

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**Agency Information Collection
Activities: Comment Request****AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.**ACTION:** Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) has submitted the following information collection requirement to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. The full submission may be found at: <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. This is the second notice for public comment; the first was published in the **Federal Register** at 73 FR 24615, and no comments were received. NSF is forwarding the proposed renewal submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance simultaneously with the publication of this second notice. Comments regarding (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (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 should be addressed to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, *Attention:* Desk Officer for National Science Foundation, 725—17th Street, NW., Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, and to Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 295, Arlington, Virginia 22230 or send e-mail to splimpto@nsf.gov. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission may be obtained by calling 703–292–7556.

NSF may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it

displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: 2008 Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.

OMB Approval Number: 3145–0062.

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to extend an information collection for three years.

1. Abstract

The Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS) has been conducted since 1966. The GSS is a census of all eligible academic institutions and all departments in science and engineering and health (SEH) programs in the United States. The GSS is the only national survey that collects information on the characteristics of graduate enrollment for specific science, engineering, and health disciplines at the department level. It collects information on race/ethnicity, citizenship, gender, sources of support, mechanisms of support, and enrollment status for graduate students; and gender, citizenship and sources of support for postdoctorates. It also collects counts by gender of other nonfaculty research staff with doctorates.

The National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as subsequently amended, includes a statutory charge to “* * * provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering resources, and to provide a source of information for policy formulation by other agencies of the Federal Government.” The GSS is designed to comply with these mandates by providing information on the characteristics of academic graduate enrollment and postdoctoral components in science, engineering and health fields. The Foundation uses this information to prepare congressionally mandated reports such as *Women, Minorities and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering and Science and Engineering Indicators*.

Survey results are made available in a variety of formats. A four-page InfoBrief and selected summary tables are published. All tables and reports are made available in various electronic formats on the Web (<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/>). The results are also in the Web-based Computer-Aided Science Policy Analysis and Research (WebCASPAR) database system. The URL for WebCASPAR is <http://caspar.nsf.gov/webcaspar>. A public release file is also made available on the World Wide Web.

RTI International (RTI) will conduct the study for NSF. Data collection will begin in October 2008 primarily by Web survey (with paper worksheets available upon request). All information will be used for statistical purposes only. Participation in the survey is voluntary.

2. Expected Respondents

In 2008, the number of departments is expected to grow by 5 percent resulting in a total number of 13,253 departments. In addition, the 2008 GSS will be conducting pilot studies with 80 potentially eligible institutions and with 40 institutions where undercoverage (not all eligible departments are being listed) may be occurring. Finally, in 2008–2010 the GSS will be including the Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) as part of the GSS in order to gather information about the number and characteristics of postdoctoral appointments in these centers.

3. Burden on the Public

The amount of time to complete the GSS varies and depends to a large degree on the extent to which the school's records are centrally stored and computerized. On average, it takes 2.5 hours to complete the GSS. Based on estimates provided by the respondents to the 2007 GSS, the total estimated burden for the 2008 GSS will be 36,721 hours. This estimate includes the 33,133 annual burden hours for the 2008 GSS; 2,800 annual burden hours for the pilot study of the newly eligible institutions; 600 burden hours for the undercoverage pilot study; and 188 burden hours for FFRDC study. The total estimated burden for the three years of this clearance (2008–2010) will be 127,423 hours, including 360 hours for field testing of data collection instruments prior to implementation.

Dated: July 23, 2008.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. E8–17182 Filed 7–25–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–P

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION****Notice of Availability of Draft Generic
Environmental Impact Statement for In-
Situ Leach Uranium Milling Facilities**

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory
Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of Draft
Generic Environmental Impact
Statement for Uranium milling facilities.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), with the cooperation of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Land Quality Division, is issuing for public comment a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft GEIS) that identifies and evaluates on a programmatic basis, the potential environmental impacts from the construction, operation, aquifer restoration, and decommissioning at *in-situ* leach (ISL) uranium milling facilities located in particular regions of the western United States. The Draft GEIS addresses environmental issues common to ISL milling facilities to aid in making more efficient environmental reviews of individual site-specific ISL license applications.

The NRC anticipates that nearly 75 percent of new license applications for uranium milling received by the agency within the next several years will propose use of the ISL process. By addressing common issues associated with environmental reviews of ISL facilities, the NRC will use the GEIS to provide a starting point in the staff's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses for site-specific license applications for new ISL facilities. Additionally, the NRC staff plans to use the GEIS, along with applicable previous site-specific environmental review documents, in its NEPA analysis for the restart or expansions of existing ISL facilities. In its review of individual ISL license applications, the NRC would evaluate the site-specific data to determine whether relevant sections of the GEIS could be incorporated by reference into the site-specific environmental review. Additionally, the NRC would determine whether aspects of the site and/or the applicant's proposed activities are consistent with those evaluated in the GEIS or are such that additional analysis in specific topic areas would be required. As such, the subsequent site-specific NEPA reviews (i.e., either environmental assessments or environmental impact statements) will tier from the analyses of common issues evaluated in the GEIS and address the unique attributes of individual sites.

