

recovery. These activities comprise the following three project purposes:

- Provide a year-round drinking water supply from the Rio Grande Project that is of sufficient quantity and quality to meet the anticipated municipal needs of Hatch; Las Cruces; northern and southern Dona Ana County; and El Paso.

- Protect and maintain the sustainability of the Mesilla Bolson (ground water basin or aquifer).

- Extend the longevity of the Hueco Bolson.

- Project alternatives presented in this DEIS were designed to achieve these three project purposes. In addition, the project will strive to meet the following criteria:

- The project should attempt to provide high quality water needed to achieve successful treatment and to meet federal drinking water standards.

- The project should seek to deliver water efficiently, and to promote water conservation.

- The project should provide overall benefits to the riverine ecosystem, particularly aquatic and riparian habitats.

The project recognizes and accepts existing institutional and social constraints. The project would continue to meet treaty, compact, and contract requirements for delivery of Rio Grande Project waters. The project would not adversely affect the quantity and quality of water deliveries to agricultural users; impose new responsibilities on state or federal governments; or preclude other opportunities to enhance the Rio Grande ecosystem.

The need for this project is based on the region's future drinking water supply requirements. The project is necessary to avoid both potentially permanent impacts on the Mesilla and Hueco Bolsons and critical drinking water shortages in the El Paso-Las Cruces region. Population growth rates have increased sharply, increasing the demand for drinking water. It is projected that the Texas portion of the Hueco Bolson will be exhausted of all fresh water by the year 2025 because water is being pumped from the aquifer faster than it can be naturally replenished. If additional surface waters are not made available to supplement the drinking water supply, water shortages in the region will likely lead to severe health and sanitation problems.

A copy of the Draft EIS has been filed with the Environmental Protection Agency EPA in accordance with 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 and USIBWC procedures. Written comments concerning the Draft EIS will be

accepted at the address provided above until June 13, 2000.

Dated: March 29, 2000.

**William A. Wilcox, Jr.,**

*Legal Advisor.*

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**BILLING CODE 4710-03-P**

## **NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION**

### **Records Schedules for Electronic Copies Previously Covered by General Records Schedule 20; Availability and Request for Comments**

**AGENCY:** National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of proposed records schedules; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) publishes notice at least once monthly of certain Federal agency requests for records disposition authority (records schedules). Once approved by NARA, records schedules provide mandatory instructions on what happens to records when no longer needed for current Government business. They authorize the preservation of records of continuing value in the National Archives of the United States and the destruction, after a specified period, of records lacking administrative, legal, research, or other value. Notice is published for records schedules in which agencies propose to destroy records not previously authorized for disposal or reduce the retention period of records already authorized for disposal.

This request for comments pertains solely to schedules for electronic copies of records created using word processing and electronic mail where the recordkeeping copies are already scheduled. (Electronic copies are records created using word processing or electronic mail software that remain in storage on the computer system after the recordkeeping copies are produced.)

These records were previously approved for disposal under General Records Schedule 20, Items 13 and 14. The agencies identified in this notice have submitted schedules pursuant to NARA Bulletin 99-04 to obtain separate disposition authority for the electronic copies associated with program records and administrative records not covered by the General Records Schedules. NARA invites public comments on such records schedules, as required by 44 U.S.C. 3303a(a). To facilitate review of

these schedules, their availability for comment is announced in **Federal Register** notices separate from those used for other records disposition schedules.

**DATES:** Requests for copies must be received in writing on or before May 19, 2000. On request, NARA will send a copy of the schedule. NARA staff usually prepare appraisal memorandums concerning a proposed schedule. These, too, may be requested. Requesters will be given 30 days to submit comments.

Some schedules submitted in accordance with NARA Bulletin 99-04 group records by program, function, or organizational element. These schedules do not include descriptions at the file series level, but, instead, provide citations to previously approved schedules or agency records disposition manuals (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice). To facilitate review of such disposition requests, previously approved schedules or manuals that are cited may be requested in addition to schedules for the electronic copies. NARA will provide the first 100 pages at no cost. NARA may charge \$.20 per page for additional copies. These materials also may be examined at no cost at the National Archives at College Park (8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD).

**ADDRESSES:** To request a copy of any records schedule identified in this notice, write to the Life Cycle Management Division (NWML), National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Requests also may be transmitted by FAX to 301-713-6852 or by e-mail to records.mgt@arch2.nara.gov.

