

Ecological & Evolutionary Physiology, Division of Integrative Biology and Neuroscience, Suite 685, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230, Telephone: (703) 306-1421.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

Minutes: May be obtained from the contact persons listed above.

Agenda: Open Session: April 3, 1998, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.—discussion on research trends, opportunities and assessment procedures in Ecological & Evolutionary Physiology.

Closed Session: April 1, 1998, 8:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m., April 2, 1998, 8:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m., April 3, 1998, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. To review and evaluate Ecological & Evolutionary Physiology proposals as part of the selection process for awards.

Reason for Closing: The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: March 9, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-6465 Filed 3-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Science and Technology Infrastructure; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting:

Name: Special Emphasis Panel in Science and Technology Infrastructure.

Date and Time: March 29—8:00pm–10:00pm, March 30–April 1—8:30am–5:30pm.

Place: Rooms 375, 310, 320, 360, 365, 370, 380, 390, and 1295 National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Person: Dr. Nathaniel G. Pitts, Director, Office of Science and Technology Infrastructure, Room 1270, 4201 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, Virginia 22230; Telephone: (703) 306-1040.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

Agenda: To review and evaluate applications submitted to the Science and Technology Centers: Integrative Partnerships Program.

Reason for Closing: The meeting is closed to the public because the Panel is reviewing

proposal actions that will include privileged intellectual property and personal information that could harm individuals if they were disclosed. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) and (6) of the Government Sunshine Act.

Dated: March 9, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-6470 Filed 3-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Undergraduate Education; Notice of Meetings

This notice is being published in accord with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended). The Special Emphasis Panel in Division of Undergraduate Education will be holding a panel meeting to review and evaluate research proposals.

Dates: April 5–7, 1998.

Times: 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (April 5); 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day (April 6 & 7).

Contact: Terry Woodin, Program Director, Room 835, 703-306-1666.

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA.

Type of Project: NSF Collaboratives for Excellence in Teacher Preparation (CETP) Program Third Year Reverse Site.

Type of Meetings: Closed.

Purpose of Meetings: To provide advice and recommendations concerning continued support for current projects.

Agenda: To review and evaluate CETP projects completing their third year of operation.

Reason for Closing: The projects being reviewed will present information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: March 9, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-6472 Filed 3-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

U.S. National Assessment Synthesis Team; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting:

Name: U.S. National Assessment Synthesis Team (#5219).

Date and Time: April 2–3, 1998—8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

Place: Room 1235 National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA.

Type of Meeting: Open.

Contact Person: Ms. Melissa J. Taylor, Executive Secretary, Office of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), 400 Virginia Avenue, SW., Suite 750, Washington, DC 20024. Tel: 202-314-2239; Fax: 202-488-8681; Email: mtaylor@usgcrp.gov. For easier building access, individuals planning to attend should contact Ms. Taylor by March 30 so that your name can be added to the building access list.

Minutes: May be obtained from the contact person listed above.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and recommendations to the interagency Subcommittee on Global Change Research on the design and conduct of the national effort to assess the consequences of climate variability and climate change for the United States.

Agenda: Day 1 will overview the draft papers on climate and socioeconomic scenarios for the national assessment and will discuss templates for the sectors. Day 2 will discuss the regional activities and assessments, possible templates for these assessments, and next steps for the Synthesis Team, including plans for an August session.

Dated: March 9, 1998.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-6469 Filed 3-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Data Collection: Meteorologists' and Public's Views and Comments on Weather and Climate Issues

The National Science Foundation, an independent federal agency, is interested in obtaining the public's views and attitudes toward weather and climate issues.

Specifically, we're seeking input and comments from all interested persons on their views of the value of weather reporting and climate research in their lives, and their familiarity with weather and climate-related issues that have an effect on them now or will in the future.

In addition to the general public, we are especially interested in receiving comments from informed professionals and followers of science and engineering research and education.

In an effort to obtain the public's input and useful information, the National Science Foundation has developed the questions that follow. Responses from the public will be used only in the aggregate, and only to help the NSF in its efforts to better explain itself and its activities to the American public.

We hope you will provide us with your thoughts on the following questions. Detailed comments are also welcome and greatly appreciated.

Responses and comments can be mailed to Public Attitudes About Weather and Climate, c/o Office of Legislative and Public Affairs, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Room 1245, Arlington, VA 22230. Comments can also be sent via email to nstw@nsf.gov, or faxed to (703) 306-0157.

All comments should be received by Monday, April 20, 1998.

Dated: March 4, 1998.

Julia Moore,

Director, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs.

Yankelovich Partners, Inc.

