

effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirement on respondents can be properly assessed.

Currently, the Corporation is soliciting comments concerning its proposed renewal of its Learn and Serve America Program and Performance Measurement Reports. These reports are used by current grantees, subgrantees and sub-subgrantees to report on Learn and Serve-funded service-learning programs. Data collected through the reports are utilized by the Corporation for Congressional reporting and program management. Completion of the Program and Performance Measurement Reports is a requirement of the Learn and Serve grant provisions.

Copies of the information collection requests can be obtained by contacting the office listed in the addresses section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the individual and office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section by July 2, 2007.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by the title of the information collection activity, by any of the following methods:

(1) By mail sent to: Corporation for National and Community Service, Research and Policy Development, Attention Kimberly Spring, Policy Analyst, 10th Floor, 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20525.

(2) By hand delivery or by courier to the Corporation's mailroom at Room 8100 at the mail address given in paragraph (1) above, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

(3) By fax to: (202) 606-3464, Attention Kimberly Spring, Policy Analyst.

(4) Electronically through the Corporation's e-mail address system: kspring@cns.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kimberly Spring, (202) 606-6629, or by e-mail at kspring@cns.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Corporation is particularly interested in comments that:

• Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Corporation, including whether the information will have practical utility;

• Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

• Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

• Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are expected to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology (e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses).

Background

The Learn and Serve America Program was established by the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 12501, *et seq.*) (Pub. L. 103-82) to support efforts in schools, higher education institutions, and community-based organizations to involve young people in meaningful service to their communities while improving academic, civic, social, and career-related skills. The Learn and Serve program is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service and is funded through grants to states, national organizations, and institutions of higher education, and through them to individual schools and school districts, community-based organizations, and colleges or universities. Approximately 100 grantees and 2,000 subgrantees and sub-subgrantees receive Learn and Serve funds each year.

The Learn and Serve America Program and Performance Measurement Reports provide an annual program reporting process for Learn and Serve: Collecting program characteristics, output measurements, and institutional-level service-learning policies and practices. The system is Web-based and allows for the electronic submission of reporting information and grantee and public-use access of data collected through the system.

Current Action

The Corporation seeks to renew the current reporting instruments, which are designed to collect information on (a) the characteristics of grantee and subgrantee organizations; (b) the scope and structure of service-learning activities in the funded organizations;

(c) number of participants in service-learning and the hours of service provided; and (d) institutional supports for service-learning. The Corporation maintains three versions of the reporting instrument to correspond to the three major funding streams under Learn and Serve America: K-12 School-Based, Higher Education, and Community-Based. The Corporation also seeks to continue using the reporting instruments until the renewal of the instruments is approved by OMB. The current application is due to expire on September 30, 2007.

Type of Review: Renewal.

Agency: Corporation for National and Community Service.

Title: Learn and Serve America Program and Performance Measurement Reports.

OMB Number: 3045-0095.

Agency Number: None.

Affected Public: Learn and Serve America Grantees and Subgrantees.

Total Respondents: 2,100.

Frequency: Annually.

Average Time Per Response: ¼ hour for grantees and one hour for subgrantees.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 2,025 hours.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): None.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): None.

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

Dated: April 24, 2007.

Robert Grimm, Jr.,

Director, Office of Research and Policy Development.

[FR Doc. E7-8350 Filed 5-1-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6050--\$S-P

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

[Recommendation 2007-1]

Safety-Related In Situ Nondestructive Assay of Radioactive Materials

AGENCY: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

ACTION: Notice, recommendation.

SUMMARY: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board has made a recommendation to the Secretary of Energy pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2286a(a)(5) which addresses the measuring of radioactive material holdup at defense nuclear facilities in the Department of Energy complex.

DATES: Comments, data, views, or arguments concerning the recommendation are due on or before June 1, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, data, views, or arguments concerning this recommendation to: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue., NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004–2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Grosner or Andrew L. Thibadeau at the address above or telephone (202) 694–7000.

Dated: April 27, 2006.

A.J. Eggenberger,
Chairman.

Recommendation 2007–1 to the Secretary of Energy

Safety-Related In Situ Nondestructive Assay of Radioactive Materials

Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2286(a)(5); Atomic Energy Act of 1954, As Amended

Dated: April 25, 2007.

