

5677, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210. Individuals or representatives of organizations wishing to address the Working Group on Soft Dollar Arrangements and Commission Recapture should forward their request to the Executive Secretary or telephone (202) 219-8753. Oral presentations will be limited to 10 minutes, but an extended statement may be submitted for the record. Individuals with disabilities, who need special accommodations, should contact Sharon Morrissey by July 7, at the address indicated in this notice.

Organizations or individuals may also submit statements for the record without testifying. Twenty (20) copies of such statements should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the Advisory Council at the above address. Papers will be accepted and included in the record of the meeting if received on or before July 7.

Signed at Washington, D.C. this 18th day of June, 1997.

Olena Berg,

Assistant Secretary, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-16669 Filed 6-24-97; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

NSF Survey of Research and Development Funding and Performance by Nonprofit Organizations; Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

COMMENT DUE DATE: Written comments must be submitted by August 25, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to Gail A. McHenry, NSF Reports Clearance Officer, by fax (702) 306-0210, e-mail at gmchenry@nsf.gov, or by mail to National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 245, Arlington, Virginia 22230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gail A. McHenry, the NSF Reports Clearance Officer on (703) 306-1125

x2010 or send e-mail to gmchenry@nsf.gov. You may also obtain a copy of the data collection instrument and instructions from Mrs. McHenry.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Abstract

NSF Survey of Research and Development Funding and Performance by Nonprofit Organizations (NPOs) will collect information on the science and engineering (S&E) research and development (R&D) activities of nonprofit organizations for the two most recently completed years. (On an historic note, a prior study with similar objectives was conducted in 1973.) The purposes of the study are to: (1) Develop estimates of the amounts of R&D funding provided by NPOs and the types of organizations supported; (2) develop estimates of the amount of R&D performed by NPOs; and (3) develop estimates of R&D employment in NPOs. Two different survey questionnaires will be used. R&D performers will be asked for R&D expenditures by source of funds, by field of science and engineering, by category of work (Basic, Applied, Development), by state, and amounts expended for capital improvements, and for employment. R&D funders will be asked for amount of S&E R&D they fund at various categories of R&D performers. The information is needed to update available data on the R&D activities of the nonprofit segment. The Gallup Organization will conduct the study for NSF.

Two samples will be drawn: one of NPO R&D performers and a second of NPO R&D funders. The R&D performers' sample will be drawn from organizations filing a 990 tax return. An initial sample of roughly 3,500 potential NPO R&D performers will be selected and sent a short screening questionnaire to establish eligibility for the main study. An unweighted response rate of 90 percent is anticipated, and about 90 percent of the participating organizations are expected to be eligible. These 2,800 organizations will be sent a main questionnaire that is expected to yield a final working sample size of about 2,500. To be included with certainty in the sample of 3,500 are the 450 respondents to the 1973 NSF R&D nonprofit institutions survey and the 15 Federally Funded Research and Development Centers that are administered by NPOs.

The R&D funders sample will be drawn from both 990PF tax returns for private foundations and 990 returns for public charities. As with the performers, a sample of potential NPO R&D funders

will be selected to receive a short screening questionnaire to establish eligibility (N=700). Of these, 90 percent are expected to participate and 90 percent of these are expected to be eligible to participate. The roughly 560 eligible organizations will be sent a main questionnaire that is expected to yield a total working sample of 500.

To minimize burden on small entities and to make sure that a high proportion of the nonprofit sector's R&D funding and performance is captured, the sample will be designed with probabilities proportional to size. Thus, a large NPO has a higher probability of being selected than a small NPO has. This method is justified because large NPOs are more likely to perform R&D than small NPOs are. Size will be determined by budgets, assets, or awards.

The main questionnaires will be distributed in hardcopy and via the World Wide Web. To minimize burden, the World Wide Web questionnaires will be computer-assisted to ease user input, provide automatic totals of numerical information and aid users in error correction.

Security procedures will minimize the risk of unwanted disclosure over the Internet. Definitions of key survey terms have been made consistent with OMB Circulars A-122, Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations, and A-133, Audits of Institutions of Higher Education and Other Non-Profit Institutions, to minimize potential confusion and unnecessary effort by survey respondents.

Information being collected is not considered to be sensitive. In general, assurances of data confidentiality will not be provided to respondents to the NSF Survey of Research and Development Funding and Performance by Nonprofit Organizations. The utility of the data will be increased by allowing access to collected data. Results of pretesting and discussions with possible respondents have suggested this approach for handling confidentiality.

