

Form No.: SF-425, SF-425A.

Type of Review: Renewal of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: States, Local Governments, Universities, Non-Profit Organizations.

Number of Responses: 1,200,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 60 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The SF-425 is used to collect financial information for recipients of grants and cooperative agreements and related transactions under nonconstruction grant programs.

[FR Doc. 2011-30283 Filed 11-22-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3110-01-P

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NARA is giving public notice that the agency proposes to request extension of a currently approved information collection used to permit the public and other Federal agencies to use its official seal(s) and/or logo(s). The public is invited to comment on the proposed information collection pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before January 23, 2012 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to: Paperwork Reduction Act Comments (ISP), Room 4400, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Rd., College Park, MD 20740-6001; or faxed to (301) 713-7409; or electronically mailed to tamee.fechhelm@nara.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the proposed information collections and supporting statements should be directed to Tamee Fechhelm at telephone number (301) 837-1694, or fax number (301) 713-7409.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), NARA invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed information collections. The comments and suggestions should address one or more of the following points: (a) Whether the proposed collection information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of NARA;

(b) the accuracy of NARA's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collections; (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 respondents, including the use of information technology; and (e) whether small businesses are affected by this collection. The comments that are submitted will be summarized and included in the NARA request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. In this notice, NARA is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

Title: Use of NARA Official Seals.

OMB number: 3095-0052.

Agency form number: N/A.

Type of review: Regular.

Affected public: Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, Federal government.

Estimated number of respondents: 10.

Estimated time per response: 20 minutes.

Frequency of response: On occasion.

Estimated total annual burden hours: 3 hours.

Abstract: The authority for this information collection is contained in 36 CFR 1200.8. NARA's three official seals are the National Archives and Records Administration seal; the National Archives seal; and the National Archives Trust Fund Board seal. The official seals are used to authenticate various copies of official records in our custody and for other official NARA business. Occasionally, when criteria are met, we will permit the public and other Federal agencies to use our official seals. A written request must be submitted to use the official seals, which we approve or deny using specific criteria.

Dated: November 14, 2011.

Michael L. Wash,

Executive for Information Services/CIO.

[FR Doc. 2011-30242 Filed 11-22-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7515-01-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Buy American Waiver Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

AGENCY: National Science Foundation (NSF).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NSF is hereby granting a limited program-specific exemption of

section 1605 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), Public Law 111-5, 123 Stat. 115, 303 (2009), for incidental items that comprise, in total, an amount that is no more than 5 percent of the total cost of the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in and incorporated into a project funded through the Academic Research Infrastructure Recovery and Reinvestment Program.

DATES: November 23, 2011.

ADDRESSES: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia 22230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Kathleen Clark Baukin, Division of Grants and Agreements, (703) 292-8210.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section 1605(c) of the Recovery Act and section 176.80 of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the National Science Foundation (NSF) hereby provides notice that on July 20, 2011, the NSF Chief Financial Officer, in accordance with a delegation order from the Director of the agency on 27 May 2010, granted a de minimis exemption of section 1605 of the Recovery Act (Buy American provision) with respect to incidental items that comprise, in total, an amount that is no more than 5 percent of the total cost of the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in and incorporated into a project funded through the Academic Research Infrastructure—Recovery and Reinvestment Program. The basis for this exemption is section 1605(b)(1) of the Recovery Act, in that executing individual exemptions for many of the incidental items used in construction and renovation, such as nuts, bolts, wires, cables, switches, *etc.* is not in the public interest. The total cost of incidental items requiring use of this limited exemption is expected to be less than 5% of the total Recovery Act funds awarded under the Academic Research Infrastructure—Recovery and Reinvestment Program or less than \$10,000,000. Award terms and conditions still require awardees to Buy American to the extent practicable for items within the de minimis part of the projects.

I. Background

The Recovery Act appropriated \$200 million to NSF for projects being funded by the Foundations Academic Research Infrastructure—Recovery and Reinvestment Program (ARI). This Program funds renovation of infrastructure for research at academic institutions and non-profit research organizations.

Section 1605(a) of the Recovery Act, the Buy American provision, states that none of the funds appropriated by the Act “may be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public building or public work unless all of the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in the project are produced in the United States.”

Subsections 1605(b) and (c) of the Recovery Act authorize the head of a Federal department or agency to waive the Buy American provision if the head of the agency finds that: (1) Applying the provision would be inconsistent with the public interest; (2) the relevant goods are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or (3) the inclusion of the goods produced in the United States will increase the cost of the project by more than 25 percent. If the head of the Federal department or agency waives the Buy American provision, then the head of the department or agency is required to publish a detailed justification in the **Federal Register**. Finally, section 1605(d) of the Recovery Act states that the Buy American provision must be applied in a manner consistent with the United States’ obligations under international agreements.