101 Merritt 7 Corporate Park, Norwalk CT 06851

Job #35351

March 1998.

Meteorologist Survey

Identification: Complete at End of Interview

Name _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Interviewer: _____

Date: _____

Elapsed Time: _____

Hello, I'm _____

calling from Yankelovich Partners, a national public opinion research firm.

May I please speak to? _____

When Individual From List is on the Telephone: This is Yankelovich Partners, a national public research firm, and we are conducting a survey among American Meteorological Society members to ask their opinion about a number of issues related to climate and the field of meteorology. This is your opportunity to express your ideas and opinions. Please be assured that your answers are confidential and anonymous, and that we are interested in your opinion.

The results of this survey will be summarized, and we will send all participants a copy of the final report. Our questions will take no more than 10 minutes of your time. May we ask you a few questions: [If interested but cannot interview now, please arrange callback.]

A. First, are you currently a member of the American Meteorological Society?

a. Yes → continue

b. No → Thank and Terminate

B. And, are you: (Read List. Enter One Response.)

a. A meteorologist

b. An oceanographer

c. A hydrologist

d. Other (please specify) _____

1.a. Do you feel that public interest in weather and climate have increased or decreased over the past few years? (Enter One Response)

a. Increased → Go To Q.1.b.

b. Decreased → Go To Q.2.

c. Don't know/Not sure

1.b. (If answered "Increased" to Q.1.a, ask:) To what do you attribute the increased interest? (Record response verbatim)

2. How strongly do you agree or disagree that advances in science and technology have substantially lessened the impact of natural weather disasters? (Read List. Enter One Response)

a. Strongly agree

b. Somewhat agree

c. Somewhat disagree

d. Strongly disagree

e. Don't know/Not sure (Volunteered)

3.a. Are you aware of any advances in science and technology, or emerging technologies which are likely to improve predictions of the weather in your area?

a. Yes

b. No

c. Don't know/Not sure

3.b. (If answered "Yes" to Q.3.a, ask:) Does a particular example come to mind? (Record response verbatim)

4. Weather and climate affect many things, yet there are many facts about weather and climate which are unknown to most people. I'm going to name several weather and climate phenomena. As I name each one, please tell me whether you feel that people will benefit very much, somewhat, not very much, or not at all from learning more about the phenomena. The first is: (Read List. Enter One Response for Each.) [Rotate]

[1=Very much; 2=Somewhat; 3=Not very much; 4=Not at all; 5=DK]

	1	2	3	4	5
a. El Nino and the Southern Oscillation	1	2	3	4	5
b. Global Warming	1	2	3	4	5
c. North Atlantic Oscillation	1	2	3	4	5
d. Ozone Depletion	1	2	3	4	5
e. North Atlantic Conveyor Belt	1	2	3	4	5

5. And, of the weather and climate phenomena mentioned above, which *two* do you feel people will most benefit from learning more about? Is it: (Read List. Enter One Response.) [Rotate]

a. El Nino and the Southern Oscillation

b. Global Warming

c. North Atlantic Oscillation

d. Ozone Depletion

e. North Atlantic Conveyor Belt

6. I'm going to read you several statements about climate change. For each statement, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree. The first statement is: (Read Each Statement. Enter One Response for Each.)

[1=Strongly agree; 2=Somewhat agree; 3=Somewhat disagree; 4=Strongly disagree; 5=DK]

	1	2	3	4	5
a. The greenhouse effect has existed throughout most of the earth's history	1	2	3	4	5
b. The greenhouse effect is now being amplified by increased concentrations of certain gases in the atmosphere as a result of human emissions	1	2	3	4	5

[1=Strongly agree; 2=Somewhat agree; 3=Somewhat disagree; 4=Strongly disagree; 5=DK]

	1	2	3	4	5
c. If humans collectively reduced their emissions of greenhouse gases to a level of 10% below the world's emissions in 1990, the earth's average surface temperature would return to its 1990 level within 10 years and not continue to increase thereafter	1	2	3	4	5
d. Carbon dioxide is the most important gas related to greenhouse warming	1	2	3	4	5

El Nino, has received a great deal of attention recently. I'd like to ask you a few questions about El Nino.

7. In your opinion, how critical a role have advances in science and technology played in predictions concerning the length and severity of the current El Nino? Has their role been: (Read List. Enter One Response.)

- a. Very critical
- b. Somewhat critical
- c. Not very critical
- d. Not at all critical
- e. Don't know/Not sure (Volunteered)

8. Based on what you know about the current El Nino, do you agree or disagree with recent predictions that the current El Nino will weaken and not have an impact on weather in the United States this summer? (Enter One Response.)

