

## About the 2022–2026 Arctic Research Plan

IARPC is required by law to prepare and execute a 5-year Arctic Research Plan, which helps coordinate the overall federal Arctic research effort. To address the interests and needs of all, IARPC works collaboratively with representatives from local communities, Indigenous Peoples, the state of Alaska, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and the academic community.

In September 2019, the IARPC Principals approved the development of the next Arctic Research Plan, covering the period of 2022–2026, with a planned release at the end of 2021. On April 3, 2020, IARPC published a notice in the **Federal Register** to request public input on the content and organization of the 2022–2026 Plan (86 FR 19031). In September 2020, IARPC convened a workshop to develop the potential priority areas for the 2022–2026 Arctic Research Plan for consideration by the IARPC Principals. The draft plan reflects input received from these processes.

Arctic Research Plans focus on research that will be enhanced through collaboration among federal agencies and collaborators, align with federal agencies missions and with the goals and objectives set out by the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. The Arctic Research Plan 2022–2026 will provide a blueprint for effective federal coordination, thus positioning the U.S. to remain a global leader in Arctic research and stewardship for years to come.

### Overview of the Draft Plan

As with the Arctic Research Plan 2017–2021, this new plan adheres to four critical policy drivers in U.S. Arctic research that reflect long-standing U.S. interests in the Arctic and the collective priorities of IARPC federal agencies. Policy drivers include: Well-Being; Stewardship; Security; and Arctic-Global Systems.

There are four priority areas with thematic goals that, (1) represent areas of broad, crosscutting focus that need additional attention or research, (2) support one or more policy drivers, (3) meet the mission and interests of more than one federal agency, (4) and engage multiple existing collaboration teams and non-federal partners. Priority areas and goals include:

1. Community Resilience and Health: Improve community resilience and well-being by strengthening research and tools to increase understanding of interdependent social, natural, and built systems in the Arctic.

2. Arctic Systems Interactions: Enhance our ability to observe, understand, predict, and project the Arctic's dynamic interconnected systems and their linkages to the Earth system as a whole.

3. Sustainable Economies and Livelihoods: Monitor, maintain, and proactively adapt the Arctic's natural, social, and built systems to promote sustainable economies and livelihoods.

4. Risk Management and Hazard Mitigation: Secure and improve quality of life through an understanding of disaster risk exposure, sensitivity to hazard, and adaptive capacity.

In addition to identifying four priority areas, this plan builds upon five foundational activities. These activities are critical to achieving the priority area goals and will remain foundational to Arctic research beyond the five-year duration of this plan. Foundational activities include: Co-Production of Knowledge and Indigenous-Led Research; Data Management; Education; Monitoring, Observing, Modeling, and Prediction; and Technology Application and Innovation.

In contrast to the previous Arctic Research Plans, this plan presents a high-level strategy without explicit direction on implementation. For IARPC to respond more swiftly to emerging or immediate needs while continuing to support U.S. Arctic policy, this plan will be carried out through biennial implementation plans. These implementation plans will identify specific objectives, deliverables, and metrics. Four new priority area collaboration teams will be established to direct and coordinate activities including those of existing collaboration teams, to achieve goals and ensure the coordination of non-federal partners and resources.

### Seeking Input

IARPC seeks comment on the draft Arctic Research Plan 2022–2026 to ensure Arctic research interests, needs, and priorities are addressed appropriately. Specifically, comment is sought on priority area goals, justifications, and potential partners; the foundational activities; and the implementation and metrics for measuring success.

Dated: March 4, 2021.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.*

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**BILLING CODE 7555-01-P**

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2020-0190]

### Information Collection: U.S. NRC Acquisition Regulation

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Renewal of existing information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) invites public comment on the renewal of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for an existing collection of information. The information collection is entitled, "US NRC Acquisition Regulation."

