

If this information is not collected, vital feedback from customers and stakeholders on the Agency's services will be unavailable.

The Agency will only submit a collection for approval under this generic clearance if it meets the following conditions:

- The collections are voluntary;
- The collections are low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours, total number of respondents, or burden-hours per respondent) and are low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;
- The collections are non-controversial and do not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies;
- Any collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future;
- Personally identifiable information (PII) is collected only to the extent necessary and is not retained;
- Information gathered is used only internally for general service improvement and program management purposes and is not intended for release outside of the agency;
- Information gathered is not used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions; and
- Information gathered yields qualitative information; the collections are not designed or expected to yield statistically reliable results or used as though the results are generalizable to the population of study.

Feedback collected under this generic clearance provides useful information, but it does not yield data that can be generalized to the overall population. This type of generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program performance. Such data uses require more rigorous designs that address: The target population to which generalizations will be made, the sampling frame, the sample design (including stratification and clustering), the precision requirements or power calculations that justify the proposed sample size, the expected response rate, methods for assessing potential non-response bias, the protocols for data collection, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior to fielding the study. Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic

mechanisms that are designed to yield quantitative results.

As a general matter, information collections will not result in any new system of records containing privacy information and will not ask questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

*Current Actions:* Extension of approval for a collection of information.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Affected Public:* Individuals and Households, Businesses and Organizations, State, Local or Tribal Government.

Below we provide projected average estimates for the next three years:

*Estimated Number of Respondents Across All Three Years:* 15,000.

*Average Expected Annual Number of Activities:* 3.

*Average Number of Respondents per Activity:* 1,667.

*Annual Responses:* 5,000.

*Frequency of Response:* Once per request.

*Average Minutes per Response:* 15.

*Average Expected Annual Burden hours:* 1,167.

Dated: August 29, 2017.

**Kathy Daum,**

*Director, Administrative Services, National Endowment for the Arts.*

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**BILLING CODE 7537-01-P**

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Establish an Information Collection

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) is announcing plans to request approval for the collection of research and development data through the Evaluation of the National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Program survey. In accordance with the requirement 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 that OMB approve clearance of this collection for no longer than 3 years.

**DATES:** Written comments on this notice must be received by October 31, 2017 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1265, Arlington, Virginia 22230; 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:** Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the NSF, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the NSF's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

*Title of Collection:* Evaluation of the National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Program.

*OMB Approval Number:* 3145-NEW.

*Expiration Date of Current Approval:* Not applicable.

*Type of Request:* Intent to establish an information collection.

*Abstract:* NSF's ATE program focuses on providing Federal funds for the education of technicians at the local, regional, and national levels in advanced technology fields (*i.e.*, advanced manufacturing, agricultural and environmental technology, biological and chemical technology, engineering, information and security, micro/nanotechnologies, and general advanced technological education) to expand the pool of skilled technicians and improve the competitiveness of the United States in international trade. The program supports the education of technicians in strategic advanced technology fields by establishing partnerships between academic institutions and industry and providing resources for the development of curriculum, professional development for college faculty and secondary teachers, and career pathways from secondary schools to 2-year institutions and from 2-year institutions to 4-year institutions. The program also aims to

coordinate 2-year and 4-year institutions' teacher training programs for prospective STEM educators in strategic advanced technology fields.

The primary goals of the ATE program are to (1) educate highly qualified science and engineering technicians to meet workforce demands in strategic advanced technology fields; (2) improve the technical skills and general science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) preparation of these technicians and the educators who prepare them at the secondary (grades 7–12) and undergraduate levels; and (3) increase the capacity of institutions for advanced technician education.

To ensure that the ATE program accomplishes its goals of producing more highly qualified science and engineering technicians and improving the skills and knowledge of educators and technicians who train them, it is important to consistently assess and improve the program's activities. Therefore, this evaluation aims to gather information on the following research questions:

1. How has ATE advanced the mission of NSF between FY 2007 and FY 2015?
2. How do individual awardees implement student-focused activities at their ATE projects/centers?
3. What are the educational outcomes of students who have participated in ATE-funded activities?
4. How do individual awardees implement faculty-focused activities at their ATE projects/centers?
5. How have program-supported activities enhanced faculty and teacher knowledge/skills/networks, especially as they relate to building capacity at institutions to address workforce needs in advanced technology fields?
6. How do grantees develop partnerships with industry to support student and faculty/teacher development?
7. How have awardee partnerships with business and industry enhanced student educational training and workforce outcomes?