Overview

There are many situations in which the quantity and composition of radioactive material must be determined. In some instances, access to the material is impossible or undesirable, and consequently, weighing, laboratory analysis, and calorimetry are not viable options. In these cases, *in situ* nondestructive assay (NDA), based on the measurement of signature emissions from a specific isotope of interest, is used to provide an estimate of the type and quantity of radioactive material present. However, large uncertainties and inaccuracies have occurred in estimating the type and quantity of radioactive material using *in situ* NDA. These uncertainties and inaccuracies include incorrect assumptions about shielding and the spatial distribution of radioactive material, as well as poor measurement techniques. Measurement errors, in turn, lead to potential criticality accident conditions, unexpected radiation exposure to workers, and underestimation of radioactive material available for release in accident scenarios.

In most nuclear safety areas, the Department of Energy (DOE) has captured required elements for robust site programs through its Directives system. These elements include requirements necessary for proper functioning of the program, training and qualification standards for personnel, assessment criteria to ensure proper implementation of requirements, and feedback mechanisms for lessons learned and continuous improvement. However, DOE has not established programmatic requirements for NDA, even though this method is heavily relied upon for nuclear safety throughout the complex and is key to many DOE activities. The capability to perform accurate measurements and use the results to determine compliance with nuclear safety limits is absolutely essential.

Research and development efforts for NDA have historically focused on the areas of material control and accountability and

nuclear material safeguards; advances in these areas have peripherally benefitted *in situ* NDA measurement capabilities. Current research and development efforts appear to hold little promise for addressing needed improvements for *in situ* NDA measurement. For example, development of instrumentation and measurement techniques is needed to reduce overall measurement uncertainties.

Examples

Three notable instances of recent errors associated with *in situ* NDA measurement of radioactive material holdup are discussed below. These errors resulted from the use of inaccurate correction factors regarding material geometry assumptions or failure to perform measurements at locations where the material was accumulating. In each of these cases, the amount of radioactive material was initially underestimated, resulting in a smaller-than-expected safety margin and violations of criticality safety limits.

Material holdup in 6-inch diameter vacuum system pipe at the Hanford Site's Plutonium Finishing Plant was assumed to be in the form of a 0.25 inch layer at the bottom of the pipe. Using a correction factor for this geometry, the initial estimate of material was about 1 kg. When workers then proceeded to remove the piping, it was found to be filled with a solid plug of material, and the actual amount of material present was nearly twice as high as the initial estimate.

Measurement of an exhaust filter at the Y–12 National Security Complex assumed that fissionable material was loaded only on the face of the filter. An estimate of a few hundred grams of material was obtained using correction factors for this geometry. Subsequent investigation showed that material was loaded throughout the filter, and not just on the face. The actual amount of fissionable material present was several times the initial estimate.

A second exhaust filter at the Y–12 National Security Complex was measured periodically using NDA, but the measurement point was not where the fissionable material was accumulating. Once this error was discovered, follow-up measurements showed significant material accumulation.

In each of these instances, site-specific corrective actions were taken based on the specific problem encountered. Lessons learned from these events do not appear to have been shared within the DOE complex. Complex-wide corrective actions have not been identified to minimize the occurrence of similar events at other sites. The Board is concerned that undiscovered problems currently exist at other facilities within the DOE complex. It is incumbent upon DOE and its contractors to review current *in situ* NDA measurements to determine whether the assumptions used to derive results are sufficiently conservative to ensure compliance with nuclear safety limits.

Issues

Three main issues dominate the current technical and regulatory landscape regarding

in situ NDA measurements: (1) Lack of standardized requirements for performing measurements, (2) lack of design requirements for new facilities that would facilitate accurate holdup measurement, and (3) lack of research and development activities for new instrumentation and/or measurement techniques. Each of these issues is discussed below.

Lack of Standardization—DOE has not established requirements or guidance for performing *in situ* measurements in its Directives system. While the Board recognizes that measurement techniques can be highly location specific, a requirement to follow methods outlined in national consensus standards when performing *in situ* NDA measurements would reduce the errors and uncertainty of results. Commercial guidance for NDA is available in a series of standards published by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). This series addresses good practices for performing NDA measurements, methods for performing specific types of NDA measurements (for example, ASTM C–1133–03, *NDA of Low-Density Scrap and Waste by Segmented Passive Gamma Ray Scanning*), and training and qualification of NDA personnel. While this guidance has been used informally at some sites, DOE has not required its use for NDA measurements.