Requesters must cite the control number, which appears in parentheses after the name of the agency which submitted the schedule, and must provide a mailing address. Those who desire appraisal reports and/or copies of previously approved schedules or manuals should so indicate in their request.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Marie Allen, Director, Life Cycle Management Division (NWML), National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Telephone: (301) 713-7110. E-mail: records.mgt@arch2.nara.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Each year Federal agencies create billions of records on paper, film, magnetic tape, and other media. To control this accumulation, agency records managers

prepare schedules proposing retention periods for records and submit these schedules for NARA approval, using the Standard Form (SF) 115, Request for Records Disposition Authority. These schedules provide for the timely transfer into the National Archives of historically valuable records and authorize the disposal of all other records after the agency no longer needs the records to conduct its business. Routine administrative records common to most agencies are approved for disposal in the General Records Schedules (GRS), which are disposition schedules issued by NARA that apply Government-wide.

On March 25, 1999, the Archivist issued NARA Bulletin 99-04, which told agencies what they must do to schedule electronic copies associated with previously scheduled program records and certain administrative records that were previously scheduled under GRS 20, Items 13 and 14. On December 27, 1999, the Archivist issued NARA Bulletin 2000-02, which suspended Bulletin 99-04 pending NARA's completion in FY 2001 of an overall review of scheduling and appraisal. On completion of this review, which will address all records, including electronic copies, NARA will determine whether Bulletin 99-04 should be revised or replaced with an alternative scheduling procedure. However, NARA will accept and process schedules for electronic copies prepared in accordance with Bulletin 99-04 that are submitted after December 27, 1999, as well as schedules that were submitted prior to this date.

Schedules submitted in accordance with NARA Bulletin 99-04 only cover the electronic copies associated with previously scheduled series. Agencies that wish to schedule hitherto unscheduled series must submit separate SF 115s that cover both recordkeeping copies and electronic copies used to create them.

In developing SF 115s for the electronic copies of scheduled records, agencies may use either of two scheduling models. They may add an appropriate disposition for the electronic copies formerly covered by GRS 20, Items 13 and 14, to every item in their manuals or records schedules where the recordkeeping copy has been created with a word processing or electronic mail application. This approach is described as Model 1 in Bulletin 99-04. Alternatively, agencies may group records by program, function, or organizational component and propose disposition instructions for the electronic copies associated with each grouping. This approach is

described as Model 2 in the Bulletin. Schedules that follow Model 2 do not describe records at the series level.

For each schedule covered by this notice the following information is provided: name of the Federal agency and any subdivisions requesting disposition authority; the organizational unit(s) accumulating the records or a statement that the schedule has agency-wide applicability in the case of schedules that cover records that may be accumulated throughout an agency; the control number assigned to each schedule; the total number of schedule items; the number of temporary items (the record series proposed for destruction); a brief description of the temporary electronic copies; and citations to previously approved SF 115s or printed disposition manuals that scheduled the recordkeeping copies associated with the electronic copies covered by the pending schedule. If a cited manual or schedule is available from the Government Printing Office or has been posted to a publicly available Web site, this too is noted.

Further information about the disposition process is available on request.

#### Schedules Pending

1. Department of Defense, Defense Contract Audit Agency (N9-372-00-1, 158 items, 158 temporary items). Electronic copies of documents created using word processing and electronic mail that pertain to agency programs and operations. Electronic copies relate to such subjects as planning, inspections and investigations, legal matters, relations with the White House and Congress, committee management, historical activities, training, audit policies, and audit administration. This schedule follows Model 2 as described in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. It also authorizes the agency to apply to any recordkeeping medium the disposition instructions for series that were previously approved for disposal in paper form. Paper copies of the records covered by this schedule are included in Disposition Job Nos. NC-372-75-1, N1-372-89-1, N1-372-90-1, N1-372-90-2, N1-372-93-1, N1-372-94-1, N1-372-94-2, N1-372-94-3, N1-372-95-1, N1-372-95-3, N1-372-96-1, and N1-372-99-1.

2. Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency (N9-361-00-2, 180 items, 180 temporary items). Electronic copies of documents created using electronic mail and word processing that relate to agency programs and activities. Included are electronic copies of records relating to command

functions, staff support, planning and resource management, telecommunications and information systems, personnel, finance, installation services, defense reutilization and marketing, technical operations, logistics services, quality assurance, contracting, program and technical support, supply and distribution, industrial plant equipment, the defense national stockpile, manufacturing, and alternative fuels. This schedule follows Model 2 as described in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. Recordkeeping copies of these files are included in Defense Logistics Agency Instruction 5015.1.

Dated: March 23, 2000.

**Michael J. Kurtz,**

*Assistant Archivist for Record Services—  
Washington, DC.*

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**BILLING CODE 7515-01-P**

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Comment Request: National Science Foundation—Applicant Survey

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) is announcing plans to request renewed clearance of this collection. In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are providing opportunity for public comment on this action. After obtaining and considering public comment, NSF will prepare the submission requesting OMB clearance of this collection for no longer than 3 years.

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information shall 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 on respondents, 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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received by June 5, 2000 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.