

(f) Prior to energizing and during use of the 3M Versaflo TR-800 or the CleanSpace EX PAPR within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces, procedures in accordance with 30 CFR 75.323 shall be followed.

(g) Only the 3M TR-830 Battery Pack, which meets lithium battery safety standard UL 1642 or IEC 62133, in the 3M Versaflo TR-800 PAPR shall be used. Only the CleanSpace EX Power Unit, which meets lithium battery safety standard UL 1642 or IEC 62133, in the CleanSpace EX shall be used.

(h) If battery packs for the 3M Versaflo TR-800 PAPR are provided, all battery "change outs" shall occur in intake air outby the last open crosscut.

(i) The following maintenance and use conditions shall apply to equipment containing lithium type batteries:

(1) Neither the 3M TR-830 Battery Pack nor the CleanSpace EX Power Unit shall be disassembled or modified by anyone other than permitted by the manufacturer of the equipment.

(2) The 3M TR-830 Battery Pack shall be charged only in an area free of combustible material and in intake air outby the last open crosscut. The 3M TR-830 Battery Pack shall be charged only by a manufacturer's recommended battery charger, such as:

(i) 3M Battery Charger Kit TR-641N, which includes one 3M Charger Cradle TR-640 and one 3M Power Supply TR-941N; or

(ii) 3M 4-Station Battery Charger Kit TR-644N, which includes four 3M Charger Cradles TR-640 and one 3M 4-Station Battery Charger Base/Power Supply TR-944N.

(3) The CleanSpace EX internal battery, which is contained within the power unit assembly, shall be charged in areas located outby the last open crosscut in intake air, and only the manufacturer's recommended battery chargers shall be used, such as the CleanSpace EX Battery Charger, Product Code PAF-0066.

(4) Neither the 3M TR-830 Battery Pack nor the CleanSpace EX power unit which contains the internal battery, shall be exposed to water, allowed to get wet or immersed in liquid. This does not preclude incidental exposure of the 3M TR-830 Battery Pack or the CleanSpace EX power unit assembly.

(5) Neither the 3M Versaflo TR-800 PAPR nor the CleanSpace EX PAPR, including the internal battery, shall be used, charged or stored in locations where the manufacturer's recommended temperature limits are exceeded. Neither the 3M Versaflo TR-800 PAPR or the CleanSpace EX PAPR shall be placed in direct sunlight nor stored near a source of heat.

(j) Annual retraining shall be given to all miners who will be involved with or affected by the use of the 3M Versaflo TR-800 or CleanSpace EX PAPRs in accordance with 30 CFR 48.8. Training of new miners on the requirements of the PDO granted by MSHA in accordance with 30 CFR 48.5, and training of experienced miners on the requirements of the PDO granted by MSHA in accordance with 30 CFR 48.6 shall be given. The operator shall keep a record of such training and provide such record to MSHA upon request.

(k) The miners at Rockwell Mining LLC, Coal Branch No. 2 Mine, are not represented by a labor organization and there are no representatives of miners at the mine. A copy of this petition has been posted on the bulletin board at Rockwell Mining LLC, Coal Branch No. 2 Mine, on November 21, 2024.

The petitioner asserts that the alternative method in the petition will at all times guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded to the miners by the standard.

Song-ae Aromie Noe,

Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

[FR Doc. 2024-29502 Filed 12-13-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4520-43-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Request for Comments on NSF's Proposed Intellectual Property Options

AGENCY: U.S. National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) seeks public comments to inform the experimental implementation of new intellectual property (IP) provisions to be used in public-private partnerships, particularly those advancing research and development, that include co-funding by private partners. NSF is committed to fostering innovation and promoting the translation of research into practical applications. To enhance the effectiveness of public-private partnerships, NSF seeks to implement a set of options for IP provisions that provide greater flexibility and balance the interests of both academia and industry. Recent engagements, including the 2023 NSF-Industry Partnership Summit and subsequent listening sessions, have highlighted the need for optional IP strategies that can adapt to the unique requirements of various funded projects. NSF intends to incorporate these IP options into

partnership agreements involving industry and/or non-profit organizations for funding opportunities whose funded awards may result in the generation of IP. Through this Request for Comments (RFC), NSF invites input from a wide range of stakeholders, including industry, academia, non-profit organizations, other government agencies, and other interested parties.

DATES: Interested persons or organizations are invited to submit comments on or before 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Friday, January 24, 2025.

ADDRESSES: To respond to this Request for Comments, please use the official submission form available at: <https://airtable.com/app9KPUhqR2lAb4Zf/pag9d0QhLcOXkGlud/form>.

