

recordkeeping copies of program publications, program planning and project files, correspondence, regulatory and policy affairs files, and documents relating to program liaison activities with agency staff and interaction with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

9. Department of Interior, Office of the Secretary (N1-48-06-3, 6 items, 3 temporary items). Files maintained by Deputy Assistant Secretaries and records lacking historical value held by other senior agency officials. Also included are electronic copies of records created using electronic mail and word processing. Proposed for permanent retention are recordkeeping copies of files maintained by the Secretary and the Secretary's Counselors, Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretaries, Solicitor, and Inspector General.

10. Department of Justice, Justice Management Division (N1-60-06-1, 3 items, 2 temporary items). Electronic copies of records created using electronic mail and word processing relating to agency whistleblower cases and the Office of Attorney Recruitment and Management's handling of those cases. Proposed for permanent retention are recordkeeping copies of whistleblower protection case files.

11. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (N1-65-06-10, 1 item, 1 temporary item). Consent forms for contractor personnel agreeing to warrantless physical searches of their offices or workplaces within agency facilities.

12. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (N1-58-06-10, 1 item, 1 temporary item). Records of the Office of Appeals relating to appraisal review requests for art and cultural property listed in tax returns. Records include copies of taxpayer case files consisting of forms, work papers, recommendations and final appraisal reports. This schedule reduces the retention period for recordkeeping copies of these files, which were previously approved for disposal.

Dated: July 31, 2006.

**Michael J. Kurtz,**

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

[FR Doc. E6-12598 Filed 8-3-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7515-01-P**

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a draft Environmental Assessment for proposed activities in the Pacific Ocean.

**SUMMARY:** The National Science Foundation gives notice of the availability of a draft Environmental Assessment for proposed activities in the Pacific Ocean.

The Division of Ocean Sciences in the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO/OCE) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment for a low-energy marine seismic survey by the Research Vessel Roger Revelle in the South Pacific Ocean, in international waters roughly between 23° and 47° S, and between 115° and 165° W during December 2006–January 2007. The draft Environmental Assessment is available for public review for a 30-day period.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before September 5, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the draft Environmental Assessment are available upon request from: Dr. William Lang, National Science Foundation, Division of Ocean Sciences, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 725, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292-7857. The draft is also available on the agency's Web site at [http://www.nsf.gov/geo/oce/pubs/scripps\\_seismic\\_southpac\\_dec2006\\_EA.pdf](http://www.nsf.gov/geo/oce/pubs/scripps_seismic_southpac_dec2006_EA.pdf).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO), with research funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), plans to conduct a piston/gravity coring, magnetic, and seismic survey program at 12 sites in the South Pacific Ocean during December 2006–January 2007. The proposed action is part of the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) and will collect data that will be used to (1) document the metabolic activities genetic composition, and biomass of prokaryotic communities in the seafloor sediments with very low total activity; (2) quantify the extent to which those communities may be supplied with harvestable energy by water radiolysis, a process independent of the surface photosynthetic world; and (3) survey broad characteristics of seafloor communities and habitats in this region, in order to refine the planning and objectives of IODP South Pacific research. The seismic survey is required to locate optimal piston/gravity-coring sites and involves one vessel, the R/V Roger Revelle. One pair of low-energy Generator-Injector (GI) airguns (45 in<sup>3</sup> discharge volume each) will be used as the seismic energy source with a proposed survey program of approximately 1930 km of seismic lines, including turns, with water depths of

3200 to 5700m. The research will be carried out entirely within international waters.

Numerous species of cetaceans and sea turtles occur in the South Pacific Ocean. Several of the species are listed as Endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). The increased underwater noise from the research may result in avoidance behavior by some marine animals, and other forms of disturbance. An integral part of the planned survey is a monitoring and mitigation program designed to minimize impacts of the proposed activities on marine species present, and to document the nature and extent of any effects. Injurious impacts to marine animals have not been proven to occur near equipment proposed to be used in this research; however, the planned monitoring and mitigation measures would minimize the possibility of such effects should they otherwise occur.

With the planned monitoring and mitigation measures, unavoidable impacts to each of the species of marine mammal that might be encountered are expected to be limited to short-term localized changes in behavior and distribution near the seismic vessel. At most, such effects may be interpreted as falling within the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) definition of "Level B Harassment" for those species managed by NMFS. No long-term or significant effects are expected on individual marine mammals, or the populations to which they belong, or their habitats. The agency is currently consulting with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding species within their jurisdiction potentially affected by this proposed activity.

Copies of the draft Environmental Assessment, titled "Environmental Assessment of a Planned Low-Energy Marine Seismic Survey by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in the South Pacific Ocean, December 2006–January 2007", are available upon request from: Dr. William Lang, National Science Foundation, Division of Ocean Sciences, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 725, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292-7857 or at the agency's Web site at: [http://www.nsf.gov/geo/oce/pubs/scripps\\_seismic\\_southpac\\_dec2006\\_EA.pdf](http://www.nsf.gov/geo/oce/pubs/scripps_seismic_southpac_dec2006_EA.pdf). The National Science Foundation invites interested members of the public to provide written comments on this draft Environmental Assessment.

Dated: July 31, 2006.

**William Lang,**

*Program Director, Division of Ocean Sciences,  
National Science Foundation.*

[FR Doc. 06-6668 Filed 8-3-06; 8:45am]

**BILLING CODE 7555-01-M**

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### National Science Board and Its Subdivisions; Meetings

*Date and Time:* August 9–10, 2006.

Wednesday, August 9, 2006—8:15 a.m.–  
4:45 p.m.

