

project issues within the Vicksburg District; and (3) Presentations by local organizations and members of the public giving views or comments on any issue affecting the programs or projects of the Commission and the Corps of Engineers.

**TIME AND DATE:** 9:00 a.m., April 7, 2017.

**PLACE:** On board MISSISSIPPI V at City Dock, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**STATUS:** Open to the public.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** (1)

Summary report by President of the Commission on national and regional issues affecting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Commission programs and projects on the Mississippi River and its tributaries; (2) District Commander's overview of current project issues within the New Orleans District; and (3) Presentations by local organizations and members of the public giving views or comments on any issue affecting the programs or projects of the Commission and the Corps of Engineers.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Mr. Charles A. Camillo, telephone 601-634-7023.

**Charles A. Camillo,**  
Director, Mississippi River Commission.

[FR Doc. 2017-05110 Filed 3-10-17; 11:15 am]

**BILLING CODE 3720-58-P**

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Final Notice of Research Terms and Conditions (RTC) To Address and Implement the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards Issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Final notice of Research Terms and Conditions (RTC) to address and implement the *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (2 CFR 200) issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**SUMMARY:** Effective with publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**, research agencies will be able to utilize the updated Research Terms and Conditions (RTC) that will address and implement the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200) issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** The updated Research Terms and Conditions will March 14, 2017.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** To view the final Research Terms and Conditions and Appendices, see: <https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp>. For information on the Research Terms and Conditions, contact Jean Feldman, Head, Policy Office, Division of Institution & Award Support, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA, 22230, email: [jfeldman@nsf.gov](mailto:jfeldman@nsf.gov); telephone (703) 292-8243; FAX: (703) 292-9171.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In 2000, the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP), a cooperative initiative among numerous Federal agencies and institutional recipients of research funds aimed at reducing the administrative burdens associated with research grants and contracts, developed Standard Terms and Conditions as a model implementation of OMB Circular A-110. These terms were an effective set of requirements for many agency research awards. In 2005, following public and agency comment on the original FDP terms, standard research terms and conditions were developed by Research Business Models (RBM), an Interagency Working Group of the Social, Behavioral & Economic Research Subcommittee of the Committee on Science (CoS), a committee of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). In 2008, a side-by-side comparison of OMB Circular A-110 and the Research Terms and Conditions was developed; the terms and conditions were updated in 2011.

This project is an initiative of the Research Business Models (RBM) Interagency Working Group. One of the RBM Subcommittee's priority areas is to create greater consistency in the administration of Federal research awards. Given the increasing complexity of interdisciplinary and interagency research, it has become increasingly important for Federal agencies to manage awards in a similar fashion.

On June 30, 2014, a proposal was presented to the RBM on behalf of the participating agencies from the RBM Interagency Working Group to develop a revised set of RTCs for implementing the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 CFR 200 (Uniform Guidance). The purpose was to develop a revised set of RTCs as they apply to research and research-related grants made by the following awarding agencies to institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations.

The agencies participating in this activity include the: U. S. Department of

Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Institute of Standards and Technology; U.S. Department of Energy; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; National Aeronautics and Space Administration; National Science Foundation; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/National Institutes of Health; U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture; U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Aviation Administration; and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

On October 14, 2015 the National Science Foundation asked for public comment on the updated Research Terms and Conditions (RTC) to address and implement the *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the **Federal Register** [80 FR 61849, October 14, 2015]. All comments were considered in developing this final version of the Research Terms and Conditions. A table listing the comments and responses is posted on the NSF Web site at: <https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp>.

While the Uniform Guidance outlines provisions that are specific to research, these terms and conditions:

- Incorporate the entire Uniform Guidance by reference, clarifying or supplementing select provisions where appropriate and consistent with government-wide research policy.
- Incorporate the latest version of the Frequently Asked Questions for the Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 CFR 200 (located at <https://cfo.gov/cofar-resources>).
- Apply to an award when included as part of the award or when incorporated in the award by reference. Use of the RTCs is envisioned as a streamlined approach that supports the implementation of the Uniform Guidance by providing clarification, supplementary guidance, and, where appropriate, selected options, while meeting the spirit and intent of a uniform implementation.