Respondents only need to provide feedback on one or more questions of interest or relevance to them. Each question is voluntary and optional. The response to each question has a 4,000-character limit including spaces.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, please direct questions to Allen Walker through email at NSF-IPOptions-RFC@nsf.gov, phone at 703-292-2291, or mail at U.S. National Science Foundation, ATTN: Allen Walker, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314, USA.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 2023 NSF-Industry Partnership Summit and subsequent engagements revealed differing viewpoints in stakeholders' perspectives regarding NSF's existing IP terms. In response, the Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP) has developed a series of IP grant-of-rights options to address these concerns. These options are informed by the Bayh-Dole Act and aim to promote the practical application and commercialization of federally funded research while preserving potential access to the IP for the U.S. Government.

Below is the language for each of the three IP grant-of-rights options to be used in partnership agreements. These IP options can be tailored according to the particular research area and the specific terms and conditions agreed upon between NSF and the partner(s) in a particular public-private partnership.

A. Research License With Commercial Option

The disposition of rights to inventions or works of authorship made during NSF-funded research is governed by Federal law, regulation, and policy, including but not limited to, 35 U.S.C. 200-212 and 37 CFR part 401. Pursuant to applicable laws, regulations, and policies, the entire right, title, and

interest of Intellectual Property (IP) that directly results from activities funded by NSF (“Project IP”) is retained by the entity that created it. While recipients are permitted to temporarily withhold the publication of data and software related to inventions to facilitate patent application filings, NSF terms and conditions require the subsequent prompt publication of all research outputs—including results, data, and software—generated in the performance of the research.

All partners are entitled to a non-exclusive, royalty-free license for use of Project IP for research purposes for a period of 18 months from the date of disclosure of the Project IP. This license shall not extend to any IP other than Project IP. This 18-month period is structured as follows:

1. *Notice Period:* For the first 12 months after disclosure of the Project IP, any partner shall have a right to indicate in writing that they are exercising their Right of First Negotiation (“ROFN”) for an opportunity to secure an exclusive commercial license during the Negotiation/Option Period.

2. *Negotiation/Option Period:* Following the 12-month Notice Period, there shall be a 6-month period during which partners so exercising their ROFN may negotiate for an exclusive commercial license.

If an exclusive commercial license is secured by one partner during the Negotiation/Option Period, all other partners’ rights shall automatically become a perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free license for research purposes only.

If no exclusive commercial license is secured by the end of the Negotiation/Option Period, the non-exclusive license granted herein shall, for all partners, automatically convert into a perpetual non-exclusive, royalty-free license for research purposes only.

Pursuant to the Bayh-Dole Act, NSF is entitled to a non-exclusive, irrevocable, paid-up license throughout the world for use of Project IP that directly results from activities funded by NSF.

B. Convertible Commercial License

The disposition of rights to inventions or works of authorship made during NSF-funded research is governed by Federal law, regulation, and policy, including but not limited to, 35 U.S.C. 200–212 and 37 CFR part 401. Pursuant to applicable laws, regulations, and policies, the entire right, title, and interest of Intellectual Property (IP) that directly results from activities funded by NSF (“Project IP”) is retained by the entity that created it. While recipients are permitted to temporarily withhold

the publication of data and software related to inventions to facilitate patent application filings, NSF terms and conditions require the subsequent prompt publication of all research outputs—including results, data, and software—generated in the performance of the research.

All partners are entitled to a non-exclusive, royalty-free license for use of Project IP for both research and commercial purposes for a period of 18 months from the date of disclosure of the Project IP. This license shall not extend to any IP other than Project IP. This 18-month period is structured as follows:

1. *Notice Period:* For the first 12 months after disclosure of the Project IP, any partner shall have the right to indicate in writing that they are exercising their Right of First Negotiation (“ROFN”) for an opportunity to secure an exclusive commercial license during the Negotiation/Option Period.

2. *Negotiation/Option Period:* Following the 12-month Notice Period, there shall be a 6-month period during which partners so exercising their ROFN may negotiate for an exclusive commercial license.

If an exclusive commercial license is secured by one partner during the Negotiation/Option Period, all other partners’ rights shall automatically convert into a perpetual non-exclusive, royalty-free license for research purposes only.

If no exclusive commercial license is secured by the end of the Negotiation/Option Period, the non-exclusive license granted herein shall, for all partners, automatically convert into a perpetual non-exclusive, royalty-free license for research purposes only.

Pursuant to the Bayh-Dole Act, NSF is entitled to a non-exclusive, irrevocable, paid-up license throughout the world for use of Project IP that directly results from activities funded by NSF.

C. Research-Only License

The disposition of rights to inventions or works of authorship made during NSF-funded research is governed by Federal law, regulation, and policy, including but not limited to, 35 U.S.C. 200–212 and 37 CFR part 401. Pursuant to applicable laws, regulations, and policies, the entire right, title, and interest of Intellectual Property (IP) that directly results from activities funded by NSF (“Project IP”) is retained by the entity that created it, following applicable Federal law. While recipients are permitted to temporarily withhold the publication of data and software related to inventions to facilitate patent

application filings, NSF terms and conditions require the subsequent prompt publication of all research outputs—including results, data, and software—generated in the performance of the research.

