

(OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Assistant Chief of Staff, Administration publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, *e.g.* new, revision extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

Currently, the National Mediation Board is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the Application for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Services and is interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the agency; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the agency enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the agency minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: October 25, 2016.

**Samantha Jones,**

*Assistant Chief of Staff, Administration,  
National Mediation Board.*

#### **A. Application for ADR Services**

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Title:* Application for ADR Services.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Affected Public:* Union Officials and Officials of Railroads and Airlines.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden: Responses:* Estimate about 45 annually.

*Burden Hours:* 9.

*Abstract:* The Railway Labor Act, 45 U.S.C., 151a. General Purposes, provides that the purposes of the Act are (1) to avoid any interruption to commerce or to the operation of any carrier engaged therein. \* \* \* (4) to provide for the prompt and orderly settlement of all disputes concerning

rates of pay, rules, or working conditions, and (5) to provide for the prompt and orderly settlement of all disputes growing out of grievances or out of the interpretation or application of agreements concerning rates of pay, rules, or working conditions. In fulfilling its role to administer the Act, the National Mediation Board offers the parties to disputes mediation and arbitration services. On a voluntary basis, training programs in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and facilitation services are also available. These ADR programs are designed to enhance the bargaining and grievance handling skill level of the disputants and to assist the parties in the resolution of disputes. The impact of these ADR programs is that mediation and arbitration can be avoided entirely or the scope and number of issues brought to mediation or arbitration is significantly reduced. This collection is necessary to confirm the voluntary participation of the parties in the ADR process. The information provided by the parties is used by the NMB to schedule the parties for ADR training and facilitation. Based on a recent survey of those who participated in the NMB's ADR Programs, 94.6% said they were satisfied with the ADR Programs and said they recommend the program for all negotiators. Collecting the brief information on the Application for ADR Services form allows the parties to voluntarily engage the services of the NMB in the orderly settlement of all disputes and fulfill the purposes of the Act.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from [www.nmb.gov](http://www.nmb.gov) or should be addressed to Denise Murdock, NMB, 1301 K Street NW., Suite 250 E, Washington, DC 20005 or addressed to the email address [murdock@nmb.gov](mailto:murdock@nmb.gov) or faxed to 202-692-5081. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Samantha Jones at 202-692-5010 or via Internet address [jones@nmb.gov](mailto:jones@nmb.gov). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD/TDY) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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#### **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

##### **Notice of Availability and Notice of Public Meetings for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Arecibo Observatory, Arecibo, Puerto Rico**

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability and Notice of Public Meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) has made available for public review and comment the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Arecibo Observatory. This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been prepared for the National Science Foundation (NSF) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of proposed operational changes due to funding constraints for the Arecibo Observatory in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. The DEIS was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is being conducted concurrent to the NEPA process.

**DATES:** NSF will accept comments on the DEIS for 45 days following publication of this Notice of Availability. Comments may be submitted verbally during public meetings scheduled for November 16–17 (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for more details) or in writing. Substantive comments will be addressed in a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- *Email to:* [envcomp-AST@nsf.gov](mailto:envcomp-AST@nsf.gov) with subject line "Arecibo Observatory"
- *Mail to:* Ms. Elizabeth Pentecost, RE: Arecibo Observatory, National Science Foundation, Suite 1045, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230.

*EIS Information:* The DEIS, as well as information about the public meetings, is posted at [www.nsf.gov/AST](http://www.nsf.gov/AST). A Spanish translation of the Executive Summary of the DEIS will be posted to the Web site.

A copy of the DEIS will be available for review at the following libraries in Puerto Rico:

Biblioteca Electrónica Pública  
Municipal Nicolás Nadal Barreto, 210  
Calle Santiago Iglesias, Arecibo, PR,  
Phone: (787) 878-1178  
Archivo General y Biblioteca Nacional  
de PR, 500 Avenida Juan Ponce De  
León, San Juan, PR, Phone: (787) 725-  
1060 ext. 2001

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information regarding the EIS

process or Section 106 consultation, please contact: Ms. Elizabeth Pentecost, National Science Foundation, Division of Astronomical Sciences, Suite 1045, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230; telephone: (703) 292-4907; email: [epenteco@nsf.gov](mailto:epenteco@nsf.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Arecibo Observatory is an NSF-owned scientific research and education facility located in Puerto Rico. In 2011, NSF awarded a Cooperative Agreement to SRI International (SRI), which together with Universities Space Research Association (USRA) and Universidad Metropolitana (UMET) formed the Arecibo Management Team to operate and maintain the Arecibo Observatory for the benefit of research communities. The initial 5-year period of performance of the Cooperative Agreement has recently been extended 18 months, to 31 March 2018. Arecibo Observatory enables research in three scientific disciplines: Space and atmospheric sciences, radio astronomy, and solar system radar studies; the last of these is largely funded through a research award to USRA from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. An education and public outreach program complements the Arecibo Observatory scientific program. A key component of the Arecibo Observatory research facility is a 305-meter diameter, fixed, spherical reflector. Arecibo Observatory infrastructure includes instrumentation for radio and radar astronomy, ionospheric physics, office and laboratory buildings, a heavily utilized visitor and education facility, and lodging facilities for visiting scientists.

