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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Suzanne H. Plimpton, NSF Reports Clearance Officer at (703) 292-7556 or send e-mail to splimpto@nsf.gov.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Evaluation of NSF Support for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (URO).

OMB Number: 3145-0121.

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to reinstate an information collection for one year.

Abstract: "Evaluation of NSF Support for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (URO)".

Proposed Project: The National Science Foundation (NSF) manages a number of programs that provide meaningful research experiences for undergraduate students. This suite of programs include: Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU), both the Site and Supplement components; Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI); the undergraduate research components in several of NSF's large research centers programs, e.g., Engineering Research Centers (ERC) Programs, Science and Technology Centers (STCs); and several institution-wide human resources development programs in which undergraduate research experiences are often one component.

These Programs provide a wide range of U.S. undergraduate students with opportunities to conduct hands-on research under the mentorship of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty in various types of higher education institutions, including small liberal arts colleges, minority-serving institutions, single-sex institutions, comprehensive universities, research universities, as well as non-profit institutions in which science or engineering research is conducted.

The purpose of the proposed evaluation is to examine the impact of undergraduate research experiences supported by NSF on the undergraduate student and faculty and other mentors who participate. Study questions include: Why do undergraduates choose to participate in research activities? What are the perceived advantages and disadvantages to faculty for mentoring undergraduates in research activities? What are the criteria for selecting students for research activities? What kinds of activities comprise undergraduate "research" experiences? How do undergraduate research experiences affect students' decisions about their academic and work future?

Use of the Information: The information will allow NSF to review its portfolio of programs in which a substantial number of undergraduates participate in research projects of faculty and other mentors to determine whether there needs to be any rebalancing. In addition, it will include an inventory of undergraduate research opportunities around the U.S. and contribute to the literature on best practices in undergraduate research experiences.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response.

Respondents: Individuals.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 9,333.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 4,328 hours.

Frequency of Responses: One time.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

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Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. (as shown in Attachment 1), License Nos. (as shown in Attachment 1) EA-03-009]

In the Matter of: All Pressurized Water Reactor Licensees; Order Modifying Licenses (Effective Immediately)

I

The Licensees identified in the Attachment to this Order hold licenses issued by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) authorizing operation of pressurized water reactor (PWR) nuclear power plants in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and 10 CFR part 50.

II

The reactor pressure vessel (RPV) heads of PWRs have penetrations for control rod drive mechanisms and instrumentation systems. Nickel-based alloys (e.g., Alloy 600) are used in the penetration nozzles and related welds. Primary coolant water and the operating conditions of PWR plants can cause cracking of these nickel-based alloys through a process called primary water stress corrosion cracking (PWSCC). The susceptibility of RPV head penetrations to PWSCC appears to be strongly linked to the operating time and temperature of the RPV head. Problems related to PWSCC have therefore increased as plants have operated for longer periods of time. Inspections of the RPV head nozzles at the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 2 and 3 (Oconee), in early 2001 identified circumferential cracking of the nozzles above the J-groove weld, which joins the nozzle to the RPV head. Circumferential cracking above the J-groove weld is a safety concern because of the possibility of a nozzle ejection if the circumferential cracking is not detected and repaired.

Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), which is incorporated into NRC regulations by 10 CFR 50.55a, "Codes and standards," currently specifies that inspections of the RPV head need only include a visual check for leakage on the insulated surface or surrounding area. These inspections may not detect small amounts of leakage from an RPV head penetration with cracks extending through the nozzle or the J-groove weld. Such leakage can create an environment that leads to circumferential cracks in RPV head penetration nozzles or corrosion of the RPV head. In response to the inspection findings at Oconee and because existing requirements in the ASME Code and NRC regulations do not adequately address inspections of RPV head penetrations for degradation due to PWSCC, the NRC issued Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," dated August 3, 2001. In response to the Bulletin, PWR Licensees provided their plans for inspecting RPV head penetrations and the outside surface of the heads to determine whether any nozzles were leaking.

In early March 2002, while conducting inspections of reactor vessel head penetrations prompted by Bulletin 2001-01, the Licensee for the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station (Davis-Besse) identified a cavity in the reactor vessel head near the top of the dome. The cavity was next to a leaking nozzle