

technology; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by July 31, 2012 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Send comments to the address below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 295, Arlington, Virginia 22230; telephone (703) 292-7556; or send email 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, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including federal holidays).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: 2013 Survey of Doctorate Recipients.

OMB Approval Number: 3145-0020.

Expiration Date of Approval: July 31, 2013.

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

1. *Abstract.* The Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR) has been conducted biennially since 1973 and is a longitudinal survey. The 2013 SDR will consist of a sample of individuals less than 76 years of age who have earned a research doctoral degree in a science, engineering or health field from a U.S. institution. The purpose of this longitudinal panel survey is to collect data that will be used to provide national estimates on the doctoral science and engineering workforce and changes in their employment, education and demographic characteristics. The SDR is one of the component surveys of the Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT), which produces national estimates of the size and characteristics of the nation's science and engineering workforce. The 2013 SDR will provide necessary input into the SESTAT.

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 SDR is designed to comply with these mandates by providing information on the supply and utilization of the nation's doctoral level scientists and engineers. The NSF uses the information from the SDR to prepare congressionally mandated reports such as *Women, Minorities and Persons With Disabilities in Science and Engineering and Science and Engineering Indicators*. The NSF publishes statistics from the SDR in many reports, but primarily in the biennial series, *Characteristics of Doctoral Scientists and Engineers in the United States*. A public release file of collected data, designed to protect respondent confidentiality, also will be made available to researchers on the Internet.

Data will be obtained by web survey, mail questionnaire, and computer-assisted telephone interviews beginning in February 2013. The survey will be collected in conformance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 and the individual's response to the survey is voluntary. NSF will ensure that all information collected will be kept strictly confidential and will be used only for statistical purposes.

2. *Expected Respondents.* A statistical sample of approximately 47,000 individuals with U.S. earned doctorates in science, engineering or health will be contacted in 2013. This sample will include approximately 40,000 individuals residing in the U.S. (national component) and 7,000 residing abroad (international component). NSF expects the response rate to be 70 to 80 percent for both the national and international components.

3. *Estimate of Burden.* The amount of time to complete the questionnaire may vary depending on an individual's circumstances; however, on average it will take approximately 25 minutes. NSF estimates that the annual burden will be 13,333 hours for the national component and 2,333 hours for the international component. Thus, NSF estimates that the total annual burden for both components will be 15,666 hours.

Dated: May 25, 2012.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 2012-13247 Filed 5-31-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), and as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the National Science Foundation (NSF) is inviting the general public or other Federal agencies to comment on this proposed continuing information collection. The NSF will publish periodic summaries of the proposed projects.

Comments: Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the NSF, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the NSF's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by July 31, 2012 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Send comments to the address below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 295, Arlington, VA 22230; telephone (703) 292-7556; or send email to splimto@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, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including federal holidays).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title of Collection:* 2013 National Survey of College Graduates.

OMB Approval Number: 3145-0141.

Expiration Date of Approval: July 31, 2013.

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

1. Abstract

The National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) has been conducted biennially since the 1970s. The 2013 NSCG sample will be selected from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS), the 2010 NSCG, and the 2010 National Survey of Recent College Graduates (NSRCG).

The purpose of this longitudinal survey is to provide national estimates on the science and engineering workforce and changes in their employment, education, and demographic characteristics. The NSCG is one of the component surveys of the Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT), which produces national estimates of the size and characteristics of the nation's science and engineering population. The 2013 NSCG will provide necessary input into the SESTAT.

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 NSCG is designed to comply with these mandates by providing information on the supply and utilization of the nation's scientists and engineers

The NSF uses the information from the NSCG to prepare congressionally mandated reports such as *Women, Minorities and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering* and *Science and Engineering Indicators*. A public release file of collected data, designed to protect respondent confidentiality, will be made available to researchers on the Internet.

The U.S. Census Bureau, as in the past, will conduct the NSCG for NSF. The survey data collection will begin in February 2013 using Web and mail questionnaires. Nonrespondents to the Web or mail questionnaire will be followed up by computer-assisted telephone interviewing. The survey will be collected in conformance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002, and the individual's response to the survey is voluntary. NSF will ensure that all information collected will be kept strictly confidential and will be used only for statistical purposes.

2. Expected Respondents

A statistical sample of approximately 145,000 will be contacted in 2013. NSF expects the response rate to be 70 to 80 percent.

3. Estimate of Burden

The amount of time to complete the questionnaire may vary depending on an individual's circumstances; however, on average it will take approximately 25 minutes to complete the survey. NSF estimates that the total annual burden will be no more than 48,333 hours during the 2013 survey cycle.

Dated: May 25, 2012.

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

[FR Doc. 2012-13248 Filed 5-31-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permit Applications Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-541)

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of Permit Applications Received under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978, Public Law 95-541.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish a notice of permit applications received to conduct activities regulated under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. NSF has published regulations under the Antarctic Conservation Act at Title 45 Part 670 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This is the required notice of permit applications received.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit written data, comments, or views with respect to this permit application by July 2, 2012. This application may be inspected by interested parties at the Permit Office, address below.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Permit Office, Room 755, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Polly A. Penhale at the above address or (703) 292-7420.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-541), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996, has developed regulations for the establishment of a permit system for

various activities in Antarctica and designation of certain animals and certain geographic areas requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

The applications received are as follows:

1. *Applicant:* Gerald Kooyman, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093.

Permit Application: 2013-006.

Activity for Which Permit Is Requested: Take. Once emperor penguins depart the colony after raising their chicks their natural history is nearly unknown. They migrate to some of the most remote regions of the Antarctic. The reason for the migration is thought to be to find fertile foraging areas and a stable platform of sea ice where they can endure their complete feather molt of 35 days before going back to sea. This is the most critical time in the life cycle for adult birds. If they do not feed well before and after the molt, they are at the greatest risk for survival. For a host of reasons it is desirable to know more about this critical time, and one of the overriding incentives is to know how best to conserve this great natural resource of the bird, the food source, and the habitat. Acting as our guide these tagged birds will tell us much about their environment. Taking advantage of the opportunity to go to one of these great molting areas and determine the foraging areas and the travel of the birds on their return to the breeding colonies is the goal. This can only be accomplished remotely using the most advanced technology of the day, and that is satellite transmitters that will provide data about their aquatic behavior and travel positions on a day to day schedule. Body mass measurement is one of the least intrusive, and most direct ways of determining the condition of the animal. They will be weighed just prior to the attachment of the transmitter, and soon after they have completed the molt. A few feathers will also be collected to determine gender by molecular analysis back in the home laboratory. Gender is an important variable related to the life history of any animal, and should be determined whenever possible.

The applicant plans to be onboard the *Nathaniel B. Palmer* cruising the Ross Sea and will temporarily capture up to 30 adult (after their molt) Emperor penguins to attach a satellite transmitter and remove five feathers for gender determination, then release the birds within 20 minutes after capture.

Location: Ross Island vicinity.