

- Marie Caputo, Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen
6. Communication by Corporate Auditor with those Charged with Governance Under Statement on Auditing Standard 114
    - Roxanne Caruso, Acting Inspector General
    - Marie Caputo, Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen
  7. Consider and Act on Motion to Adjourn the Closed Session Meeting and Resume the Open Session Meeting
- Open Session
8. Consider and Act on Resolution #2022-XXX, Acceptance of the Draft Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2021 and Fiscal Year 2020
  9. Public Comment
  10. Consider and Act on Other Business
  11. Consider and Act on Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Kaitlin D. Brown, Executive and Board Project Coordinator, at (202) 295-1555. Questions may also be sent by electronic mail to [brownk@lsc.gov](mailto:brownk@lsc.gov).

Dated: March 22, 2022.

**Kaitlin D. Brown,**

Executive and Board Project Coordinator, Legal Services Corporation.

[FR Doc. 2022-06391 Filed 3-23-22; 11:15 am]

**BILLING CODE 7050-01-P**

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Agency Information Collection

#### Activities: Comment Request; Account Management Profile

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) is announcing plans to establish this collection. In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are providing opportunity for public comment on this action. After obtaining and considering public comment, NSF will prepare the submission requesting Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance of this collection for no longer than 3 years.

**DATES:** Written comments on this notice must be received by May 24, 2022 to be assured consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Send comments to address below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation,

2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone (703) 292-7556; or send email to [splimpto@nsf.gov](mailto:splimpto@nsf.gov). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including Federal holidays).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title of Collection:* Account Management Profile.

*OMB Control No.:* 3145-New.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* Not applicable.

*Abstract:* The purpose of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Account Profile is to collect information (contact, demographics, professional and academic references) on *Research.gov*.

This profile will assist the NSF in maintaining a centralized registration and profile management process for individuals. NSF may track information provided over time to review and evaluate NSF programs, facilitate proposal submission, simplify reviewer activities, and provide data for the selection and management of reviewers and related merit review functions. Collecting this information supports the program officers across each directorate by improving efficiencies for internal staff, leveraging consolidated profile data, and creating a seamless user experience for the scientific community. This process will also provide researchers with a consolidated profile and access to their information in the *Research.gov* system, with the ability to easily access and update their information as necessary. In addition, the Biden Administration has made it a priority to deliver services more equitably and effectively via Executive Order 14058, *Transforming Federal Customer Experience and Service Delivery to Rebuild Trust in Government*. The President directed heads of agencies to integrate activities to improve customer experience and identify means by which their respective agencies can improve transparency and accessibility for their customers. This expansion effort will allow users to self-report demographic and professional information over time that will enable program officials to select diverse panels and expand opportunities to increase participation from underrepresented groups and diverse institutions throughout the United States in all NSF activities and programs.

*Respondents:* Researchers and administrative support professionals.

*Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:* 565,146.

*Burden on the Public:* Estimated 5 minutes to fill out the contact, demographics, professional and academic information, including the collection of data to fill in the fields. This assumption includes users who have filled out information in the past and do not wish to update their information. The demographic information should be readily available as the selection fields are available on *Research.gov* today and the professional information can be gathered from external data sources. The estimated burden time is 47,095 hours.

Dated: March 22, 2022.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 2022-06347 Filed 3-24-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555-01-P**

## OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

### Request for Information on the Energy and Climate Implications of Digital Assets

**AGENCY:** Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

**ACTION:** Notice of Request for Information on the Energy and Climate Implications of Digital Assets.

**SUMMARY:** The United States is committed to combatting the climate crisis and reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050. On March 9, 2022, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Ensuring Responsible Development of Digital Assets, which outlines a whole-of-government strategy to harness the benefits and mitigate the risks of digital assets, including the implications for energy use and the climate. The Executive Order tasked the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to submit a report to the President that examines the potential for digital assets to impede or advance efforts to tackle climate change and the transition to a clean and reliable electricity grid. As OSTP conducts this examination, it invites comments from interested stakeholders, including the public. In particular, this RFI seeks comments on the protocols, hardware, resources, economics, and other factors that shape the energy use and climate impacts of all types of digital assets. It also seeks comment on attempts to mitigate climate harms and reduce energy use associated with digital assets, potential energy or climate benefits from digital assets and opportunities for natural asset or

emissions accounting, likely future developments or industry trajectories related to digital assets, and implications that digital assets have for U.S. policy including as it relates to electricity grid reliability and greenhouse gas intensity.

**DATES:** Interested persons and organizations are invited to submit comments on or before 5:00 p.m. ET on May 9, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested individuals and organizations should submit comments electronically to [DigitalAssetsRFI@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:DigitalAssetsRFI@ostp.eop.gov) and include < RFI Response: Climate Implications of Digital Assets > in the subject line of the email. Due to time constraints, mailed paper submissions will not be accepted, and electronic submissions received after the deadline cannot be ensured to be incorporated or taken into consideration.

**Instructions:** Response to this RFI is voluntary. Each responding entity (individual or organization) is requested to submit only one response.

