

website: <https://www.nsf.gov/mps/ast/aaac.jsp>.

*Type of Meeting:* Open.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Christopher Davis, Program Director, Division of Astronomical Sciences, Suite W 9136, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314; Telephone: 703-292-4910.

*Purpose of Meeting:* To provide advice and recommendations to the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on issues within the field of astronomy and astrophysics that are of mutual interest and concern to the agencies.

*Agenda:* To hear presentations of current programming by representatives from NSF, NASA, DOE and other agencies relevant to astronomy and astrophysics; to discuss current and potential areas of cooperation between the agencies; to formulate recommendations for continued and new areas of cooperation and mechanisms for achieving them.

Dated: March 2, 2020.

**Crystal Robinson,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2020-04502 Filed 3-4-20; 8:45 am]

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Committee Management Renewals

The NSF management officials having responsibility for three advisory committees listed below have determined that renewing these groups for another two years is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed upon the Director, National Science Foundation (NSF), by 42 U.S.C. 1861 *et seq.* This determination follows consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat, General Services Administration.

*Committees:*

Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education, #9487

Proposal Review Panel for Industrial Innovations and Partnerships, #28164

Proposal Review Panel for Emerging Frontiers and Multidisciplinary Activities #34558

Applicable date for renewal is March 2, 2020. For more information, please contact Crystal Robinson, NSF, at (703) 292-8687.

Dated: March 2, 2020.

**Crystal Robinson,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Seeks Qualified Candidates for the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Request for resumes.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) seeks qualified candidates for the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS). Submit resumes to Ms. Makeeka Compton and Ms. Jamila Perry, ACRS, Mail Stop: T2B50, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or email: [Makeeka.Compton@nrc.gov](mailto:Makeeka.Compton@nrc.gov) or [Jamila.Perry@nrc.gov](mailto:Jamila.Perry@nrc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The ACRS is a part-time advisory group, which is statutorily mandated by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. The ACRS provides independent expert advice on matters related to the safety of existing and proposed nuclear reactor facilities and on the adequacy of proposed reactor safety standards. Of primary importance are the safety issues associated with the operation of commercial nuclear power plants in the United States and regulatory initiatives, including risk-informed and performance-based regulation, license renewal, power uprates, and the use of mixed oxide and high burnup fuels. An increased emphasis is being given to safety issues associated with new reactor designs and technologies, including passive system reliability and thermal hydraulic phenomena, use of digital instrumentation and control, international codes and standards used in multinational design certifications, materials, and structural engineering, nuclear analysis and reactor core performance, and nuclear materials and radiation protection.

In addition, the ACRS may be requested to provide advice on radiation protection, radioactive waste management, and earth sciences in the agency's licensing reviews for fuel fabrication and enrichment facilities, and for waste disposal facilities. The ACRS also has some involvement in security matters related to the integration of safety and security of commercial reactors. See the NRC website at <https://www.nrc.gov/about->

[nrc/regulatory/advisory/acrs.html](https://www.nrc.gov/regulatory/advisory/acrs.html) for additional information about the ACRS.

Criteria used to evaluate candidates include education and experience, demonstrated skills in nuclear reactor safety matters, the ability to solve complex technical problems, and the ability to work collegially on a board, panel, or committee. The Commission, in selecting its Committee members, also considers the need for specific expertise to accomplish the work expected to be before the ACRS. ACRS Committee members are appointed for four-year terms with no term limits. The Commission looks to fill two vacancies as a result of this request. Candidates for these positions must have extensive experience in (1) nuclear power plant operations or (2) risk analysis and the consideration of uncertainty in decision making. It would be useful if candidates with risk and uncertainty expertise also have experience in nuclear power plant systems design and operations, including emergency procedures. The candidates must also have at least 20 years of broad experience and a distinguished record of achievement in one or more areas of nuclear science and technology or related engineering disciplines. Candidates with pertinent graduate level experience will be given additional consideration.

Consistent with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Commission seeks candidates with diverse backgrounds, so that the membership on the Committee is fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented and functions to be performed by the Committee. Candidates will undergo a thorough security background check to obtain the security clearance that is mandatory for all ACRS members. The security background check will involve the completion and submission of paperwork to the NRC. Candidates for ACRS appointments may be involved in or have financial interests related to NRC-regulated aspects of the nuclear industry.

However, because conflict-of-interest considerations may restrict the participation of a candidate in ACRS activities, the degree and nature of any such restriction on an individual's activities as a member will be considered in the selection process. Each qualified candidate's financial interests must be reconciled with applicable Federal and NRC rules and regulations prior to final appointment. This might require divestiture of securities or discontinuance of certain contracts or grants. Information regarding these restrictions will be provided upon request. As a part of the

Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012, which bans insider trading by members of Congress, their staff, and other high-level Federal employees, candidates for appointments will be required to disclose additional financial transactions.