**DATES:** Submit comments by May 10, 2021. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

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

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2020-0190. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Stacy Schumann; telephone: 301-415-0624; email: [Stacy.Schumann@nrc.gov](mailto:Stacy.Schumann@nrc.gov). For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *Mail comments to:* David Cullison, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Mail Stop: T-6 A10M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see "Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments" in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Cullison, Office of the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-2084; email: [Infocollects.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:Infocollects.Resource@nrc.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments

##### A. Obtaining Information

Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2020-0190 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly available information related to this action by any of the following methods;

however, the NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the Federal Rulemaking website:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website*: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2020-0190. A copy of the collection of information and related instructions may be obtained without charge by accessing Docket ID NRC-2020-0190 on this website.

- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS)*: You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://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). The supporting statement and burden spreadsheet are available in ADAMS under Accession Nos. ML20280A683 and ML20280A682.

- *Attention*: The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of public documents is currently closed. You may submit your request to the PDR via email at [PDR.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:PDR.Resource@nrc.gov) or call 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

- *NRC's Clearance Officer*: A copy of the collection of information and related instructions may be obtained without charge by contacting NRC's Clearance Officer, David Cullison, Office of the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-2084; email: [Infocollects.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:Infocollects.Resource@nrc.gov).

#### B. Submitting Comments

The NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the Federal Rulemaking website (<https://www.regulations.gov>). Please include Docket ID NRC-2020-0190 in your comment submission. The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information in comment submissions that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC will post all comment submissions at <https://www.regulations.gov> as well as enter the comment submissions into ADAMS, and the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should

inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

#### II. Background

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the NRC is requesting public comment on its intention to request the OMB's approval for the information collection summarized.

1. *The title of the information collection*: 48 CFR Chapter 20, US NRC Acquisition Regulation (NRCAR).

2. *OMB approval number*: 3150-0169.

3. *Type of submission*: Extension.

4. *The form number, if applicable*: Not applicable.

5. *How often the collection is required or requested*: Monthly, once (at time of award), and on occasion (when changes occur.)

6. *Who will be required or asked to respond*: Contractors and bidders.

7. *The estimated number of annual responses*: 4,908 (4,762 reporting responses + 146 recordkeepers).

8. *The estimated number of annual respondents*: 535.

9. *The estimated number of hours needed annually to comply with the information collection requirement or request*: 12,500 (9,922 reporting + 2,578 recordkeeping).

10. *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 with the NRC satisfy the needs of the agency. This includes reports and recordkeeping requirements for certain contractors or offerors to submit a monthly progress report that summarizes work performed during the previous month, and/or retain records of equipment, payroll, inspection and quality control records, as applicable. Because of differing statutory authorities among Federal agencies, the FAR permits agencies to issue a regulation to implement FAR policies and procedures internally to satisfy the specific need of the agency.

The NRCAR includes policies, procedures, solicitation provisions and contract clauses needed to ensure effective and efficient evaluation, negotiation, and administration of agency acquisitions. Certain reports, such as reports of contractor

organizational conflicts of interest or changes in key personnel are collected from contractors on as needed basis as changes occur whether at the time award or throughout the life of the contract. Some reports are required to be submitted monthly such as the Financial Status report and Technical Progress Report. There are also some reports that bidders are required to submit upon request, such as responses to pre-award questions that demonstrate their ability to meet minimum standards set forth in Federal Acquisition Regulations.

#### III. Specific Requests for Comments

The NRC is seeking 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 estimate of the burden of the information collection 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 on respondents be minimized, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

Dated: March 4, 2021.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**David C. Cullison,**

*NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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#### PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

##### Proposed Submission of Information Collection for OMB Review; Comment Request; Locating and Paying Participants

**AGENCY**: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

**ACTION**: Notice of intent to request extension of OMB approval, with modifications.

**SUMMARY**: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) intends to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) extend approval, with modifications, to a collection of information (OMB Control Number 1212-0055; expires October 31, 2021) under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The purpose of the information collection is to enable PBGC to pay benefits to participants and beneficiaries. This notice informs the public of PBGC's intent and solicits