8:15–9:15—open;

9:15–10—open;

10–10:45—open;

10:45–11:30—open;

11:30–12:30—open;

1:30–2:20—open;

2:20–4—closed;

4–4:15—closed;

4:15–4:30—open;

4:30–4:45—closed.

Thursday, August 10, 2006—8 a.m.–3:30  
p.m.

8–9:30—open;

9:30–10:30—open;

10:30–11—closed;

11–11:30—open;

11:30–12—closed;

1–1:15—closed;

1:15–1:30—closed;

1:30–3:30—open.

*Place:* National Science Foundation,  
4201 Wilson Blvd, Room 1235,  
Arlington, VA 22230.

*Public Meeting Attendance:* All  
visitors must report to the NSF's  
visitor's desk at the 9th and N. Stuart  
Streets entrance to receive a visitor's  
badge.

*Contact Information:* Please refer to  
the National Science Board Web site  
([www.nsf.gov/nsb](http://www.nsf.gov/nsb)) for updated  
schedule. NSB Office: Dr. Robert  
Webber, (703) 292-7000.

*Status:* Part of this meeting will be  
closed to the public. Part of this meeting  
will be open to the public.

*Matters To Be Considered:*

### Wednesday, August 9, 2006

*Open*

CPP Subcommittee on Polar Issues (8:15  
a.m.–9:15 a.m.)

- Chairman's Remarks
- Approval of Minutes
- Astrophysics and South Pole  
Infrastructure
- New View on Arctic Climate  
History
- Ice Sheets
- IPY Solicitations

CPP Task Force on Hurricane Science  
and Engineering (9:15 a.m.–10 a.m.)

• Approval of Minutes for May 2006  
Meeting

• Discussion of Draft Hurricane  
Science and Engineering Report

• Future Activities of the Task Force  
CPP Task Force on Transformative  
Research (10 a.m.–10:45 a.m.)

• Approval of Minutes for May 2006  
Meeting

• Outcomes of Previous TR  
Workshops—Draft Report

CPP Task Force on International Science  
(10:45 a.m.–11:30 a.m.)

• Approval of Minutes

• Summary of the May 11 Hearing  
and Roundtable Discussion

• Discussion of Items To Come Out  
of the Task Force's Series of  
Roundtable Discussions

• Discussion of Future Task Force  
Activities, Including the  
Roundtable Discussion Scheduled  
for September 25, 2006 in  
Singapore

Committee on Programs and Plans  
(11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.)

• Approval of May 10, 2006 CPP  
Minutes

• Status Reports:

○ Task Force on Transformative  
Research

○ Task Force on Hurricane Science  
and Engineering and Dr. Ken Ford

○ Subcommittee on Polar Issues

○ Task Force on International  
Science

• Discussion Item: NSB Policy on  
Recompetition of NSF Awards

• Update: NSF's Cyberinfrastructure  
Vision

• NSB Information Item: NSF  
Activities in High Performance  
Computing; Status of the Petascale  
System Acquisition

Committee on Programs and Plans

Open: (1:30 p.m.–2:20 p.m.)

• NSB Information Item: EarthScope  
Facility Construction Project

• Update: Major Research Facilities  
& Facility Plan

• Overview of Process for CPP/NSB  
Re-examination of Priority Order for  
New Start MREFC Projects

Executive Committee Open: (4:15 p.m.–  
4:30 p.m.)

• Approval of Minutes for May 2006  
Meeting

• Updates or New Business From  
Committee Members

*Closed*

Committee on Programs and Plans

Closed: (2:20 p.m.–4 p.m.)

• Awards and Agreements

Committee on Programs and Plans

Executive Closed: (4 p.m.–4:15  
p.m.)

• Awards and Agreements

Executive Committee Closed (4:30 p.m.–  
4:45 p.m.)

- Specific Personnel Matters
- Future Budgets

### Thursday, August 10, 2006

*Open*

EHR Subcommittee on Science and  
Engineering Indicators (8 a.m.–9:30  
a.m.)

• Approval of May Minutes

• Chairman's Remarks

• What Is Science and Engineering  
Indicators?

• Role of S&E Indicators

Subcommittee

• Introduction of Key NSBO and SRS  
Staff

• Discussion of Science and  
Engineering Indicators Chapters

• Introduction to Condensed Version  
of Indicators and Companion Piece

• Key Board Dates and Activities for  
Production of Science and  
Engineering Indicators 2008

• Chairman's Summary

Committee on Audit and Oversight

Open: (9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.)

• Approval of Minutes of May, 2006  
Meeting

• Report by NSF Advisory Committee  
on GPRA Performance Assessment  
(ACGPA) Status of Financial Audit  
Procurement

• CFO Update

Committee on Strategy and Budget

Open: (11 a.m.–11:30 a.m.)

• Approval of May 9, 2006 CSB  
Minutes

• Status of FY 2007 Budget Request to  
Congress

• Discussion of NSF Strategic Plan FY  
2006–2011

*Closed*

*Closed*

Committee on Audit and Oversight

Closed: (10:30 a.m.–11 a.m.)

• Budget

• Pending Investigations

Committee on Strategy and Budget

Closed (11:30 a.m.–12 noon)

• Approval of CSB Closed Session  
Teleconference Minutes

• Discussion of NSF FY 2008 Budget  
Request

*Plenary Sessions of the Board (1 p.m.–  
3:30 p.m.)*

*Plenary Executive Closed (1 p.m.–1:15  
p.m.)*

• Approval of May 2006 Minutes

• Re-examination of Priority Order of  
MREFC

*Plenary closed (1:15 p.m.–1:30 p.m.)*

• Approval of May 2006 Minutes

• Awards and Agreements

• Closed Committee Reports

*Plenary Open (1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.)*

• Approval of May 2006 Minutes

• Resolution to Close September 2006