Through a series of academic community-based reviews, NSF has identified the need to divest of several facilities from its portfolio in order to retain the balance of capabilities needed to deliver the best performance on the key science of the present decade and beyond. In 2012, NSF's Division of Astronomical Sciences' (AST's) portfolio review committee recommended that "continued AST involvement in Arecibo . . . be re-evaluated later in the decade in light of the science opportunities and budget forecasts at that time. In 2016, NSF's Division of Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences' (AGS') portfolio review committee recommended significantly decreasing funding for the Space and Atmospheric Sciences portion of the Arecibo mission. In response to these evolving recommendations, in 2016, NSF completed a feasibility study to inform and define options for the observatory's future disposition that would involve significantly decreasing

or eliminating NSF funding of Arecibo. Concurrently, NSF sought viable concepts of operations from the scientific community via a Dear Colleague Letter NSF 16-005 (see [www.nsf.gov/AST](http://www.nsf.gov/AST)), with responses due in January 2016. NSF issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS on May 23, 2016, held scoping meetings on June 7, 2016 and held a 30-day public comment period that closed on June 23, 2016. In October 2016, NSF issued Dear Colleague Letter NSF 16-144 (see [www.nsf.gov/AST](http://www.nsf.gov/AST)) to notify the Observatory stakeholder community that NSF intends to issue a follow-up solicitation, requesting the submission of formal proposals involving the continued operation of Arecibo Observatory. The intent of this solicitation will be to input additional information into the decision process for the ultimate disposition of Arecibo Observatory.

Proposed Alternatives to be analyzed in the DEIS include:

- Continued NSF investment for science-focused operations (No-Action Alternative).
- Collaboration with interested parties for continued science-focused operations (Agency Preferred Alternative).
- Collaboration with interested parties for transition to education-focused operations.
- Mothballing of facilities (suspension of operations in a manner such that operations could resume efficiently at some future date).
- Partial deconstruction and site restoration.
- Full deconstruction and site restoration.

No final decisions will be made regarding the proposed changes to operations at Arecibo Observatory prior to issuance of a Final Environmental Impact Statement and, subsequently, a Record of Decision for the Proposed Action.

*Public Meetings:* Public meetings to address the DEIS will take place in Puerto Rico with notification of the times and locations published in the local newspapers, as follows:

(1) Colegio de Ingenieros y Agrimensores de Puerto Rico/Puerto Rico Professional College of Engineers and Land Surveyors (Arecibo Chapter), Ave. Manuel T. Guillan Urdaz, Conector 129 Carr. 10, Arecibo, Puerto Rico, Phone: (787) 758-2250, November 16, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

(2) Doubletree by Hilton Hotel San Juan, 105 Avenida De Diego, San Juan, PR, Phone: (787) 721-6500, November 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The meetings will be transcribed by a court reporter. Spanish language translation will be provided. Please contact NSF at least one week in advance of the meeting if you would like to request special accommodations (*i.e.*, sign language interpretation, etc.).

A separate consultation meeting, pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA, will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel San Juan, 105 Avenida De Diego, San Juan, PR on November 17, 2016, beginning one hour after the public meeting on the DEIS. All persons and entities that are consulting parties or are interested in becoming consulting parties are invited to attend. Spanish language translation will also be provided for this meeting.

Dated: October 24, 2016.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2016-0001]

### Sunshine Act Meeting Notice

*Date:* October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2016.

*Place:* Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

*Status:* Public and Closed.

#### Week of October 31, 2016

*Friday, November 4, 2016*

10:00 a.m. Briefing on Security Issues (Closed Ex. 1)

#### Week of November 7, 2016—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of November 7, 2016.

#### Week of November 14, 2016—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of November 14, 2016.

#### Week of November 21, 2016—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of November 21, 2016.

#### Week of November 28, 2016—Tentative

*Tuesday, November 29, 2016*

9:00 a.m. Briefing on Uranium Recovery (Public Meeting) (Contact: Samantha Crane: 301-415-6380)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov/>.