Use of the Information

The purpose of this study is to collect data about R&D funding and performance by nonprofit organizations. The NSF will publish a separate report of the findings and also include them in other NSF compilations such as National Patterns of R&D Resources and Science and Engineering Indicators. A public release file of collected data will be made available to researchers on the World Wide Web. The results of the survey will help policy makers in decisions on R&D funding, regulations, and reporting guidelines.

Burden on the Public

The Foundation estimates that a total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden of 34,335 houses will result from the collection of information. The calculation is:

3,500 performers × 1 screening questionnaire × 12.5 minutes =	729.2 hours
2,800 performers × 1 survey questionnaire × 11.75 hours =	32,900.0 hours
700 funders × 1 screening questionnaire × 12.5 minutes =	145.8 hours
560 funders × 1 shorter questionnaire × 1 hour =	560.0 hours
Total	34,335.0 hours

Request for Comments

We invite comments specifically on:

(a) whether the proposed 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 the burden of the proposed collection of information;

(c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(d) ways to minimize the burden of collection of information on respondents, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses; and

(e) the proposal to allow users to access collected data by not providing assurances of data confidentiality. We are interested in having NPOs review the questionnaires and identify any data fields that may be problematic.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request of OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: June 20, 1997.

Gail A. McHenry,

Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-16662 Filed 6-24-97; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-334 and 50-412]

The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company Order, et al.; Approving Application Regarding Merger Agreement Between Centerior Energy Corporation and Ohio Edison Company

I

The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI), Duquesne Light Company (DL), Ohio Edison Company (OE), Pennsylvania Power Company (Penn Power), and Toledo Edison Company (TE) are the licensees of Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (BVPS-1 and BVPS-2). DL acts as agent for the other licensees and has exclusive responsibility for and control over the physical construction, operation, and maintenance of BVPS-1 and BVPS-2 as reflected in Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-66 and NPF-73. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued License Nos. DPR-66 and NPF-73 on July 2, 1976, and on August 14, 1987, respectively, pursuant to Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR Part 50). The facility is located on the southern shore of the Ohio River in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, approximately 22 miles northwest of Pittsburgh and 5 miles east of East Liverpool, Ohio.

II

By letter dated December 13, 1996, CEI, OE, Penn Power, and TE, through counsel, informed the Commission of a proposed merger of Centerior Energy Corporation and OEC resulting in the formation of a new single holding company, FirstEnergy Corporation ("FirstEnergy"). DL is not involved in the merger. Supplemental information was submitted by letters dated February 14 and May 20, 1997.

Under the proposed merger, CEI, OE, and TE will become wholly owned subsidiaries of FirstEnergy. Penn Power will remain a wholly owned subsidiary of OE. The current licensees will continue to hold the license, and no direct transfer of the license will result from the merger. On April 16, 1997, a Notice of Consideration of Approval of Application Regarding Proposed Corporate Restructuring was published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 18658). An Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was published in the **Federal Register** on May 23, 1997 (62 FR 28523).

Under 10 CFR 50.80, no license shall be transferred, directly or indirectly, through transfer of control of the license, unless the Commission shall give its consent in writing. Upon review of the information submitted in the letter of December 13, 1996, and other information before the Commission, the NRC staff has determined that the proposed merger will not affect the qualifications of CEI, OE, Penn Power, and TE as holders of Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-66 and NPF-73, and that the transfer of control of the licenses, to the extent effected by the merger, is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission, subject to the conditions set forth herein. These findings are supported by a safety evaluation dated June 19, 1997.

III

Accordingly, pursuant to Sections 161b, 161i, 161o, and 184 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 USC 2201(b), 2201(i), 2201(o), and 2234; and 10 CFR 50.80, *It Is Hereby Ordered* that the Commission approves the application regarding the merger agreement between Centerior Energy Corporation and OE subject to the following: (1) CEI, OE, Penn Power, and TE shall provide the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation a copy of any application, at the time it is filed, to transfer (excluding grants of security interests or liens) from such licensee to its parent or to any other affiliated company, facilities for the production, transmission, or distribution of electric energy having a depreciated book value exceeding 10 percent of such licensee's consolidated net utility plant, as recorded on the licensee's books of account; and (2) should the merger not be completed by June 30, 1998, this Order shall become null and void, unless upon application and for good cause shown this date is extended. This Order is effective upon issuance.

IV

By July 25, 1997, any person adversely affected by this Order may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the Order. Any person requesting a hearing shall set forth with particularity how such person's interest is adversely affected by this Order and shall address the criteria set forth in 10 CFR 2.714(d).

If a hearing is to be held, the Commission will issue an order designating the time and place of such hearing.