estimated burden of one hour traditionally has been assigned to Regulation S-X for incidental reading of the regulation. The estimated average burden hours are solely for purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act and are not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of SEC rules or forms.

Recordkeeping retention periods are based on the disclosure required by various forms and rules other than Regulation S-X. In general, balance sheets for the preceding two fiscal years, income and cash flow statements for the preceding three fiscal years, and condensed quarterly financial statements must be filed with the Commission. Five year summary financial information is required to be disclosed by some larger registrants.

Filing financial statements, when required by the governing rule or form, is mandatory. Because these statements are provided for the purpose of disseminating information to the securities markets, they are not kept confidential.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

The public may view the information discussed in this notice at www.reginfo.gov. Comments should be directed to: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, or by sending an email to: Shagufta_Ahmed@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) Thomas Bayer, Director/Chief Information Officer, Securities and Exchange Commission, c/o Remi Pavlik-Simon, 100 F St. NE., Washington DC 20549 or send an email to: PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: July 16, 2014.

Kevin M. O’Neill,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2014-17185 Filed 7-21-14; 8:45 am]

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