

List of Subjects

Environmental protection.

Dated: September 9, 1997

Cassandra Vail,

Acting, Designated Federal Official, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics.

[FR Doc. 97-24418 Filed 9-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5888-3]

Privacy Act of 1974; Research Grant, Cooperative Agreement, and Fellowship Application Files System of Records

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed new Privacy Act system of records.

SUMMARY: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is publishing a notice for public comment on a system of records subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. This system is entitled "Research Grant, Cooperative Agreement, and Fellowship Application Files." Additional information on this system is described in the Supplementary Information section of this notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This proposed action will be effective, without further notice on October 27, 1997, unless comments are received which result in a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Director, National Center for Environmental Research and Quality Assurance (Mail Code 8701), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW, Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Robert E. Menzer, Senior Science Advisor, National Center for Environmental Research and Quality Assurance (Mail Code 8701), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW, Washington, DC 20460. Telephone: (202) 260-5779.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this system of records is to assist EPA in conducting and documenting the receipt and review of applications and awards of research grants to the most meritorious applicants in response to solicitations issued by the Office of Research and Development in furtherance of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program. The system includes application files and computer-generated records developed in

connection with the review and decision process for awarding grants under the terms of the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, 41 U.S.C. 501 et seq. Application files are comprised of (1) the submitted application, which includes the names and resumes of proposed investigators, (2) peer reviewers' comments on the application, and (3) documentation of the decision process on the application. Computer-generated records include data regarding the administrative management of the application in the peer review process.

This system of records contains records retrieved by the names of the grant principal investigators, universities, not-for-profit research organizations, and other organizations. Only information retrieved by the names of individuals is covered by this Privacy Act notice.

Dated: August 28, 1997.

Alvin M. Pesachowitz,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Administration and Resources Management and Chief Information Officer.

EPA-36**SYSTEM NAME:**

Research Grant, Cooperative Agreement, and Fellowship Application Files System of Records, EPA/ORD.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

None.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

National Center for Environmental Research and Quality Assurance, Office of Research and Development, Waterside Mall, 401 M St., SW, Washington, DC 20460.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Individuals (principal investigators) who request or have previously requested support from the ORD research grants programs of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, either individually or through an academic or other institution.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

The names of the principal investigators, the proposals and their identifying numbers, supporting data from the academic institutions or other applicants, proposal evaluations from peer reviewers, review records, financial data, and other material related to evaluation of applications.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

44 U.S.C. 3101; Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act, 41 U.S.C. 501 et seq.; the Clean Air Act, as

amended, 42 U.S.C. 1857 et seq.; the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1254 et seq.; the Public Health Service Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.; the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, 42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.; the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.; and the Grant Act, 42 U.S.C. 1891 et seq.

PURPOSE(S):

The purpose of this system of records is to assist EPA in conducting and documenting the receipt and review of applications and award of research grants to the most meritorious applicants in response to solicitations issued by the Office of Research and Development in furtherance of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

Disclosure of information from this system of records may be made as follows:

1. To a Member of Congress or a congressional office from the record of an individual in response to an inquiry from that Member or office made at the request of the individual to whom the record pertains.
2. To Federal contractors, grantees, volunteers, and other individuals who have been engaged to assist the Federal Government in the performance of a contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or other activity related to this system of records and who need to have access to the records in order to perform that activity.
3. To a Federal agency which has requested information relevant to its decision in connection with the hiring or retention of an employee; the reporting of an investigation on an employee; the letting of a contract; or the issuance of a security clearance, license, grant, or other benefit.
4. To a Federal, State, or local agency where necessary to enable EPA to obtain information relevant to an EPA decision concerning the hiring or retention of an employee; the letting of a contract; or the issuance of a security clearance, license, grant, or other benefit.
5. To an appropriate Federal, State, local, or foreign agency responsible for investigating, prosecuting, enforcing, or implementing a statute, rule, regulation, or order, where there is an indication of a violation or potential violation of the statute, rule, regulation, or order and the information disclosed is relevant to the matter.