II. Finding That Individual Exemptions for Incidental Items Are Not in the Public Interest

Recovery Act projects funded by the Academic Research Infrastructure—Recovery and Reinvestment Program (ARI) typically involve the use of literally thousands of miscellaneous, generally low-cost items that are essential for, but incidental to, the construction, alteration, maintenance or repair of a public building or public work and are incorporated into the physical structure of the project, such as nuts, bolts, wires, cables, and switches. For many of these incidental items, the country of manufacture and the availability of alternatives are not always readily or reasonably identifiable in the normal course of business. More importantly, the miscellaneous character of these items, together with their low cost (both individually and when procured in bulk), characterize them as incidental to the project.

Requiring individual waivers for incidental items would be time prohibitive and overly burdensome for both awardees and for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in carrying out the Recovery Act. Therefore, a nationwide limited de minimis waiver of incidental items up to a limit of no more than 5 percent of the total cost of

the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in and incorporated into a project is justified in the public interest.

Issuance of this limited project-specific exemption recognizes NSF’s commitment to expeditious expenditure of Recovery Act dollars, by balancing the need for expeditious and efficient implementation of the Recovery Act while still applying the Buy American provisions for materials that are greater than a de minimis part of the projects.

With a similar purpose, on July 26, 2011, NSF published a de minimis exemption from the Buy American requirement for incidental items in a ship construction project [76 FR 44613].

III. Exemption

On July, 20, 2011, and under the authority of section 1605(b)(1) of the Public Law 111n5 and delegation order dated 27 May 2010, with respect to the Academic Research Infrastructure—Recovery and Reinvestment Program awards funded by NSF, the NSF Chief Financial Officer granted a limited exemption (a waiver under the Recovery Act Buy American provisions) for incidental items that comprise, in total, a de minimis amount of the project; that is, any such incidental items up to a limit of no more than 5 percent of the total cost of the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in and incorporated into a project that is funded under the Academic Research Infrastructure—Recovery and Reinvestment Program.

Other Federal agencies have issued similar de minimis exemptions. For example, the Department of Energy issued a de minimis exemption relating to its Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy [75 FR 35447 (June 22, 2010)].

Dated: November 14, 2011.

Lawrence Rudolph,
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2011–30289 Filed 11–22–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

National Science Board; Sunshine Act Meetings; Notice

The National Science Board’s Committee on Programs and Plans (CPP) Task Force on Unsolicited Mid-Scale Research (MS), pursuant to NSF regulations (45 CFR Part 614), the National Science Foundation Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1862n–5), and the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. 552b), hereby gives notice in regard to the scheduling of a teleconference for the transaction of

National Science Board business and other matters specified, as follows:

DATE AND TIME: November 29, 2011; 4 p.m.–5 p.m. EST.

SUBJECT MATTER: (1) Discussion of the proposed revision to the Task Force on Unsolicited Mid-Scale Research (MS) Task Force Charge timeline; (2) Discussion of the revised MS Task Force report outline; (3) Discussion of NSF mid-scale award data analysis.

STATUS: Open.

LOCATION: This meeting will be held by teleconference at the National Science Board Office, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230. A public listening room will be available for this teleconference meeting. All visitors must contact the Board Office [call (703) 292–7000 or send an email message to nationalsciencebrd@nsf.gov] at least 24 hours prior to the teleconference for the public room number and to arrange for a visitor’s badge. All visitors must report to the NSF visitor desk located in the lobby at the 9th and N. Stuart Streets entrance on the day of the teleconference to receive a visitor’s badge.

UPDATES AND POINT OF CONTACT: Please refer to the National Science Board Web site <http://www.nsf.gov/nsb> for additional information and schedule updates (time, place, subject matter or status of meeting) may be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/notices/>. Point of contact for this meeting is: Matthew B. Wilson, National Science Board Office, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292–7000.

Ann Bushmiller,

Senior Counsel to the National Science Board.

[FR Doc. 2011–30321 Filed 11–21–11; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

National Science Board; Sunshine Act Meetings; Notice

The National Science Board’s Task Force on Merit Review, pursuant to NSF regulations (45 CFR part 614), the National Science Foundation Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1862n–5), and the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. 552b), hereby gives notice in regard to the scheduling of a meeting for the transaction of National Science Board business, as follows:

DATE AND TIME: Monday, November 28, 2011, from 1 to 2 p.m., EST.

SUBJECT MATTER: Discussion of the draft Merit Review Criteria report.

STATUS: Open.