The side-by-side RTCs depict pertinent sections of the Uniform Guidance on the left side and clarifications for research and research-related awards on the right side.

In addition to the RTCs, three companion resources will be developed upon implementation: Appendix A, Prior Approval Matrix, Appendix B, Subaward Requirements Matrix, and

Appendix C, National Policy Requirements Matrix. The companion resources, when finalized, will be posted on the NSF Web site at: <https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp>. The RTCs include flexibility for additional individual agency clarification through the incorporation of Appendices A–C and Agency-Specific Requirements.

These RTCs will apply to an award when they are included as part of that award, or when incorporated into that award by reference. Each participating agency will develop their own implementation plan, and agency specific requirements to the RTCs, which will be posted on the NSF Web site at: <https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp>. Since there will be multiple implementation dates, the RTC Web site should be consulted frequently.

Other agencies not identified above that would like to implement the RTCs are strongly encouraged to do so. In order to provide the necessary documentation to the research community, the following information must be provided to NSF prior to adoption of the RTCs: Prior Approval Matrix, Subaward Requirements Matrix, Agency-Specific Requirements, and agency implementation plan.

On behalf of the RBM, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has agreed to continue to serve as the sponsor of the updated version of these RTCs.

Dated: March 9, 2017.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.*

[FR Doc. 2017-04955 Filed 3-13-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7555-01-P**

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Submission for OMB review; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) has submitted the following information collection requirement to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. This is the second notice for public comment; the first was published in the *Federal Register* at 81 FR 91959, and no comments were received. NSF is forwarding the proposed submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance simultaneously with the publication of this second

notice. The full submission (including comments) may be found at: <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

**Comments:** Comments are invited on:

(a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Foundation, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Foundation's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Written comments on this notice must be received by April 13, 2017, 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:** Ms. Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1265, Arlington, Virginia 22230; 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).

NSF may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title of Collection:* Grantee Reporting Requirements for National User Facilities managed by the NSF Division of Materials Research.

*OMB Number:* 3145-0234.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* March 31, 2017.

*Type of Request:* Intent to seek approval to renew an information collection.

#### Overview of This Information Collection:

The NSF Division of Materials Research (DMR) supports a number of National User Facilities that provide specialized capabilities and instrumentation to the scientific

community on a competitive proposal basis. In addition to the user program, these facilities support in-house research, development of new instrumentation or techniques, education, and knowledge transfer.

The facilities integrate research and education for students and post-docs involved in experiments, and support extensive K-12 outreach to foster an interest in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and STEM careers. Facilities capitalize on diversity through participation in center activities and demonstrate leadership in the involvement of groups underrepresented in science and engineering.

National User Facilities will be required to submit annual reports on progress and plans, which will be used as a basis for performance review and determining the level of continued funding. User facilities will be required to develop a set of management and performance indicators for submission annually to NSF via the Research Performance Project Reporting (RPPR) module in Research.gov. These indicators are both quantitative and descriptive and may include, for example, lists of successful proposal and users, the characteristics of facility personnel and students; sources of financial support and in-kind support; expenditures by operational component; research activities; education activities; knowledge transfer activities; patents, licenses; publications; degrees granted to students supported through the facility or users of the facility; descriptions of significant advances and other outcomes of this investment. Such reporting requirements are included in the cooperative agreement which is binding between the academic institution and the NSF.

Each facility's annual report will address the following categories of activities: (1) Research, (2) education and training, (3) knowledge transfer, (4) partnerships, (5) diversity, (6) management, and (7) budget issues.

For each of the categories the report will describe overall objectives and metrics for the reporting period, challenges or problems the facility has encountered in making progress towards goals, anticipated problems in the following year, and specific outputs and outcomes.

Facilities are required to file a final report through the RPPR. Final reports contain similar information and metrics as annual reports, but are retrospective and focus on the period that was not addressed in previous annual reports.

*Use of the Information:* NSF will use the information to continue funding of