All partners are entitled to a non-exclusive, royalty-free license for use of Project IP for research purposes. This license shall not extend to any intellectual property other than Project IP.

Pursuant to the Bayh-Dole Act, NSF is entitled to a non-exclusive, irrevocable, paid-up license throughout the world for use of Project IP that directly results from activities funded by NSF.

Questions for Public Comment

NSF welcomes comments from the public on any issues that are relevant to this topic, and is particularly interested in answers to the following questions:

Overall Impact: How do you believe these proposed IP options will impact innovation, technology transfer, and economic growth?

Balance: Do these options ensure a balanced distribution of IP rights between academia and industry partners? How can the proposed IP options be further refined to ensure maximum balance in IP arrangements?

Flexibility: What additional flexibility should be incorporated into the IP options to accommodate and incentivize a range of research initiatives?

Adoption: What strategies could NSF employ to encourage widespread adoption of these IP options among potential partners?

Barriers: What potential barriers exist to implementing these IP options, and how might they be overcome?

Translation and Incentives: Do the proposed IP options effectively promote the translation of research into practice while incentivizing industry participation and ensuring benefits for universities and researchers? What improvements could be made to enhance these aspects?

Additional Options: Are there other IP grant-of-rights options or frameworks that NSF should consider to better support collaborative research initiatives and facilitate research impact?

NSF, at its discretion, will use the information submitted in response to this RFC to help inform future program directions, new initiatives, and potential funding opportunities. The information provided will be analyzed, may appear in reports, and may be shared publicly on agency websites. Respondents are advised that the government is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of the information or provide feedback to

respondents with respect to any information submitted. *No proprietary, classified, confidential, or sensitive information should be included in your response submission.* The government reserves the right to use any non-proprietary technical information in any resultant solicitations, policies, or procedures.

(Authority: Pub L. 117–167.)

Dated: December 11, 2024.

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

[FR Doc. 2024–29523 Filed 12–13–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC–2024–0001]

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: Weeks of December 16, 23, 30, 2024 and January 6, 13, 20, 2025. The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the internet at: <https://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/schedule.html>.

PLACE: The NRC provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in these public meetings or need this meeting notice or the transcript or other information from the public meetings in another format (e.g., braille, large print), please notify Anne Silk, NRC Disability Program Specialist, at 301–287–0745, by videophone at 240–428–3217, or by email at Anne.Silk@nrc.gov. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

STATUS: Public.

Members of the public may request to receive the information in these notices electronically. If you would like to be added to the distribution, please contact the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20555, at 301–415–1969, or by email at Betty.Thweatt@nrc.gov or Samantha.Miklaszewski@nrc.gov.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of December 16, 2024

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of December 16, 2024.

Week of December 23, 2024—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of December 23, 2024.

Week of December 30, 2024—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of December 30, 2024.

Week of January 6, 2025—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of January 6, 2025.

Week of January 13, 2025—Tentative

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

9:00 a.m. Strategic Programmatic Overview of the Decommissioning and Low-Level Waste and Nuclear Materials Users Business Lines (Public Meeting) (Contact: Araceli Billoch Colon: 301–415–3302)

Additional Information: The meeting will be held in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The public is invited to attend the Commission's meeting in person or watch live via webcast at the Web address—<https://video.nrc.gov/>.

Week of January 20, 2025—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of January 20, 2025.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information or to verify the status of meetings, contact Wesley Held at 301–287–3591 or via email at Wesley.Held@nrc.gov.

The NRC is holding the meetings under the authority of the Government in the Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. 552b.

Dated: December 12, 2024.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Wesley W. Held

Policy Coordinator, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024–29660 Filed 12–12–24; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 99902056; NRC–2024–0146]

Tennessee Valley Authority; Clinch River Nuclear Site; Exemption

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued an exemption in response to a request dated November 30, 2023, from Tennessee Valley Authority for approval to conduct certain excavation support activities prior to the issuance of a construction permit application for the Clinch River Nuclear Site.

DATES: The exemption was issued on December 10, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2024–0146 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking website:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2024–0146. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Stacy Schumann; telephone: 301–415–0624; email: Stacy.Schumann@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 obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, 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, at 301–415–4737, or by email to PDR.Resource@nrc.gov. The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced (if it is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that it is mentioned in this document.

- **NRC's PDR:** The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to PDR.Resource@nrc.gov or call 1–800–397–4209 or 301–415–4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Allen Fetter, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, telephone: 301–415–8556; email: Allen.Fetter@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The text of the exemption is attached.

Dated: December 11, 2024.