

to collect timely data on constant changes in the science and technology sector and to provide the most complete and accurate information possible to policy makers in Congress and throughout government and academia. NSF/SRS conducts many surveys to obtain the data for these purposes. The Generic Clearance will be used to ensure that the highest quality data is obtained from these surveys. State-of-the-art methodology will be used to develop evaluate, and test questionnaires as well as to improve survey methodology. This may include field or pilot tests of questions for future large-scale surveys, as needed.

Expected Respondents. The respondents will be from industry, academia, nonprofit organizations, members of the public, and Federal agencies. Respondents will be either individuals or institutions, depending upon the survey under investigation. Qualitative procedures will generally be conducted in person, but quantitative procedures may be conducted using the

same mode as the survey under investigation. Up to 8,020 respondents will be contacted across all survey improvement projects. No respondent will be contacted more than twice in one year under this generic clearance. Every effort will be made to use technology to limit the burden on respondents from small entities.

Both qualitative and quantitative methods will be used to improve NSF's current data collection instruments and processes and to reduce respondent burden, as well as to develop new surveys. Qualitative methods include, but are not limited to, expert review; exploratory, cognitive, and usability interviews; focus groups; and respondent debriefings. Cognitive and usability interviews may include the use of scenarios, paraphrasing, card sorts, vignette classifications, and rating tasks. Quantitative methods include, but are not limited to, behavior coding, split panel tests, and field tests.

Information being collected is not considered sensitive. In general,

assurances of data confidentiality will not be provided to respondents in the pretests. Instead, respondents have the option of requesting that any and all data they provide be kept confidential.

Use of the Information. The purpose of these studies is to use the latest and most appropriate methodology to improve NSF surveys. The data will be used internally to improve NSF surveys. Methodological findings may be presented externally in technical papers at conferences, published in the proceedings of conferences, or in journals. Improved NSF surveys will help policy makers in decisions on research and development funding, graduate education, scientific and technical workforce, regulations, and reporting guidelines, as well as contributing to reduced survey costs.

Burden on the Public. NSF estimates that a total reporting and recordkeeping burden of 11,200 hours will result from pretesting to improve its surveys. The calculation is:

TABLE 1.—ANTICIPATED SURVEYS TO UNDERTAKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, ALONG WITH THE NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS AND BURDEN HOURS PER SURVEY

Survey name	Number of respondents ¹	Hours
Graduate Student Survey	500	1,500
Sestat Surveys	5,000	5,000
New Postdoc Survey	800	1,000
New and Redesigned R&D Surveys:		
Academic R&D	600	600
Government R&D	50	50
Nonprofit R&D	200	100
Industry R&D	500	1,000
Survey of Scientific & Engineering Facilities	300	150
Instrumentation	150	300
Public Understanding of S&E Surveys	200	50
Scientific Publications	120	250
Additional surveys not specified	400	1,200
Total	8,820	11,200

¹ Number of respondents listed for any individual survey may represent several methodological improvement projects.

Comments: Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency'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.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 19, 2003.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Notice of Public Meeting of the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will host a meeting of the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS) on July 8, 2003, at 12:00 pm, in Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of ISCORS is to foster early resolution and coordination of regulatory issues associated with