To encourage broad participation in the preparation of the GEIS, the NRC staff has scheduled a series of public meetings in potentially affected regions of the four states (Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and New Mexico) where uranium milling companies have indicated to the NRC their desire to pursue uranium recovery using the ISL process. The purpose of these meetings will be for the NRC staff to present an

overview of the Draft GEIS and to accept oral and written public comments on the Draft GEIS from interested members of the public. The meeting dates, times, and locations are listed below:

Meeting Date: August 25, 2008, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, 305 N. 27th Street, Spearfish, SD 57783, Phone (605) 642-4683.

Meeting Date: August 27, 2008, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Chadron State College, Student Center Ballroom, 1000 Main Street, Chadron, NE., 69337, Phone (308) 432-6380.

Meeting Date: August 29, 2008, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Weston Senior Center, 627 Pine Street, Newcastle, WY 82701, Phone (307) 746-4903.

Meeting Date: September 8, 2008, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Best Western Inn & Suites, 3009 West Highway 66, Gallup, NM, Phone (505) 722-2221.

Meeting Date: September 9, 2008, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Best Western Inn & Suites, 1501 East Santa Fe Ave., Grants, NM, 87020, Phone (505) 287-7901.

Meeting Date: September 11, 2008, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Hilton Albuquerque, 1901 University Boulevard NE., Albuquerque, NM, Phone (505) 884-2500.

Meeting Date: September 23, 2008, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Best Western Ramkota Hotel, 800 N. Poplar, Casper, WY, Phone (307) 266-6000.

Meeting Date: September 25, 2008, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Best Western Tower West Lodge, 109 North U.S. Highway 14 & 16, Gillette, WY, 82716, Phone (307) 686-2110.

For each meeting, members of the NRC staff will be available for informal discussions with members of the public from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The formal meeting and associated NRC presentation will begin at 7 p.m. For planning purposes, those who wish to present oral comments at a particular meeting are encouraged to pre-register no later than one week (7 days) prior to the meeting by contacting either Tarsha Moon of the NRC at 1-800-368-5642, extension 7843 or Antoinette Walker-Smith of the NRC at 1-800-368-5642, Extension 6390. Interested persons also may register to speak at the meetings. Depending on the number of speakers for a meeting, each speaker may be limited in the amount of time allocated for their comments so that all speakers

will have an opportunity to offer comments.

The NRC will issue a Final GEIS after considering both oral and written public comments on the Draft GEIS.

DATES: The public comment period on the Draft GEIS begins with publication of this notice and continues until October 7, 2008. Written comments should be submitted as described in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. The NRC will consider comments received or postmarked after that date to the extent practical.

ADDRESSES: Members of the public are invited and encouraged to submit comments on the Draft GEIS to the Chief, Rulemaking, Directives, and Editing Branch, Mailstop: T6-D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. The NRC encourages comments submitted electronically to be sent to NRCREP.Resource@nrc.gov. Please include "Uranium Recovery GEIS" in the subject line when submitting written comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on the NRC's NEPA process, or the environmental review process related to the Draft GEIS, please contact James Park, Project Manager, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection (DWMEP), Mail Stop T-8F5, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC, 20555-001, by phone at 1 (800) 368-5642, extension 6935. For general or technical information associated with the safety and licensing of uranium milling facilities, please contact William Von Till, Branch Chief, Uranium Recovery Branch, DWMEP, Mail Stop T-8F5, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, by phone at 1 (800) 368-5642, extension 0598.

The NRC maintains an Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which provides text and image files of the NRC's public documents. The Draft GEIS and its appendices may be accessed through the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room on the internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, under the accession numbers ML082030184 and ML082000997 for Volumes 1 and 2, respectively, of the Draft GEIS. If you either do not have access to ADAMS or if there is a problem accessing documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1 (800) 397-4209, 1 (301) 415-4737 or by email to PDR.Resource@nrc.gov.