Lack of Design Requirements for New Facilities—Many of the problems that require *in situ* NDA to determine radioactive material holdup arose because facilities were designed and built before the need for NDA technology was evident. As a result, no consistent attempt was made to design facility systems to minimize holdup or facilitate its measurement. This historical trend should not be repeated in new facilities. The necessity of monitoring radioactive material holdup must be considered in the design of new facilities. For example, locations for monitoring can be selected during the design phase on the basis of the most likely locations for holdup to occur. Calibrations can then be performed at these locations *before* the facility begins operations to provide a baseline for future NDA measurements. Facilities can also be designed to minimize holdup in areas where it may be of concern.

Lack of Research and Development Activities—Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) conducted NDA research for more than 20 years. LANL developed most of the NDA techniques in current use, and conducts associated training programs. However, it is not clear that any significant research and development for *in situ* NDA measurements is currently being conducted within DOE to address serious concerns with material holdup. Research and development activities are focused in other areas, such as nuclear material safeguards and homeland security, but these efforts have different objectives and may not yield results that are beneficial for measurements using *in situ* NDA.

Recommendation

The Board, therefore, recommends that DOE:

1. Evaluate the extent of condition regarding inaccurate *in situ* NDA programs

within DOE. This effort should involve at least two actions:

A. Identifying all cases within the defense nuclear complex in which *in situ* NDA results are used to ensure compliance with nuclear safety limits.

B. Reviewing the cases identified in step 1.A to validate that the protocols, methodologies, calculations, and assumptions used to obtain NDA results are sufficiently conservative. This review should take into consideration lessons learned from recent events.

2. Establish requirements and guidance in a DOE directive or directives. The requirements and guidance should focus on *in situ* NDA programs that are used to demonstrate compliance with nuclear safety limits. Particular issues to be addressed should include:

A. Training and qualification standards for personnel involved in performing NDA measurements, interpreting and reviewing results, and managing site programs.

B. Application of standard protocols and methodologies, such as those given in the national consensus series issued by ASTM, for performing NDA measurements.

C. Standardization of correction factors for common situations (geometry and self-attenuation factors) and consistent application of uncertainty values.

D. Reinforcement of the use of formal lessons-learned mechanisms in the application of NDA programs so that information can be shared easily among affected DOE sites.

E. Incorporation of features in the design of new facilities to minimize radioactive material holdup and facilitate accurate NDA holdup measurements.

F. Periodic assessments of the need for new NDA technology and the status of ongoing NDA-related research and development programs.

G. Periodic assessments to ensure that NDA programs are using the best available technology.

H. Incorporation of appropriate quality assurance elements into *in situ* NDA measurements when used for compliance with nuclear safety limits as required by 10 Code of Federal Regulations Part 830.

A.J. Eggenberger,

Chairman.

[FR Doc. E7-8374 Filed 5-1-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3670-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection requests.

SUMMARY: The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: An emergency review has been requested in accordance with the Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3507(j)), since public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed. Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by December 7, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Rachael Potter, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10222, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or faxed to (202) 395-6974.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. ED invites public comment. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: April 26, 2007.

Angela C. Arrington,

IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: New.

Title: U.S.-Russia Program:

Improving Research and Educational Activities in Higher Education.

Abstract: This is a new Special Focus Competition, administered by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). FIPSE's U.S.-Russia Program will award grants to U.S. institutions participating in bilateral institutional cooperation to support innovative projects that will improve research and education activities in higher education in the U.S. and Russia. The rationale for the U.S.-Russia Program is based upon the need for increased interconnectedness between the U.S. and Russia in order to operate effectively in a global economy. Institutions will be funded by their respective government agencies in areas that advance the study of English and Russian and demonstrate innovative and/or best practices in a variety of academic disciplines, such as mathematics, science, and economics.

Additional Information: This important unique program is facing a tight deadline in order for both nations to have adequate time to apply, and hence we are asking for this emergency clearance to provide possible applicants a decent amount of time to complete the necessary application.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 12.

Burden Hours: 360.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 3323. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20202-4700. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address ICDocketMgr@ed.gov or faxed to 202-245-6623. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be electronically mailed to ICDocketMgr@ed.gov. Individuals who