Because of the nature of the ATE program and the type of information being sought, a mixed methods evaluation design will be employed.

The evaluation will collect data using web surveys and qualitative methods (consisting of semi-structured interviews and focus groups), as well as draw on data from extant sources. The study components include: a descriptive implementation study that describes project implementation; a relational study of associations between project/center and student characteristics on student outcomes; and a comparative study using the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data to compare degrees and certificates conferred by non-ATE-funded institutions and ATE-funded institutions before and after receipt of funding. Approval is only sought for new data that will be collected for the study, including:

► *Survey data from ATE PIs* who were awarded funding between 2007 and 2015 to understand how projects and centers operate and how awards are implemented: This survey collects data on the types of ATE-supported activities students engage in, program completers, graduates in the workforce, and professional development offered to secondary and postsecondary educators.

► *Survey data from faculty and teachers* who directly participated in ATE-funded professional development (hereafter referred to as faculty) between 2012 and 2015 to understand the perceived impact on faculty growth: This survey asks about faculty members' participation in professional development activities, professional networks or communities of practice, and whether participation in the networks or communities improved their instruction.

► *Survey data from current and former students* who have directly participated in ATE-funded training activities (defined as having enrolled in technology degree or certificate programs developed as part of ATE-funded work, or worked in technology labs maintained as part of ATE-funded work, or participated in industry internships created as part of ATE-funded work) between 2012 and 2015 to understand: their reasons for participating in an ATE program, the perceived value and impact of the

program, skills and experiences obtained, reasons for leaving the program (if applicable), interest in pursuing advanced education or occupation in advanced technology field, and educational and occupational status obtained.

► *Semistructured interviews with PIs*: To obtain more detail on program implementation, student recruitment and retention strategies and challenges, perceptions of professional development and training on specific outcomes, and lessons learned.

► *Semistructured interviews with faculty participants*: To obtain more detail on professional development activities they engaged in and which aspects were the most and least successful with regard to perceived impact of professional development on themselves and specific student outcomes.

► *Virtual focus groups with current and former student participants*: To describe in more detail their experiences with and perceptions of the ATE program, including how they learned about the program; supports and challenges to staying in/completing the program; activities they engaged in; and perceived impact on their skills, goals/interests, and workforce readiness.

*Use of the information*: The primary purpose of collecting this information is program evaluation. The data collected will enable NSF to describe program components that are implemented with ATE funds and will be used by NSF to monitor and improve the program and assess its merit and worth. The evaluation will also inform the design of a future impact evaluation.

*Expected respondents*: The expected respondents are up to 560 ATE PIs who have received ATE funding since 2007; 33,613 faculty members who have participated in ATE-funded professional development since 2012; and 43,763 students who have directly participated in PIs' ATE-funded work since 2012.

*Estimate of burden*: The collection occurs once for each respondent. The total estimate for this collection is 19,622 burden hours and \$578,887.41. The calculation is shown in table 1.

TABLE 1—ESTIMATED BURDEN TO SURVEY, INTERVIEW, AND FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS

Type of collection	Anticipated responses (# of persons)	Estimated annual burden (in hours)	Estimated annual burden (in dollars)
PI List Collection .....	142	71	\$2,795.27
PI Web Survey .....	390	130	5,118.10
Faculty Web Survey .....	33,585	8,396	330,550.52
Student Web Survey .....	43,707	10,927	237,552.98

TABLE 1—ESTIMATED BURDEN TO SURVEY, INTERVIEW, AND FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS—Continued

Type of collection	Anticipated responses (# of persons)	Estimated annual burden (in hours)	Estimated annual burden (in dollars)
PI Semistructured Interview .....	28	28	1,102.36
Faculty Semistructured Interview .....	28	14	551.18
Student Focus Group .....	56	56	1,217.00
Total .....	77,936	19,622	578,887.41

Dated: August 29, 2017.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the purposes of Sections 29 and 182b of the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2039, 2232b), the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) will hold a meeting September 7–8, 2017, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

#### Thursday, September 7, 2017, Conference Room T-2B1, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852

*8:30 a.m.–8:35 a.m.: Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman* (Open)—The ACRS Chairman will make opening remarks regarding the conduct of the meeting.