Information and documents associated with the Draft GEIS are also

available for public review through the NRC Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and at the NRC's Web site for the GEIS, <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/licensing/geis.html>. Both information and documents associated with the Draft GEIS also are available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, U.S. NRC's Headquarters Building, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. For those without access to the Internet, paper copies of any electronic documents may be obtained for a fee by contacting the NRC's Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209. The draft GEIS and related documents may also be found at the following public libraries:

Albuquerque Main Library, 501 Copper NW., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102, 505-768-5141.
 Mother Whiteside Memorial Library, 525 West High Street, Grants, New Mexico 87020, 505-287-4793.
 Octavia Fellin Public Library, 115 W Hill Avenue, Gallup, New Mexico 87301, 505-863-1291.
 Natrona County Public Library, 307 East Second Street, Casper, Wyoming 82601, 307-332-5194.
 Carbon County Public Library, 215 W Buffalo Street, Rawlins, Wyoming 82301, 307-328-2618.
 Campbell County Public Library, 2101 South 4J Road, Gillette, Wyoming 82718, 307-687-0009.
 Weston County Library, 23 West Main Street, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701, 307-746-2206.
 Chadron Public Library, 507 Bordeaux Street, Chadron, Nebraska 69337, 308-432-0531.
 Rapid City Public Library, 610 Quincy Street, Rapid City, South Dakota 57701, 605-394-4171.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In cooperation with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (Land Quality Division), the NRC staff and its contractor, the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses, prepared this draft GEIS to facilitate the NRC staff's environmental review of new ISL uranium milling license applications. The NRC staff will use the GEIS to ensure a consistent approach in conducting the reviews and to focus the staff's efforts on unique site characteristics that will be addressed in the site-specific environmental evaluations as part of ISL application reviews. The Draft GEIS was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the NRC's regulations for implementing NEPA (10 CFR Part 51).

The NRC staff published a Notice of Intent to prepare the GEIS, in the **Federal Register** on July 24, 2007 (72 FR 40344). The public scoping comment period for the GEIS closed on November 30, 2007. The NRC staff has prepared a summary report of the comments received, and this report is available through the NRC Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, under the accession number ML081560476.

The NRC is expecting numerous license applications for in-situ leach (ISL) uranium milling facilities in the coming 2-3 years. This Draft GEIS is intended to address the common issues associated with environmental reviews of such milling facilities located in specific regions of the western United States. Due to environmental issues common to ISL milling facilities, the NRC staff is addressing these common issues in a programmatic manner to aid in a more efficient environmental review for each individual license application, if and when these applications are submitted.

ISL milling facilities recover uranium from low grade ores that may not be economically recoverable by other methods. In this process, a leaching agent, such as oxygen with sodium bicarbonate, is added to native ground water for injection through wells into the subsurface ore body to dissolve the uranium. The leach solution, containing the dissolved uranium, is pumped back to the surface and sent to the processing plant, where ion exchange is used to separate the uranium from the solution. The underground leaching of the uranium also frees other metals and minerals from the host rock. Operators of ISL facilities are required to restore the ground water affected by the leaching operations. The milling process concentrates the recovered uranium into the product known as "yellowcake" (U₃O₈). This yellowcake is then shipped to uranium conversion facilities for further processing in the overall uranium fuel cycle.

In the Draft GEIS, the proposed action is the construction, operation, aquifer restoration, and decommissioning at an ISL uranium milling facility in each of four identified regions in the western U.S. Implementation of the proposed action would require the issuance of an NRC license under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 40. The GEIS also addresses the no-action alternative. Under this alternative, the NRC would not approve new ISL license applications in the four regions and so new ISL uranium milling facilities would not be constructed nor operated in those regions. The no-action

alternative serves as a baseline for comparison of the potential environmental impacts.

Conventional mining/milling and the heap leach process are two other methods of uranium recovery. However, inasmuch as the suitability and practicality of using these alternative milling methodologies depends upon site-specific conditions, a generic discussion of these methodologies is not appropriate. Accordingly, the Draft GEIS does not contain a detailed analysis of alternative milling methodologies to the ISL process. A detailed analysis of such alternative milling methodologies that can be applied at a specific site will be addressed in the NRC's site-specific environmental review for individual ISL license applications.

The Draft GEIS is structured in the following manner. The NRC staff began by identifying four uranium milling regions in the western U.S. to use as a framework for discussions in the document. Two regions are found in Wyoming, one in New Mexico, and a final region encompasses portions of Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

These regions were identified based on several considerations, including:

- Past and existing uranium milling sites are located within States where the NRC has regulatory authority over uranium recovery;
- Potential new sites are identified based on the NRC's understanding of where the uranium recovery industry has plans to develop uranium deposits using ISL technology; and
- Locations of historical uranium deposits within portions of Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota, and New Mexico.

Additionally, in defining these regions, the NRC considered aspects of the affected environment (e.g., regional ground water characteristics, regional demographics) such that potential future ISL milling sites within each region would more likely share those aspects for the purpose of evaluating potential environmental impacts. Therefore, the NRC considers that these regions reasonably bound the geographic scope of the Draft GEIS for describing the affected environment and for assessing potential environmental impacts within each region.

