

*Frequency:* On occasion; *Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions; *Number of Respondents:* 16; *Total Annual Responses:* 16; *Total Annual Hours Requested:* 16.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access HCFA's WEB SITE ADDRESS at <http://www.hcfa.gov>, or to obtain the supporting statement and any related forms, E-mail your request, including your address and phone number, to [Paperwork@hcfa.gov](mailto:Paperwork@hcfa.gov), or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: HCFA, Office of Financial and Human Resources, Management Planning and Analysis Staff, Attention: John Burke, Room C2-26-17.

Dated: July 24, 1996.

Edwin J. Glatzel,

*Director, Management Planning and Analysis Staff, Office of Financial and Human Resources, Health Care Financing Administration.*

[FR Doc. 96-19629 Filed 8-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-03-P

## National Institutes of Health

### National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; Notice of a Closed Meeting

Pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) meeting:

*Name of SEP:* The Use of Transgenic Model Systems in Molecular Toxicology (Telephone Conference Call).

*Date:* July 30, 1996.

*Time:* 4:00 p.m.

*Place:* National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, South Campus, Building 17, Room 1713, Research Triangle Park, NC.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Carol Shreffler, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (919) 541-1445.

*Purpose/Agenda:* To review and evaluate one grant application.

The meeting will be closed in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5, U.S.C. Applications and the discussions could reveal confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material and personal information concerning individuals associated with the

applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

This notice is being published less than fifteen days prior to this meeting due to the urgent need to meet timing limitations imposed by the grant review and funding cycle.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs Nos. 93.113, Biological Response to Environmental Agents; 93.114, Applied Toxicological Research and Testing; 93.115, Biometry and Risk Estimation; 93.894, Resource and Manpower Development, National Institutes of Health)

Dated: July 26, 1996.

Susan K. Feldman,

*Committee Management Officer, NIH.*

[FR Doc. 96-19638 Filed 8-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

### National Institute of Environmental Health Services; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following National Institute of Environmental Health Services Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) meeting:

*Name of SEP:* Determination of Genetic Susceptibility to Lung Cancer in Families from Southern Louisiana (Telephone Conference Call).

*Date:* August 7, 1996.

*Time:* 1:00 p.m.

*Place:* National Institute of Environmental Health Science, North Campus, Rm. 1719, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

*Contact Person:* Mr. David P. Brown, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, P.O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, (919) 541-4964.

*Purpose/Agenda:* To review and evaluate proposals.

The meeting will be closed in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5, U.S.C. Grant applications and proposals and the discussions could reveal confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material and personal information concerning individuals associated with the applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the urgent need to meet timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs Nos. 93.113, Biological Response to Environmental Agents; 93.114, Applied Toxicological Research and Testing; 91.115, Biometry and Risk Estimation; 93.894,

Resource and Management Development, National Institutes of Health)

Dated: July 26, 1996.

Susan K. Feldman,

*Committee Management Officer, NIH.*

[FR Doc. 96-19639 Filed 8-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

### Division of Research Grants; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following Division of Research Grants Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) meetings:

*Purpose/Agenda:* To review individual grant applications.

*Name of SEP:* Chemistry and Related Sciences.

*Date:* August 7-9, 1996.

*Time:* 12:00 p.m.

*Place:* Sheraton Mayfair, Milwaukee, WI.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Asher Hyatt, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4160, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1724.

*Name of SEP:* Biological and Physiological Sciences.

*Date:* August 8, 1996.

*Time:* 1:00 p.m.

*Place:* NIH, Rockledge 2, Room 4206, Telephone Conference.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Betty Hayden, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4206, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1223.

*Name of SEP:* Clinical Sciences.

*Date:* August 13, 1996.

*Time:* 1:00 p.m.

*Place:* NIH, Rockledge 2, Room 4214, Telephone Conference.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Dan McDonald, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4214, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1215.

*Name of SEP:* Biological and Physiological Sciences.

*Date:* August 16, 1996.

*Time:* 8:00 a.m.

*Place:* Holiday Inn, Chevy Chase, MD.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Krish Krishnan, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4122, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1779.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the above meetings due to the urgent need to meet timing limitations imposed by the grant review and funding cycle.

*Name of SEP:* Biological and Physiological Sciences.

*Date:* August 19, 1996.

*Time:* 9:30 a.m.

*Place:* NIH, Rockledge 2, Room 5200, Telephone Conference.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Robert Weller, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5200, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1259.

*Name of SEP:* Behavioral and Neurosciences.

*Date:* August 20, 1996.

*Time:* 9:00 a.m.

*Place:* Embassy Suites Hotel, Washington, DC.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Joseph Kimm, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5178, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1249.

*Name of SEP:* Chemistry and Related Sciences.

*Date:* August 22, 1996.

*Time:* 11:00 a.m.

*Place:* NIH, Rockledge 2, Room 5150, Telephone Conference.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Zakir Bengali, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5150, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1742.

*Name of SEP:* Microbiological and Immunological Sciences.

*Date:* August 22, 1996.

*Time:* 11:00 a.m.

*Place:* NIH, Rockledge 2, Room 4186, Telephone Conference.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Gerald Liddel, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4186, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1150.

*Name of SEP:* Clinical Sciences.

*Date:* August 26, 1996.

*Time:* 1:00 p.m.

*Place:* NIH, Rockledge 2, Room 4138, Telephone Conference.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Anthony Chung, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4138, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1213.

*Name of SEP:* Biological and Physiological Sciences.

*Date:* August 28, 1996.

*Time:* 1:00 p.m.

*Place:* NIH, Rockledge 2, Room 5196, Telephone Conference.

*Contact Person:* Ms. Carol Campbell, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5196, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1257.

*Name of SEP:* Microbiological and Immunological Sciences.

*Date:* October 25, 1996.

*Time:* 1:00 p.m.

*Place:* NIH, Rockledge 2, Room 4200, Telephone Conference.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Gilbert Meier, Scientific Review Administrator, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4200, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 435-1219.

The meetings will be closed in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5, U.S.C. Applications and/or proposals and the discussions could reveal confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material and personal information concerning individuals associated with the applications and/or proposals, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393-93.396, 93.837-93.844, 93.846-93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: July 26, 1996.

Susan K. Feldman,

*Committee Management Officer, NIH.*

[FR Doc. 96-19640 Filed 8-1-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Office of the Secretary

RIN 1094-AA-45

### Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary.

**ACTION:** Notice of final Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy and opportunity for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Interior (Department) has developed this final Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) policy (Final ADR Policy) to implement a comprehensive program within each of its bureaus and offices (bureaus). This Final ADR Policy also addresses the Negotiated Rulemaking Act, Public Law No. 101-648. The Department is adopting this Final ADR Policy to apply tested practices and techniques to selected program disputes. The Department, through its bureaus, will implement ADR pilot programs and other program initiatives in an effort to establish a baseline of experience in the practical uses of ADR. The Department will continue to assess the results of the ADR initiatives in conjunction with both external and internal comments received, after publication of a Final ADR Policy in the Federal Register. The Department seeks comments from the public, including, among others, those persons whose activities the Department regulates, on any aspect of this Final ADR Policy and its implementation, and those persons who have engaged in or may in the future engage in ADR processes with the Department. At the end of the 60-day comment period, the Department will consider issues raised by interested persons and may modify the Final ADR Policy based on public comment.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before October 1, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be mailed or delivered to James P. Terry, Deputy Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

James P. Terry, Deputy Director, and the Alternate Dispute Resolution Specialist, OHA (703) 235-3810.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Department of the Interior Policy on ADR

The Department's ADR policy, first promulgated June 13, 1994, as an interim ADR policy for a period of 2 years, authorized and encouraged bureaus within the Department to employ consensual methods of dispute resolution as alternatives to litigation. 59 FR 30368. Under the Interim ADR Policy, bureaus were required: (1) To designate a senior official as a Bureau Dispute Resolution Specialist (BDRS); (2) to establish training programs in the use of dispute resolution methods; (3) to adopt a plan on the use of ADR techniques; and (4) to review the standard language in bureau contracts, grants, or other agreements, to determine whether to include a provision on ADR. Bureaus were also required to consult with the Department's Dispute Resolution Council (IDRC) on the implementation of their ADR plans.

Additionally, the Interim ADR Policy required each bureau to adopt a formal policy as to how it intended to implement ADR in each of the following areas: (a) Formal and informal adjudications; (b) rulemakings; (c) Enforcement actions; (d) issuing and revoking licenses or permits; (e) Contract administration; (f) Litigation brought by or against the Department; and (g) other Departmental action.

The Secretary promulgated the Interim ADR Policy to reduce the time, cost, inefficiencies, and contentiousness that are too often associated with litigation and other adversarial dispute mechanisms. Moreover, experience at other Federal agencies has demonstrated that ADR can help achieve mutually acceptable solutions to disputes more effectively than either litigation or administrative adjudication. In fact, Vice President Al Gore recommended in September 1993 that Federal agencies "increase the use of alternative means of dispute resolution." *National Performance Review*, Recommendation REG06 (Sept. 7, 1993).

While ADR techniques have proven to be useful in resolving serious conflicts, the day-to-day operations of the Department's bureaus should also provide conflict avoidance methods, wherever possible. Moreover, the Interim ADR Policy, specifically cautioned that:

[A bureau] shall consider not using a dispute resolution proceeding if—