- a. Agree
- b. Disagree
- c. Don't know/Not sure

9. In your opinion, how likely is it that global warming contributes to more frequent and more severe El Nino events? Is it: (Read List. Enter One Response.)

- a. Very likely
- b. Somewhat likely
- c. Somewhat unlikely
- d. Very unlikely
- e. Don't know/Not sure (Volunteered)

Global warming has received a great deal of attention. I'd like to ask you a few questions about global warming.

10. In your opinion, which of the following are affected by human activity? (Read List. Enter All Mentions.)

- a. Antarctic ozone hole
- b. Deforestation
- c. Atmospheric concentrations of CO₂
- d. Increase in atmospheric concentrations of small particles called aerosols
- e. El Ninos

11. And, in your opinion, which of the following cause potential global warming? (Read List. Enter all Mentions.)

- a. Antarctic ozone hole
- b. Deforestation
- c. Atmospheric concentrations of CO₂
- d. Increase in atmospheric concentrations of small particles called aerosols
- e. El Ninos

12. In your opinion, how likely is it that the earth's average surface temperature will rise by 1 to 3.5 degrees Celsius over the next 100 years as a result of human activities? Is it: (Read List. Enter One Response.)

- a. Extremely likely

- b. Very likely
- c. Somewhat likely
- d. Not very likely
- e. Not at all likely
- f. Don't know/Not sure

13. Some scientists have suggested that global warming could trigger an abrupt cooling in two ways—by increasing rainfall on the northern oceans or by melting Greenland's ice. *Either* of these could put enough fresh water into the ocean to cause a "flushing failure" which would weaken the North Atlantic Conveyer Belt. Considering this scenario, how likely a contributor is global warming to a possible return to ice-age temperatures? Is it: (Read List. Enter One Response.)

- a. Very likely
- b. Somewhat likely
- c. Somewhat unlikely
- d. Very unlikely
- e. Don't know/Not sure (Volunteered)

14. Overall, given recent scientific realizations that the earth's climate undergoes dramatic temperature changes every few thousand years, how likely is it, in your opinion, that the earth could return to ice-age temperatures within the next 50 years? Is it: (Read List. Enter One Response.)

- a. Very likely
- b. Somewhat likely
- c. Somewhat unlikely
- d. Very unlikely
- e. Don't know/Not sure (Volunteered)

Let's talk about a particular region of the world—the polar regions, that is, the Arctic and Antarctic.

15. Of the following aspects of polar research, which *two* of the following do you believe to be most valuable? (Read List. Enter One Response.)

- a. Examination of ice cores
- b. Documentation of deep ocean currents
- c. Measurements of ice caps
- d. Marine sedimentation records
- e. Tree ring analyses

16. In your opinion, how critical is polar research, including examination of ice cores, to understanding changes in climate, such as global warming and the possibility of a sudden cooling? Is it: (Read List. Enter One Response.)

- a. Very critical
- b. Somewhat critical
- c. Not very critical
- d. Not at all critical
- e. Don't know/Not sure (Volunteered)

17. To the best of your knowledge, how much of an impact do Arctic climate conditions have on climate in your area? Do they have a: (Read List. Enter One Response.)

- a. Very important impact
- b. Somewhat important impact
- c. Somewhat unimportant impact
- d. Very unimportant impact
- e. Don't know/Not sure (Volunteered)

18. To the best of your knowledge, how much of an impact do Antarctic climate conditions have on climate in your area? Do they have a: (Read List. Enter One Response.)

- a. Very important impact
- b. Somewhat important impact
- c. Somewhat unimportant impact
- d. Very unimportant impact
- e. Don't know/Not sure (Volunteered)

Our last few questions are for demographic purposes.

19. What state do you live in? _____
How long have you been working in the atmospheric, oceanic or hydrologic sciences? (Enter One Response)

- a. Less than one year
- b. 1–2 years
- c. 3–5 years
- d. 6–10 years
- e. 10 years or more
- f. Refused

21. In which of the following settings do you currently work: (Read List Enter All Mentions)

- a. At a university or college
- b. For the government
- c. For the media, in the private sector
- d. In the private sector
- e. Other (please specify) _____

SEX (Record)

- a. Male
- b. Female

Thank you very much for your cooperation. So that we may send you a copy of the survey report, we will need your name and address.

Meteorologist Survey

The next few questions are about the weather.

1. Of the following, which are the two most important reasons you listen to the weather? (Read List. Enter One Response.)