Responses may address one or as many topics as desired from the enumerated list provided in this RFI, noting the corresponding number of the topic(s) to which the response pertains. Submissions must not exceed 10 pages (exclusive of cover page) in 11-point or larger font, with a page number provided on each page. Responses should include the name of the person(s) or organization(s) filing the comment, as well as the respondent type (e.g., academic institution, advocacy group, professional society, community-based organization, industry, member of the public, government, other). Respondent's role in the organization may also be provided (e.g., researcher, administrator, student, program manager, journalist) on a voluntary basis. Comments containing references, studies, research, and other empirical data that are not widely published should include copies or electronic links of the referenced materials; these materials, as well as a list of references, do not count toward the 10-page limit. No business proprietary information, copyrighted information, or personally identifiable information (aside from that requested above) should be submitted in response to this RFI. Comments submitted in response to this RFI may be posted on OSTP's website or otherwise released publicly.

In accordance with Federal Acquisitions Regulations Systems 15.202(3), responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Federal Government to form a binding

contract. Additionally, those submitting responses are solely responsible for all expenses associated with response preparation.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information, please direct questions to Nik Marda at 202-456-4444 or [DigitalAssetsRFI@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:DigitalAssetsRFI@ostp.eop.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background:** Climate change is one of the most pressing problems confronting our nation and our world, which is why President Biden has committed to cutting U.S. greenhouse gas pollution by 50–52% by 2030, advancing environmental justice, and having a net-zero emissions economy by 2050. Building on the historic progress on climate action that President Biden achieved in his first year in office, the President's plan to achieve those goals includes improving energy efficiency, deploying a record amount of new carbon-free energy sources, and advancing clean energy innovation.

The explosive growth of the digital asset ecosystem may contribute to greater energy use and negatively impact the climate. Many digital assets, including cryptocurrencies, use decentralized consensus mechanisms as opposed to a central authority to verify transactions. While different digital asset systems use different consensus mechanisms, many use “proof of work” based systems that require significant amounts of computing power and electricity, often derived from carbon-intensive sources. Some researchers estimate that cryptocurrencies use more electricity each year than many individual countries in the world, including some industrialized nations. Thus, digital assets may present a key environmental challenge at a time when we need to shift to carbon-free sources in order to combat climate change. On the other hand, digital assets might also have a positive impact on the climate. For example, they may provide new opportunities in carbon accounting and verification, increasing trust in carbon measurement and creating a novel opportunity for addressing climate change.

Recognizing these climate risks, other risks, and potential benefits of digital assets, President Biden signed Executive Order (E.O.) 14067: Ensuring Responsible Development of Digital Assets on March 9, 2022, to outline a whole-of-government strategy on digital assets. Pursuant to E.O. 14067, OSTP, and its partners from the Executive Office of the President and Federal agencies, are examining the connections between distributed ledger technology and energy transitions, the potential for

these technologies to impede or advance efforts to tackle climate change at home and abroad, and the impacts these technologies have on the environment.

This RFI seeks public input to better understand the climate impacts of digital assets. In particular, this RFI seeks comments on the protocols, hardware, resources, economics, and other factors that shape the energy use and climate impacts of all types of digital assets. It also seeks comment on attempts to mitigate climate harms and reduce energy use associated with digital assets, potential energy or climate benefits from digital assets and opportunities for natural asset or emissions accounting, likely future developments or industry trajectories related to digital assets, and implications that digital assets have for U.S. policy including as it relates to electricity grid reliability and greenhouse gas intensity. These comments will inform a report to the President on the climate impacts of digital assets.

**Terminology:** The terms *blockchain*, *central bank digital currency*, *cryptocurrencies*, *digital assets*, and *stablecoins*, have the definitions provided in Section 9 of E.O. 14067.

**Scope:** OSTP invites input from interested stakeholders, including academic researchers and policy analysts; technical practitioners specializing in digital ledger technologies; civil society and advocacy groups; individuals and organizations who work on environmental issues; industry and industry association groups; Federal entities and employees; State, local, tribal, territorial, and foreign governments; and members of the public.

**Information Requested:** Respondents may provide information for one or as many topics below as they choose.

1. **Protocols:** Information on the climate impacts of the protocols used by digital assets. This includes the effect of cryptocurrencies' consensus mechanisms on energy usage, as well as potential mitigating measures and alternative mechanisms of consensus and the design tradeoffs those may entail. For example, many digital assets—including those that make use of smart contracts—use or are looking into less energy-intensive consensus mechanisms than “proof of work.” Information is sought related to the benefits and drawbacks of those alternative mechanisms, as well as their different energy consumption profiles.

2. **Hardware:** Information about the climate impacts from the physical components that run the protocols for digital assets. This includes the

embodied emissions of specialized hardware and cooling equipment used to mine certain cryptocurrencies, as well as the waste generated from this equipment needing to be replaced frequently due to rapidly improving mining equipment. This also includes potential mitigating measures and technology improvements to reduce the environmental impact from hardware usage.

