

## Update on Proposed Ethics Regulations

Professional societies have succeeded in getting the White House Office of Government Ethics to reconsider regulations that would limit involvement by federal employees in the affairs of professional societies. See the October 1991 *MRS Bulletin*, p. 21-22 for a report on the proposed regulations and the text of a letter sent by 1991 MRS President James B. Roberto to the Office of Government Ethics.

During an October 22 hearing on the proposed revisions, Steven Potts, director of the Office of Government Ethics, said that his office had received over 1,000 responses, pointing out that the majority of comments were from professional associations. "It was not our intention to unduly inhibit participation by federal employees in professional societies," said Potts.

The Office of Government Ethics will issue another version of the proposed regulations or go forward with everything else but change the language in the section dealing with professional associations.

## House Hearing Considers New Missions for DOE Defense Laboratories

The future role of the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons laboratories will be the subject of an October 9 House Science Committee hearing chaired by Representative George Brown (D-California).

Testifying were Siegfried Hecker, director of Los Alamos National Laboratory; Al Narath, president of Sandia National Laboratories; Charles Shank, director of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory; and Herbert York, director of the Institute for Global Conflict and Cooperation.

The laboratory directors all expressed the desire to expand their nondefense research programs, making their breadth of expert resources available to work on a host of national problems. They all said, however, that their nuclear expertise would be needed for decommissioning weapons and for the safety and reliability of the remaining stockpile.

The witnesses agreed that for the laboratories to be effective in new, nondefense

roles, however, they must concentrate on creating better partnerships with industry and removing bureaucratic barriers. Some members of the Science Committee questioned the extent to which the laboratories can further involve industry in cooperative research because of the length of contract negotiations, complex conflict-of-interest rules, and an unwillingness to take risks.

Shank cited a lack of appreciation for each other's skills and a lack of trust as other inhibitors of laboratory/industry interaction. He also criticized the complexity of the Cooperative Research and Development Agreements with industry.

The idea of combining the laboratories into one did not receive support, but it will be difficult for DOE and Congress to decide which institution should do what kind of research. Coming up with a master plan for the laboratories is expected to take three or four years.

Information for the above article came from FYI No. 137, published by the American Institute of Physics, and from several articles in *New Technology Week*, 5 (41) (1991) p. 2, 8.

## OMB Regulations Revise Federal Grant Reimbursements to Universities

The Office of Management and Budget released final regulations on college and university administrative costs that can be charged against federal grants and contracts. The regulations revise Circular A-21, "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions." Some key provisions:

- A 26% cap on administrative costs on all grants and contracts, applicable to awards on or after the first day of the institution's next fiscal year.
- Administrative cost rates greater than 26% must be renegotiated. Institutions are prohibited from shifting budget shortfalls from nonfederal research to federal grants and contracts.
- Reimbursement for advertising, travel, and public relations is limited.
- Reimbursement is prohibited for 50 categories of expenses, including alcoholic beverages, entertainment, alumni activities, lobbying, institutional donations and contributions, goods and services marketing expenses, and trustee travel.

In addition, the OMB states, "This revision represents the initial step in a broader administration effort to reform Circular A-21 more comprehensively."

Further information about the new regulations can be found in the October 3, 1991 *Federal Register*, p. 50224-50233.



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## Science and Technology Appointments Made at Energy Department

Energy Secretary James D. Watkins made several announcements concerning key positions under William Happer, who serves as both the science and technology adviser to the secretary and as DOE's director of energy research. As director of energy research, Happer is responsible for a \$3 billion program of research at universities, industry, and laboratories.

The new appointments include Robert M. Simon, previously executive director of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB), as principal deputy director, Office of Energy Research (ER), and James F. Decker, previously acting director of energy research, as deputy director, ER.

Watkins said the changes are designed to better coordinate DOE's management of scientific and technical resources, including the overall vitality of DOE's major laboratories, and to facilitate the transfer of

DOE-funded technology to the private sector:

- Deputy science and technology adviser for civilian laboratories, Antionette Grayson Joseph, former director of field operations management, ER;
- Deputy science and technology adviser for civilian R&D, to be filled;
- Deputy science and technology adviser for defense programs, Warren Chernock, who will remain in DOE's defense programs and focus on DOE laboratories that deal primarily with nuclear weapons R&D;
- Director of technology utilization, Cheri Langenfeld, former director of the Office of Technology Analysis, who will coordinate the development and implementation of DOE's Enhanced Technology Transfer program;
- Director of the office of space, a new office headed by Fenton Carey, who will be responsible for space policy and coordination of DOE's space-related activities; and

■ Director of the office of university and science education, Richard Stephens, who continues in this office which was moved from ER to the Office of the Science Adviser. Stephens will help coordinate DOE's support of mathematics and science education, especially programs in support of the National Education Goals and "America 2000." □

## Correction

Fred Nichols' biography on p. 31 in the October 1991 *MRS Bulletin* should have read as follows: He received BS and MS degrees in metallurgical engineering from the University of Kentucky, MS and PhD degrees in metallurgy from Carnegie Institute of Technology, and an MBA from the University of Chicago. □

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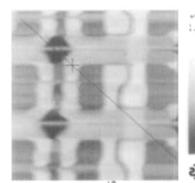
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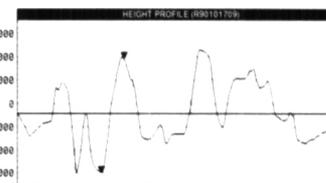
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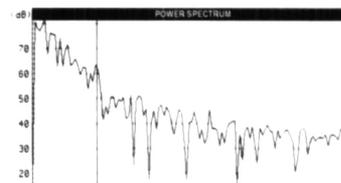
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COMMENTS :	



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AVE ROUGHNESS :	2180.73 A
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