- a. Temperature
- b. Driving conditions
- c. Storm/Bad weather alert
- d. Planning outdoor recreation or travel

- e. Proper weather attire
- f. To be entertained
- g. Other (please specify) _____
- h. Don't know/Not sure (Volunteered)
- 2. And, of the following people who report the weather, which one is your favorite weather person? (Read List. Enter One Response)
 - a. Al Roker (NBC)
 - b. Spencer Christian (ABC)
 - c. Craig Allen (CBS)
 - d. Valerie Voss (CNN)
 - e. Jack Williams (USA Today)
 - f. Other (please specify) _____
- 3. In your opinion, how likely is it that global warming contributes to more frequent and more severe El Nino events? Is it: (Read List. Enter One Response.)
 - a. Very likely
 - b. Somewhat likely
 - c. Somewhat unlikely
 - d. Very unlikely
 - e. Don't know/Not sure (Volunteered)
- 4. In your opinion, which of the following are affected by human activity? (Read List. Enter All Mentions.)
 - a. Antarctic ozone hole
 - b. Deforestation
 - c. Burning of fossil fuels
 - d. Increase in atmospheric concentrations of small particles called aerosols
 - e. El Ninos
- 5. And, in your opinion, which of the following cause potential global warming? (Read List. Enter All Mentions.)
 - a. Antarctic ozone hole
 - b. Deforestation
 - c. Burning of fossil fuels
 - d. Increase in atmospheric concentrations of small particles called aerosols
 - e. El Ninos

[FR Doc. 98-6446 Filed 3-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-327 and 50-328]

Tennessee Valley Authority; Sequoyah Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2; Exemption

I

Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-77 and DPR-79, for the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN), Units 1 and 2. The licenses provide, among other things, that the licensee is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

This facility consists of two pressurized water reactors located in Hamilton County, Tennessee.

II

Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.71 "Maintenance of records, making of reports," paragraph (e)(4) states, in part,

that "Subsequent revisions [to the updated Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR)] must be filed annually or 6 months after each refueling outage provided the interval between successive updates [to the FSAR] does not exceed 24 months." The two units at the SQN site share a common FSAR; therefore, this rule requires the licensee to update the same document annually or within 6 months after each unit's refueling outage (approximately every 9 months).

III

Section 50.12(a) of 10 CFR, "Specific exemptions," states that

The Commission may, upon application by any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the requirements of the regulations of this part, which are—

(1) Authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security.

(2) The Commission will not consider granting an exemption unless special circumstances are present.

Section 50.12(a)(2)(ii) of 10 CFR states that special circumstances are present when "Application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule * * *." The licensee has proposed updating the unified SQN FSAR 6 months after each Unit 2 refueling outage. With the current length of fuel cycles, FSAR updates would be submitted approximately every 18 months, but not to exceed 24 months from the last submittal. The underlying purpose of the rule was to relieve licensees of the burden of filing annual FSAR revisions while assuring that such revisions are made at least every 24 months. The Commission reduced the burden, in part, by permitting a licensee to submit its FSAR revisions 6 months after refueling outages for its facility, but did not provide for multiple unit facilities sharing a common FSAR in the rule. Rather, the Commission stated that "With respect to * * * multiple facilities sharing a common FSAR, licensees will have maximum flexibility for scheduling updates on a case-by-case basis" 57 FR 39355 (1992).

The SQN units are on an 18-month fuel cycle. As noted in the staff's Safety Evaluation, the licensee's proposed schedule for SQN FSAR updates will ensure that the FSAR will be maintained current for both units within 24 months of the last revision. Likewise, should the licensee choose to submit the 10 CFR 50.59 design-change report

together with the FSAR revision, the interval for submission of that report will not exceed 24 months. The proposed schedule satisfies the maximum 24-month interval between FSAR revisions specified by 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4). Revising the FSAR 6 months after refueling outages for each unit, therefore, is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule. Accordingly, the Commission has determined that special circumstances are present as defined in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii). The Commission has further determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety and is consistent with the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. The Commission hereby grants the licensee an exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) to submit updates to the SQN FSAR within 6 months of each unit's refueling outage. The licensee will be required to submit updates to the SQN FSAR within 6 months after each Unit 2 refueling outage, not to exceed 24 months between subsequent revisions.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that granting of this exemption will have no significant effect on the quality of the human environment (63 FR 10958).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of March 1998.

Samuel J. Collins,

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98-6508 Filed 3-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 30-5337]

Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact of American Cyanamid Request for Field Studies Utilizing Carbon-14

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the potential environmental impact related to the request by American Cyanamid to test substances labeled with Carbon-14 (C-14) by applying such substances to crops grown on a small experimental plot at its West Windsor, New Jersey facility.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The American Cyanamid Company,