Next, the Draft GEIS provides a description of the ISL process and addresses the construction, operation, aquifer restoration, and decommissioning at an ISL facility. Financial assurance is also discussed, whereby the ISL licensee or applicant establishes a bond or other financial mechanism prior to operations to ensure that sufficient funds are available to

complete aquifer restoration, decommissioning, and reclamation activities.

Then, the Draft GEIS describes the affected environment in each uranium milling region, using the environmental resource areas and topics identified through public scoping comments on the GEIS and from NRC guidance to its staff found in NUREG-1748, "Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated With NMSS Programs," issued by the NRC in 2003.

Finally, the Draft GEIS provides an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of constructing, operating, aquifer restoration, and decommissioning at an ISL facility in each of the four uranium milling regions. In essence, this involves placing an ISL facility with the characteristics described previously within each of the four regional areas and describing and evaluating the potential impacts in each region separately. Impacts are examined for the following resource areas:

- Land use.
- Transportation.
- Geology and soils.
- Water resources.
- Ecology.
- Air quality.
- Noise.
- Historical and cultural resource.
- Visual and scenic resources.
- Socioeconomic.
- Public and occupational health.

Following the discussion of potential environmental impacts, the Draft GEIS addresses cumulative impacts; environmental justice; practices, measures, and actions to mitigate potential impacts; environmental monitoring activities; and the consultation process with federal and tribal entities.

As stated previously, the NRC is accepting comments on the Draft GEIS. Following the end of the public comment period, the NRC staff will publish a Final GEIS that addresses, as appropriate, the public comments on the Draft GEIS. The NRC expects to publish the Final GEIS by June 2009.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of July, 2008.

For the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Patrice M. Bubar,

Deputy Director, Environmental Protection and Performance Assessment Directorate, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs.

[FR Doc. E8-17246 Filed 7-25-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon written request, copies available from: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension: Form S-4; OMB Control No. 3235-0324; SEC File No. 270-287.

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 ('Commission') has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Form S-4 (17 CFR 239.25) is the registration form used to register securities issued in business combination transactions under the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a *et seq.*). The information collected is intended to ensure the adequacy of information available to investors in connection with business combination transactions. Form S-4 is a public document and all information provided is mandatory. Form S-4 takes approximately 4,064 hours per response to prepare and is filed by 619 registrants annually. We estimate that 25% of the 4,064 hours per response (1,016 hours) is prepared by the registrant for an annual reporting burden of 628,904 hours (1,016 hours per response × 619 responses).

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments regarding the above information should be directed to the following persons: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or send an e-mail to

Alexander.T.Hunt@omb.eop.gov; and (ii) Lewis W. Walker, Acting Director/CIO, Securities and Exchange Commission, C/O Shirley Martinson, 6432 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312; or send an e-mail to *PRA_Mailbox@sec.gov*. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: July 22, 2008.

Florence E. Harmon,
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-17214 Filed 7-25-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-58205; File No. 4-443]

Joint Industry Plan; Order Granting Permanent Approval to Amendment No. 1 to the Plan for the Purpose of Developing and Implementing Procedures Designed To Facilitate the Listing and Trading of Standardized Options

July 22, 2008.

I. Introduction

On May 15, 2008, May 15, 2008, May 13, 2008, May 6, 2008, May 13, 2008, May 7, 2008, May 13, 2008, and May 8, 2008, the American Stock Exchange LLC ("Amex"), the Boston Stock Exchange, Inc. ("BSE"), Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated ("CBOE"), the International Securities Exchange, LLC ("ISE"), The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC ("Nasdaq"), NYSE Arca Inc. ("NYSE Arca"), the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Phlx"), and the Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC") respectively, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to Section 11A of the Securities Exchange Act¹ of 1934 ("Act") and Rule 608 thereunder,² Amendment No. 1 to the Plan for the Purpose of Developing and Implementing Procedures Designed to Facilitate the Listing and Trading of Standardized Options ("the Options Listing Procedures Plan" or "OLPP").³ Amendment No. 1 would provide a uniform time frame for the introduction of new Long-term Equity Anticipation ("LEAP" or "LEAPS") series on equity option classes, options on Exchange Traded Funds ("ETFs"), or options on Trust Issued Receipts ("TIRs").

On May 22, 2008, the Commission issued notice of and approved Amendment No. 1 on a temporary basis

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78k-1.

² 17 CFR 242.608.

³ On July 6, 2001, the Commission approved the OLPP, which was originally proposed by the Amex, CBOE, ISE, OCC, Phlx, and Pacific Exchange, Inc. (k/n/a NYSE Arca). See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 44521, 66 FR 36809 (July 13, 2001). On February 5, 2004, BSE was added as a sponsor to the OLPP. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 49199, 69 FR 7030 (February 12, 2004). On March 21, 2008, Nasdaq was added as a sponsor to the OLPP. See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 57546 (March 21, 2008), 73 FR 16393 (March 27, 2008).