NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Intent to Seek Approval to Establish an Information Collection

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is announcing plans to request approval of this collection. In accordance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13), we are providing opportunity for public comment on this action. After obtaining and considering public comment, NSF will prepare the submission requesting OMB approval clearance of this collection for no longer than 3 years.

Type of Request: Intent to conduct a pilot of the new Nonprofit Research Activities Survey.

Expiration Date: Not applicable.

Contact Suzanne H. Plimponto@nsf.gov.(703) 292–7556; or send email to

Arlington, Virginia 22230; telephone

For additional information or comments: Contact Suzanne H. Plimponto, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1265, Arlington, Virginia 22230; telephone (703) 292–7556; or send email to plimponto@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: Nonprofit Research Activities Survey.

OMB Approval Number: 3145–New.

Expiration Date: Not applicable.

Type of Request: Intent to conduct a pilot test for an information collection.

Abstract: The nonprofit sector is one of four major sectors that perform and/or fund research and development (R&D) in the U.S. Historically, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has combined this sector’s data with the business, government, and higher education sector data to estimate total national R&D expenditures via the annual National Patterns of R&D Resources report. The other three sectors are surveyed annually; however, it has been more than 18 years since NSF last collected R&D data from nonprofit organizations. The primary objective of the new survey is to fill data gaps in the National Patterns of R&D Resources in such a way that it is compatible with data collected on the business, government, and higher education sectors of the U.S. economy and appropriate for international comparisons. Since the last survey of research activity in the nonprofit sector occurred more than 18 years ago, and because of the more than 21% growth in IRS filings by nonprofits between 2001 and 2011, it is important that a new survey of nonprofit R&D be fielded to update current national estimates for the nonprofit sector.

The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) plans to conduct a pilot of the new Nonprofit Research Activities Survey (NPRA). NPRA will collect R&D and other related data from U.S. nonprofit organizations. This survey will collect the following:

- Total amount spent on R&D activities within nonprofit organizations,
- Number of employees and R&D employees,
- Sources of funds for R&D expenditures,
- Expenditures by field of R&D,
- Total amount of R&D funding provided to others outside the nonprofit organization,
- Types of recipients receiving R&D funding, and
- Funding by field of R&D.

The process of developing the questionnaire involved several major steps. First, at NSF’s request, in February 2014 the Committee on National Statistics convened a steering committee on Measuring R&D Expenditures in the U.S. Nonprofit Sector. Second, NCSES (through its contractor) conducted 23 interviews with representatives of nonprofit organizations. Third, an expert panel was convened in September 2014 for the
The purpose of helping NSF shape the content and coverage of data related to R&D in the nonprofit sector. Finally, in the summer of 2015 cognitive interviews were conducted with representatives of 28 nonprofit organizations that perform and fund research to test the prenotification letter, a handout that will be included with the letter, and the survey instrument. The pilot test will be a web survey with a paper version of the questionnaire available for download. The initial contact with the nonprofit organizations will be via mail, but the remainder of the contacts will occur via email.

Use of the information: The primary purpose of this pilot survey is to assess the feasibility of and to test the process of collecting the necessary information prior to the launch of a nationally representative survey planned for 2017. The pilot survey results will not be published. However, NCSES does plan to use the information provided to improve our national estimates of nonprofit research spending in our annual publication National Patterns of R&D Resources.

Expected respondents: The pilot sample will be 4,000 nonprofit organizations.

Estimate of burden: We expect a response rate of 80%. Based on the responses from the 28 cognitive interviews, we estimate the full survey to require 10 hours to complete. The response time for nonprofit organizations that do not conduct or fund research should be under 1 hour. We estimate that of the 4,000 organizations surveyed, no more than 700 will identify as performer or funders and submit a full survey response. Therefore our estimate of burden for the pilot survey is 10,300 hours (7,000 hours for the 700 respondents and funders: 3,300 for the remainder of the sample).

Dated: January 5, 2016.

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

[FR Doc. 2016–00229 Filed 1–8–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[EA–14–193; NRC–2015–0289]

In the Matter of Northern States Power Company, Minnesota

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Confirmatory order; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Northern States Power Company, Minnesota, doing business as Xcel Energy, engaged in mediation as part of the NRC’s Alternative Dispute Resolution Program which resulted in a settlement agreement as reflected in the Confirmatory Order (CO) related to Xcel Energy. The purpose of the CO is to ensure that the licensee restores compliance with NRC regulations.

DATES: Effective Date: January 20, 2016

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2015–0289 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this action using any of the following methods:

- Federal Rulemaking Web site: Go to http://www.regulations.gov and search for Docket ID NRC–2015–0289. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301–415–3463; email: Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this document.

- NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS): You may access publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. To begin the search, select “ADAMS Public Documents” and then select “Begin Web-based ADAMS Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC’s Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, 301–415–4737, or by email to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced in this document (if that document is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that a document is referenced.

- NRC’s PDR: You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC’s PDR, Room O1–F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The text of the Order is attached.

Dated at Lisle, Illinois this 21st day of December, 2015.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Cynthia D. Pederson,
Regional Administrator.

Attachment—CONFIRMATORY ORDER MODIFYING LICENSE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

Docket Nos. 50–263; 72–058
Northern States Power Company,
Minnesota License No. DPR–22
(Doing business as Xcel Energy) EA–14–193
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

CONFIRMATORY ORDER MODIFYING LICENSE

I.

Northern States Power Company, Minnesota, doing business as Xcel Energy, (Licensee) is the holder of Reactor Operating License No. DPR–22 issued by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 50 on September 8, 1970, and renewed on November 8, 2006. The license authorizes the operation of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (Monticello) in accordance with conditions specified therein. The facility is located on the Licensee’s site in Monticello, Minnesota.

This Confirmatory Order is the result of an agreement reached during an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mediation session conducted on October 15, 2015.

II.

On December 18, 2013, the NRC Office of Investigations (OI), Region III Field Office initiated an investigation (OI Case No. 3–2014–004) to determine whether two contractor technicians at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant deliberately failed to perform nondestructive examinations (NDEs) on the Dry Shielded Canisters (DSCs) in accordance with procedural requirements, and to determine whether they falsified records when recording the NDE results. The results of the investigation, completed on November 13, 2014, were sent to Xcel Energy in a letter dated July 23, 2015 (ML15203B187). Based on the review of the OI investigation report the NRC determined that both contractor technicians willfully violated 10 CFR 72.156, “Control of special processes,” and 10 CFR 72.11, “Completeness and accuracy of information.” In addition, the NRC determined the licensee violated Title 10 CFR 72.154(c),