6. To the Department of Justice to the extent that each disclosure is compatible with the purpose for which the record was collected and is relevant and necessary to litigation or anticipated litigation in which one of the following is a party or has an interest: (a) EPA or any of its components, (b) an EPA employee in his or her official capacity, (c) an EPA employee in his or her individual capacity where the Department of Justice is representing or considering representation of the employee, or (d) the United States where EPA determines that the litigation is likely to affect the agency.

7. In a proceeding before a court, other adjudicative body or grand jury, or in an administrative or regulatory proceeding, to the extent that each disclosure is compatible with the purpose for which the record was collected and is relevant and necessary to the proceeding in which one of the following is a party or has an interest: (a) EPA or any of its components, (b) an EPA employee in his or her official capacity, (c) an EPA employee in his or her individual capacity where the Department of Justice is representing or considering representation of the employee, or (d) the United States where EPA determines that the litigation is likely to affect the agency. Such disclosures include, but are not limited to, those made in the course of presenting evidence, conducting settlement negotiations, and responding to subpoenas and requests for discovery.

8. To representatives of the General Services Administration and the National Archives and Records Administration who are conducting records management inspections under the authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906.

9. To qualified reviewers for their opinion and evaluation of applicants and their proposals as part of the application review process.

10. To other Federal government agencies and private-sector organizations regarding applicants or nominees in order to coordinate joint programs between Federal agencies, State or local government agencies, and/or private-sector organizations.

11. To the applicant institution for purposes of obtaining data regarding the application review process or award decisions, or administering grant awards.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

Various parts of the system are maintained on computer and/or in hard copy files.

RETRIEVABILITY:

Information is retrieved by the name of the principal investigator. Computer files may also be retrieved by various data elements in the database.

SAFEGUARDS:

All records are maintained in secured areas with restricted access or are accessed by unique passwords or log-in procedures. Only EPA personnel and agency contractors with a need-to-know in order to perform their duties may access the information.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

Files are maintained in accordance with approved record retention schedules. Awarded proposals are transferred to the Federal Records Center one year after closeout where they are retained for an additional six years. Declined proposals are destroyed three years after they are declined.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

Director, Peer Review Division, National Center for Environmental Research and Quality Assurance Mail (Code 8725), USEPA, 401 M St., SW, Washington, DC 20460.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Contact the system manager at the above address. You may be required to provide information to verify your identity.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURE:

Same as "Notification Procedure," above. In addition, please specify the record you wish to access.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

Same as "Notification Procedure," above. In addition, please specify the record you wish corrected, the requested correction, and justification for the correction.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Information is obtained from the principal investigators, academic institutions or other applicants, peer reviewers, and EPA and other Federal agency personnel.

SYSTEMS EXEMPTED FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ACT:

The portions of this system consisting of investigatory material which would identify persons providing evaluations

of EPA grant applicants and applications have been exempted pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(5). Regulations exempting this system from certain provisions of the Privacy Act will be published separately in the **Federal Register** in accordance with the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553(b), (c), and (e).

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5888-2]

Privacy Act of 1974; ORD Peer Review Panelist Information System (PRPIS) System of Records

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed new Privacy Act system of records.

SUMMARY: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is publishing a notice for public comment on a system of records subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. This system is entitled "ORD Peer Review Panelist Information System (PRPIS)." Additional information on this system is described in the Supplementary Information section of this notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This proposed action will be effective, without further notice on October 27, 1997, unless comments are received which result in a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Director, National Center for Environmental Research and Quality Assurance (Mail Code 8701), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW, Washington, DC 20460.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA uses the services of peer reviewers from the scientific community to assist in selecting the most meritorious applications from pools of applications or assessing the quality and performance of awarded grants, cooperative agreements, and fellowships. The purpose of this system of records is to assist EPA in conducting and documenting the review of applications through the use of