*8:35 a.m.–11:00 a.m.: Advanced Power Reactor 1400 (APR1400)* (Open/Closed)—The Committee will hear briefings by and discussion with representatives of the NRC staff and Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power regarding selected chapters (7 and 18) of the safety evaluation associated with the APR1400 Design Certification. [NOTE: A portion of this session may be closed in order to discuss and protect information designated as proprietary, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4)].

*11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.: Preparation for ACRS Meeting with Commission* (Open)—The Committee will hold a discussion of topics for the meeting in October.

*1:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.: Preparation of ACRS Reports* (Open/Closed)—The Committee will discuss proposed ACRS reports on APR1400. [NOTE: A portion of this session may be closed in order to discuss and protect information

designated as proprietary, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4)].

#### Friday, September 8, 2017, Conference Room T-2B1, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852

*8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.: Future ACRS Activities/Report of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee and Reconciliation of ACRS Comments and Recommendations* (Open/Closed)—The Committee will discuss the recommendations of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee regarding items proposed for consideration by the Full Committee during future ACRS Meetings, and matters related to the conduct of ACRS business, including anticipated workload and member assignments. The Committee will discuss the responses from the NRC Executive Director for Operations to comments and recommendations included in recent ACRS reports and letters. [NOTE: A portion of this meeting may be closed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(2) and (6) to discuss organizational and personnel matters that relate solely to internal personnel rules and practices of the ACRS, and information the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy].

*10:15 a.m.–11:15 a.m.: Assessment of the Quality of Selected NRC Research Projects* (Open)—The Committee will discuss the assessment of the quality of the project on Validation of Computational Fluid Dynamics Methods Using Prototypic Light Water Reactor Spent Fuel Assembly Thermal Hydraulic Data.

*11:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m.: Preparation of ACRS Reports* (Open/Closed)—The Committee will continue its discussion of proposed ACRS reports. [NOTE: A portion of this session may be closed in order to discuss and protect information designated as proprietary, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4)].

*1:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.: Preparation of ACRS Reports/Retreats* (Open/Closed)—The Committee will continue its discussion of proposed ACRS reports. The Committee will discuss the Working Group on Human-caused

External Events and History of ACRS. [NOTE: A portion of this session may be closed in order to discuss and protect information designated as proprietary, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4)].

Procedures for the conduct of and participation in ACRS meetings were published in the **Federal Register** on October 17, 2016 (81 FR 71543). In accordance with those procedures, oral or written views may be presented by members of the public, including representatives of the nuclear industry. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify Quynh Nguyen, Cognizant ACRS Staff (Telephone: 301-415-5844, Email: [Quynh.Nguyen@nrc.gov](mailto:Quynh.Nguyen@nrc.gov)), 5 days before the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made to allow necessary time during the meeting for such statements. In view of the possibility that the schedule for ACRS meetings may be adjusted by the Chairman as necessary to facilitate the conduct of the meeting, persons planning to attend should check with the Cognizant ACRS staff if such rescheduling would result in major inconvenience.

Thirty-five hard copies of each presentation or handout should be provided 30 minutes before the meeting. In addition, one electronic copy of each presentation should be emailed to the Cognizant ACRS Staff one day before meeting. If an electronic copy cannot be provided within this timeframe, presenters should provide the Cognizant ACRS Staff with a CD containing each presentation at least 30 minutes before the meeting.

In accordance with Subsection 10(d) of Public Law 92-463 and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), certain portions of this meeting may be closed, as specifically noted above. Use of still, motion picture, and television cameras during the meeting may be limited to selected portions of the meeting as determined by the Chairman. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during the open portions of the meeting.

ACRS meeting agendas, meeting transcripts, and letter reports are available through the NRC Public Document Room at [pdr.resource@](http://pdr.resource@)