3. *Resources*: Information about the resources used to sustain and power digital assets. This includes the electricity that powers mining rigs and the water used to cool those operations, as well as potential mitigating measures to reduce the amount of electricity and water used. This also includes quantitative estimates of the total amounts of these resources used by particular types of digital assets, or by the digital asset ecosystem at large. This also includes information concerning whether the costs of resources used are borne equitably across society or are disproportionately borne by historically disadvantaged communities.

4. *Economics*: Information about how the energy use of digital assets is affected by the value of, demand for, and supply of particular digital assets or their underlying infrastructure. This includes the environmental and infrastructural effects from cryptocurrency miners moving to areas with cheaper electricity, as well as the incentives that exist for cryptocurrency miners to use renewable energy sources for mining. This also includes information about impacts on the electric grid and about the need for potential incremental grid investments, along with the impacts on electricity bills for customers near or in affected service territories.

5. *Past or ongoing mitigation attempts*: Information about past or ongoing attempts to mitigate negative climate impacts of digital assets. This includes voluntary industry efforts, and cryptocurrencies that are changing their consensus mechanism in order to reduce their energy usage. This also includes climate-focused and energy efficiency regulation or standards efforts by State, local, territorial, tribal, federal, or foreign governments.

6. *Potential energy or climate benefits*: Information about how digital assets can potentially yield positive energy or climate impacts. This includes potential uses of blockchain that could support monitoring or mitigating technologies to climate impacts, such as opportunities for natural asset or emissions accounting, as well as the exchanging of liabilities for greenhouse gas emissions, water, and other natural or

environmental assets. This also includes specific approaches to increase the likelihood of direct climate or emissions benefits from digital assets, or associated grid services that indirectly lead to climate or emissions benefits. Furthermore, information is sought supporting or rebutting claims made by some proponents of cryptocurrencies that the energy used by mining cryptocurrencies is a net climate positive, either because it occurs during demand lulls or because it increases demand for renewable electricity sources.

7. *Likely future developments or industry trajectories*: Information about likely future developments or industry trajectories that would have implications for the future climate impacts of digital assets. This includes expected future developments in protocols, hardware, resources, and economics. Where possible, please describe the expected timescale for likely future developments.

8. *Implications for U.S. policy*: Information about how the climate impacts of digital assets might have implications for U.S. policy. This includes implications for energy policy, including as it relates to grid management and reliability, energy efficiency incentives and standards, sources of energy supply, greenhouse gas intensity, and the transition to a net-zero emissions economy by 2050.

9. *Other information*: Any other information, not covered above, that is relevant for understanding the climate impacts of digital assets.

Dated: March 21, 2022.

**Stacy Murphy,**

*Operations Manager.*

[FR Doc. 2022-06284 Filed 3-24-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3270-F2-P**

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## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**[Docket No. FD 36591]**

### **Louisville & Indiana Railroad Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Southern Indiana Railway, Inc.**

The Louisville & Indiana Railroad Company (LIRC), a Class III railroad, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to enter into an asset purchase agreement (Purchase Agreement) with Southern Indiana Railway, Inc. (SIND), for LIRC to acquire and operate a rail corridor from north of the intersection of “highway 403” at Speed (SIND Speed Property) southerly to a connection with a rail line of CSX Transportation, Inc., at Watson Junction,

all in Clark County, Ind. The Purchase Agreement also covers yard tracks located on the real property of Lehigh Cement in Speed, north of SIND Speed Property (the above described assets subject to the Purchase Agreement are referred to collectively as the Line). According to LIRC, the Line is approximately 7.41 miles in length.<sup>1</sup> The verified notice states that LIRC will become the operator of the Line upon the exemption’s effective date.

LIRC certifies that the Purchase Agreement does not contain any provision that may limit future interchange with a third-party connecting carrier. LIRC further certifies that its projected annual revenues as a result of this transaction will not result in LIRC’s becoming a Class II or Class I rail carrier. Pursuant to 49 CFR 1150.42(e), if a carrier’s projected annual revenues will exceed \$5 million, it must, at least 60 days before the exemption becomes effective, post a notice of its intent to undertake the proposed transaction at the workplace of the employees on the affected lines, serve a copy of the notice on the national offices of the labor unions with employees on the affected lines, and certify to the Board that it has done so. However, LIRC’s verified notice includes a request for waiver of the 60-day advance labor notice requirements. LIRC’s waiver request will be addressed in a separate decision. The Board will establish the effective date of the exemption in its separate decision on the waiver request.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions for stay must be filed no later than April 1, 2022.

All pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 36591, should be filed with the Surface Transportation Board via e-filing on the Board’s website. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be served on LIRC’s representative, Rose-Michele Nardi, Baker & Miller PLLC, Suite 300, 2401 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20037.

According to LIRC, this action is categorically excluded from

<sup>1</sup> LIRC states that this mileage number comes from *Southern Indiana Railway—Acquisition*, FD 12551 (ICC served Feb. 7, 1940). LIRC further states that its intention is to acquire SIND’s rights to the entire rail corridor described in the 1940 decision, and that, to the extent that yard and ancillary tracks are subject to 49 U.S.C. 10906, LIRC’s request for authority to acquire the Line is not intended to convert any such track into common carrier track subject to 49 U.S.C. 10901.