A resume describing the educational and professional background of the candidate, including any special accomplishments, publications, and professional references should be provided. Candidates should provide their current address, telephone number, and email address. All candidates will receive careful consideration. Appointment will be made without regard to factors such as race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disabilities. Candidates must be citizens of the United States and be able to devote approximately 100 days per year to Committee business, but may not be compensated for more than 130 calendar days. Resumes will be accepted until April 6, 2020.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of February, 2020.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
**Annette L. Vietti-Cook,**  
*Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 2020-04480 Filed 3-4-20; 8:45 am]

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## OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

### January 2020 Pay Schedules

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The President adjusted the rates of basic pay and locality payments for certain Federal civilian employees effective in January 2020. The Executive order authorizes a 2.6 percent across-the-board increase for statutory pay systems and locality pay increases costing approximately 0.5 percent of basic payroll, reflecting an overall average pay increase of 3.1 percent. This notice serves as documentation for the public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kimberly Woods, Pay and Leave, Employee Services, Office of Personnel Management; (202) 606-2858 or *pay-leave-policy@opm.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On December 26, 2019, the President signed Executive Order (E.O.) 13901 (84 FR 72213), which implemented a pay adjustment required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Pub. L. 116-93, December 20, 2019).

E.O. 13901 provides an overall average pay increase of 3.1 percent for the statutory pay systems. The pay rates in E.O. 13866 have been superseded.

The publication of this notice satisfies the requirement in Section 5(b) of E.O. 13901 that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) publish appropriate notice of the 2020 locality payments in the **Federal Register**.

Schedule 1 of E.O. 13901 provides the rates for the 2020 General Schedule (GS) and reflects a 2.6 percent increase from 2019. Executive Order 13901 also includes the percentage amounts of the 2020 locality payments. (See Section 5 and Schedule 9 of Executive Order 13901.)

General Schedule employees receive locality payments under 5 U.S.C. 5304. Locality payments apply in the United States (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 5921(4)) and its territories and possessions. In 2020, locality payments ranging from 15.95 percent to 41.44 percent apply to GS employees in the 53 locality pay areas. The 2020 locality pay area definitions can be found at: <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/2020/locality-pay-area-definitions/>.

The 2020 locality pay percentages became effective the first day of the first pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2020 (January 5, 2020). An employee's locality rate of pay is computed by increasing his or her scheduled annual rate of pay (as defined in 5 CFR 531.602) by the applicable locality pay percentage. (See 5 CFR 531.604 and 531.609.)

Executive Order 13901 establishes the new Executive Schedule (EX), which incorporates a 2.6 percent increase required under 5 U.S.C. 5318 (rounded to the nearest \$100). By law, Executive Schedule officials are not authorized to receive locality payments.

Executive Order 13901 establishes the 2020 range of rates of basic pay for members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) under 5 U.S.C. 5382. The minimum rate of basic pay for the SES is \$131,239 in 2020. The maximum rate of the SES rate range is \$197,300 (level II of the Executive Schedule) for SES members who are covered by a certified SES performance appraisal system and \$181,500 (level III of the Executive Schedule) for SES members who are not covered by a certified SES performance appraisal system.

The minimum rate of basic pay for the senior-level (SL) and scientific and professional (ST) rate range was increased by 2.6 percent (\$131,239 in 2020), which is the amount of the across-the-board GS increase. The applicable maximum rate of the SL/ST

rate range is \$197,300 (level II of the Executive Schedule) for SL or ST employees who are covered by a certified SL/ST performance appraisal system and \$181,500 (level III of the Executive Schedule) for SL or ST employees who are not covered by a certified SL/ST performance appraisal system. Agencies with certified performance appraisal systems for SES members and employees in SL and ST positions must also apply a higher aggregate limitation on pay—up to the Vice President's salary (\$253,300 in 2020.)

Note that Section 749 of division C of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, continues a pay freeze for certain senior political officials. The section 749 pay freeze extends through the last day of the last pay period that begins in calendar year 2020 (*i.e.*, January 2, 2021, for those on the standard biweekly payroll cycle). Future Congressional action will determine whether the pay freeze continues beyond that date. OPM guidance on the 2020 pay freeze for certain senior political officials can be found in CPM 2019-28 at <https://www.chcoc.gov/content/continued-pay-freeze-certain-senior-political-officials-3>.

Executive Order 13901 provides that the rates of basic pay for administrative law judges (ALJs) under 5 U.S.C. 5372 are increased by 2.6 percent (rounded to the nearest \$100) in 2020. The rate of basic pay for AL-1 is \$170,800 (equivalent to the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule). The rate of basic pay for AL-2 is \$166,500. The rates of basic pay for AL-3/A through 3/F range from \$114,000 to \$157,800.

The rates of basic pay for members of Contract Appeals Boards are calculated as a percentage of the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule. (See 5 U.S.C. 5372a.) Therefore, these rates of basic pay are increased by 2.6 percent in 2020.

On November 19, 2019, OPM issued a memorandum on behalf of the President's Pay Agent (the Secretary of Labor and the Directors of the Office of Management and Budget and OPM) that continues GS locality payments for ALJs and certain other non-GS employee categories in 2020. By law, EX officials, SES members, employees in SL/ST positions, and employees in certain other equivalent pay systems are not authorized to receive locality payments. (*Note:* An exception applies to certain grandfathered SES, SL, and ST employees stationed in a nonforeign area on January 2, 2010. See CPM 2009-27 at <https://www.chcoc.gov/content/nonforeign-area-retirement-equity-assurance-act>.) The memo is available at