

assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the information collection and requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Rm. 295, Arlington, VA 22230, or by e-mail to splimpto@nsf.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Suzanne Plimpton on (703) 292-7556 or send e-mail to 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 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Clearance for Program Evaluation of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program.

Title of Collection: Evaluation of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program.

OMB Control No.: 3145-(NEW).

Expiration Date of Approval: Not applicable.

Abstract: The National Science Foundation (NSF) requests a three-year clearance for research, evaluation and data collection (e.g., surveys and interviews) from actual and potential applicants to and other stakeholders in the Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER). CAREER stakeholders typically are limited to PhD scientists and engineers and faculty and administrators from universities and not-for-profit institutions (e.g., museums, non-degree granting educational or research institutions), and former NSF employees and intergovernmental personnel act (IPA) appointees. A preliminary, predecessor study to this new evaluation research was approved through September 2001 as an external (third-party) program evaluation under the EHR Generic Clearance (OMB 345-0136). The earlier CAREER study was conducted by Abt Associates, Inc., Cambridge, MA, and it examined only the first three years that NSF provided CAREER grants to eligible institutions in Fiscal Years (FY) 1995 through 1997. A copy of Abt's final report to NSF entitled Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program: *External Evaluation Summary Report* (NSF 01-134) was posted in August 2001 on NSF's Web site and remains available at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2001/nsf01134/pdf>. The new CAREER

program evaluation is estimated to cover from FY 1995 through FY 2005.

NSF established the CAREER Program to support career-development for beginning teacher-scholars in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), within the context of the mission of their employing organization. CAREER typically awards a grant to support the research and educational activities conducted by individual scientists and engineers with PhDs (or the equivalent). For specific details and the most updated information regarding CAREER program operations, please visit the NSF Web site at: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5262&from-fund.

NSF has contracted a new program evaluation of CAREER, to be conducted by Abt Associates Inc. Through this new evaluation of the CAREER Program NSF aims to identify, measure and document:

- (1) The longer-term impacts of this program on the research activities, educational activities and career advancement of CAREER awardees;
- (2) the program's impacts on the integration of research and education by individual STEM faculty;
- (3) the impacts of the CAREER program on the institutions (including at the department or other sub-institutional level) that administer the NSF funding to a CAREER scientist or engineer; and
- (4) changes within NSF that may be attributed to the CAREER program's operations, benefiting scientists and engineers, and other CAREER stakeholders.

The primary methods of data collection will include meta-data collection from open sources and from records at NSF and grantee institutions; surveys, institutional site visits, and in-person and telephone interviews. There is a bounded (or limited) number of respondents within the general public who will be affected by this research, including current and former CAREER awardees, scientists and engineers currently or once eligible to apply to CAREER, other scientists and engineers and the STEM research and education committees. NSF will use the CAREER program evaluation data and analyses to respond to requests from Committees of Visitors (COV), Congress and the Office of Management and Budget, particularly as related to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) and the Program Effectiveness Rating Tool (PART). NSF will also use the program evaluation to improve communication with CAREER stakeholders and to share the broader

impacts of the CAREER program with the general public.

Respondents: Individuals or households, Business or other for profit, Federal Government, State, Local or Tribal Government and not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,000.

Burden on the Public: 2,000 hours.

Dated: January 20, 2006.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,
Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 06-712 Filed 1-25-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Discount Rates for Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Federal Programs

AGENCY: Office of Management and Budget.

ACTION: Revisions to Appendix C of OMB Circular A-94.

SUMMARY: The Office of Management and Budget revised Circular A-94 in 1992. The revised Circular specified certain discount rates to be updated annually when the interest rate and inflation assumptions used to prepare the budget of the United States Government were changed. These discount rates are found in Appendix C of the revised Circular. The updated discount rates are shown below. The discount rates in Appendix C are to be used for cost-effectiveness analysis, including lease-purchase analysis, as specified in the revised Circular. They do not apply to regulatory analysis.

DATES: The revised discount rates are effective immediately and will be in effect through January 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert B. Anderson, Office of Economic Policy, Office of Management and Budget, (202) 395-3381.

James D. Foster,

Associate Director for Economic Policy, Office of Management and Budget.

Appendix C—Discount Rates for Cost-Effectiveness, Lease Purchase, and Related Analyses

Revised January 2006.

Effective Dates. This appendix is updated annually around the time of the President's budget submission to Congress. This version of the appendix is valid through the end of January 2007. A copy of the updated appendix can be obtained in electronic form through the OMB home page at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a094/>

a94_appx-c.html, the text of the main body of the Circular is found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a094/a094.html>, and a table of past years' rates is located at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a094/dischist-2006.pdf>. Updates of

the appendix are also available upon request from OMB's Office of Economic Policy (202-395-3381).
Nominal Discount Rates. A forecast of nominal or market interest rates for 2006 based on the economic assumptions from the

2007 Budget are presented below. These nominal rates are to be used for discounting nominal flows, which are often encountered in lease-purchase analysis.

NOMINAL INTEREST RATES ON TREASURY NOTES AND BONDS OF SPECIFIED MATURITIES
 [In percent]

3-year	5-year	7-year	10-year	20-year	30-year
4.7	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.2

Real Discount Rates. A forecast of real interest rates from which the inflation premium has been removed and based on the

economic assumptions from the 2007 Budget is presented below. These real rates are to be used for discounting real (constant-dollar)

flows, as often required in cost-effectiveness analysis.

REAL INTEREST RATES ON TREASURY NOTES AND BONDS OF SPECIFIED MATURITIES
 [In percent]

3-year	5-year	7-year	10-year	20-year	30-year
2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.0

Analyses of programs with terms different from those presented above may use a linear interpolation. For example, a four-year project can be evaluated with a rate equal to the average of the three-year and five-year rates. Programs with durations longer than 30 years may use the 30-year interest rate.

[FR Doc. E6-963 Filed 1-25-06; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3110-01-P

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data collections, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RRB's estimate of the burden of the collection of the information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden related to the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Title and Purpose of Information Collection

Nonresident Questionnaire; OMB 3220-0145.

Under Public Laws 98-21 and 98-76, benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act payable to annuitants living outside the United States may be subject to taxation under United States income tax laws. Whether the social security equivalent and non-social security equivalent portions of Tier I, Tier II, vested dual benefit, or supplemental annuity payments are subject to tax withholding, and whether the same or different rates are applied to each payment, depends on a beneficiary's citizenship and legal residence status, and whether exemption under a tax treaty between the United States and the country in which the beneficiary is a legal resident has been claimed. To effect the required tax withholding, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) needs to know a nonresidents citizenship and legal residence status.

To secure the required information, the RRB utilizes Form RRB-1001, Nonresident Questionnaire, as a supplement to an application as part of the initial application process, and as an independent vehicle for obtaining the needed information when an annuitant's residence or tax treaty status changes. Completion is voluntary. One response is requested of each respondent.

The RRB estimates that 1,300 Form RRB-1001's are completed annually. The completion time for Form RRB-1001 is estimated at 30 minutes. No

changes are proposed to Form RRB-1001.

Additional Information or Comments: To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justifications, forms, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363 or send an e-mail request to Charles.Mierzwa@RRB.GOV. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 N. Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092 or send an e-mail to Ronald.Hodapp@RRB.GOV. Comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Charles Mierzwa,
Clearance Officer.
 [FR Doc. E6-946 Filed 1-25-06; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7905-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension:
 Rule 15c2-7; SEC File No. 270-420; OMB Control No. 3235-0479.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission