

Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), and NEPA Compliance Procedures of the DHHS General Administration Manual, Part 30 (Environmental Protection) February 25, 2000.

Cooperating Agencies: There are not cooperating agencies for this project.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), a component of the NIH, conducts and supports research on infectious diseases and the human immune system. Its resources and expertise have been applied to studying emerging infectious diseases such as SARS, West Nile virus and Lyme disease and organisms that might be used as agents of bioterrorism such as anthrax and tularemia. Knowledge of how these organisms cause disease and the response of the immune system to these organisms is desperately needed. This knowledge will be used to develop new and improved diagnostic tests, vaccines, and therapies to protect civilians.

Since fall 2001, NIAID has greatly accelerated its biodefense research program. Achievement of its research goals requires the construction and certification of biological containment laboratories with facilities and procedures for handling potentially lethal infectious agents. Equally important is the need to minimize potential threats from infectious agents to laboratory personnel working within these facilities and to adjacent communities. The Federal Government has awarded a grant in the amount of \$110 million to partially fund the Galveston National Laboratory for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research in Galveston, TX as a crucial element of this NIH initiative.

This proposed action is the funding of the construction of the Galveston National Laboratory for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research facilities in Galveston, TX, a new building comprised of laboratories designed and constructed to Biosafety Levels –2, –3, and –4 standards that will allow the safe conduct of biomedical research concerning emerging infectious diseases including agents of bioterror. The proposed new facility will also contain administrative support offices. It will occupy approximately 1 acre on the campus of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in Galveston, TX, and will be owned and operated by the university in support of NIAID's Biodefense Research Agenda. The laboratory will also be prepared and available to assist national, state and

local public health efforts in the event of a bioterrorism emergency.

Significant issues to be analyzed in the EIS will include safety of laboratory operations; public health and safety; handling, collection, treatment, and disposal of biomedical research waste related to the proposal; and analysis of other risks, as well as concerns for pollution prevention and impacts of the proposed action on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, water resources, land use, and socioeconomic resources. The No Action alternative under which the new facility would not be built will also be considered. Additional alternatives may be identified during the Scoping Process.

Public Participation: The DHHS will invite full public participation to promote open communication and better decision-making. All interested persons and organizations, including minority, low income, disadvantaged, and Native American groups, are urged to participate in this NEPA environmental analysis process. Assistance will be provided upon request to anyone having difficulty with learning how to participate.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to the proposed action and the scope of this EIS are addressed, oral and written comments are invited from all interested parties, including appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies and private organizations and citizens. Pursuant to this, a Public Scoping meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 31, 2004 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Mainsail Room, second floor conference center of the San Luis Hotel, 5222 Seawall Boulevard, Galveston, TX.

This Notice of Intent initiates the scoping process that guides the development of the EIS. The DHHS invites written comments and suggestions on the proposed actions, including any issues to consider, as well as any concerns relevant to the analysis. Comments and questions should be directed to the address listed below and should be postmarked no later than May 15, 2004. Additional formal opportunities for public participation after the Public Scoping are tentatively scheduled as follows:

Review and comment on Draft EIS (including a public meeting): Summer, 2004.

Review of Final EIS: Fall, 2004.

Notices of availability for the Draft EIS, Final EIS and Record of Decision will be provided through direct mail, the Federal Register, and other media. Notification also will be sent to federal, state, and local agencies and persons and organizations that submit comments

or questions. Precise schedules and locations for public meetings will be announced in the local news media. Interested individuals and organizations may request to be included on the mailing list for public distribution of meeting announcements and associated documents.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Valerie Nottingham, Chief, Environmental Quality Branch, Division of Environmental Protection, Office of Research Facilities, National Institutes of Health, DHHS, B13/2W64, Bethesda, MD 20892; by telephone (301) 496–7775; fax (301) 480–8056; or e-mail nottingv@ors.od.nih.gov.

Dated: March 9, 2004.

Robert Ostrowski,

Scientific Resource Manager, National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 04–5785 Filed 3–10–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council.

The meeting will be open to the public, with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

Name of Committee: Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council.

Date: April 8–9, 2004.

Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Agenda: A Report of the Director addressing OAR initiatives. The meeting will focus on current progress and scope of HIV/AIDS vaccine research, development, and clinical testing.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Building 31, 31 Center Drive, Room 6C10, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Contact Person: Jack Whitescarver, Director, Office of AIDS Research, OD, National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 2, Room 4E14, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496–0357.

Information is also available on the Institute's/Center's Home page: <http://www.nih.gov/od/oar/index.htm>, where an agenda and any additional information for the meeting will be posted when available.

Any member of the public interested in presenting oral comments to the committee

may notify the Contact Person listed on this notice at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Interested individuals and representatives of organizations may submit a letter of intent, a brief description of the organization represented, and a short description of the oral presentation. Only one representative of an organization may be allowed to present oral comments and if accepted by the committee, presentations may be limited to five minutes. Both printed and electronic copies are requested for the record. In addition, any interested person may file written comments with the committee by forwarding their statement to the Contact Person listed on this notice. The statement should include the name, address, telephone number and when applicable, the business or professional affiliation of the interested person.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.14, Intramural Research Training Award; 93.22, Clinical Research Loan Repayment Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds; 93.232, Loan Repayment Program for Research Generally; 93.39, Academic Research Enhancement Award; 93.936, NIH Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome Research Loan Repayment Program; 93.187, Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: March 9, 2004.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,
Director, Office of Federal Advisory
Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 04-5806 Filed 3-12-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health; Notice of Meetings

Pursuant to section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. appendix 2), notice is hereby given of meetings of the Director's Council of Public Representatives.

The meetings will be open to the public, with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

Name of Committee: Director's Council of Public Representatives; COPR Agenda Subcommittee.

Date: March 18, 2004.

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Agenda: Ideas and information will be presented to COPR members to get the Council's ideas and final decisions on the April 2004 meeting agenda to be approved by the NIH Director. The group will discuss

administrative business, future agenda items, topics of importance, and specific items for the April meeting, such as, public trust and a briefing by the workgroup on public input and participation.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Building 2, Conference Room 1E28, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Jennifer E. Gorman Vetter, NIH Public Liaison/COPR Coordinator, Office of Communications and Public Liaison, Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 1, Room 344, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-4448, gormanj@od.nih.gov.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the organizational process of scheduling availability of membership participation.

Name of Committee: Director's Council of Public Representatives, COPR Agenda Subcommittee.

Date: April 1, 2004.

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Agenda: Ideas and information will be presented to COPR members to get the Council's ideas and final decisions on the April 2004 meeting agenda to be approved by the NIH Director. The group will discuss administrative business, future agenda items, topics of importance, and specific items for the April meeting, such as, public trust and a briefing by the workgroup on public input and participation.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Building 2, Conference Room 1E28, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Jennifer E. Gorman Vetter, NIH Public Liaison/COPR Coordinator, Office of Communications and Public Liaison, Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 1, Room 344, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-4448, gormanj@od.nih.gov.

Any interested person may file written comments with the committee by forwarding the statement to the Contact Person listed on this notice. The statement should include the name, address, telephone number and when applicable, the business or professional affiliation of the interested person.

In the interest of security, NIH has instituted stringent procedures for entrance into the building by non-governmental employees. Persons without a government I.D. will need to show a photo I.D. and sign in at the security desk upon entering the building.

Information is also available on the Institute's/Center's Home page: <http://www.nih.gov/about/publicliaison/index.html>, where an agenda and any additional information for the meeting will be posted when available.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.14, Intramural Research Training Award; 93.22, Clinical Research Loan Repayment Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds; 93.232, Loan Repayment Program for Research Generally; 93.39, Academic Research Enhancement Award; 93.936, NIH Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome Research Loan Repayment Program; 93.187, Undergraduate

Scholarship Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: March 8, 2004.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,
Director, Office of Federal Advisory
Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 04-5724 Filed 3-12-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute; 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 meeting.

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

Name of Committee: National Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel; Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Centers Review.

Date: June 8-10, 2004.

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications and/or proposals.

Place: Hamilton Crowne Plaza Hotel, 14th & K Streets, NW., Washington, DC 20005.

Contact Person: Shamala K. Srinivas, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Grants Review Branch, Division of Extramural Activities, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, 6116 Executive Boulevard, Room 8133, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 594-1224.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.392, Cancer Construction; 93.393, Cancer Cause and Prevention Research; 93.394, Cancer Detection and Diagnosis Research; 93.395, Cancer Treatment Research; 93.396, Cancer Biology Research; 93.397, Cancer Centers Support; 93.398, Cancer Research Manpower; 93.399, Cancer Control, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: March 9, 2004.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,
Director, Office of Federal Advisory
Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 04-5805 Filed 3-12-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M