



Message to Prospective Reviewers for the DIVISION OF MATERIALS RESEARCH*

The National Science Foundation's Division of Materials Research (DMR) manages several grant programs that support materials science and engineering research. The NSF staff relies heavily on the judgment of the reviewers in evaluating proposals submitted to these highly competitive programs. Verbatim but anonymous copies of reviews, ratings, and associated correspondence are sent to the Principal Investigator/Project Director. Subject to this NSF policy and applicable laws, including the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC §552), the identity of reviewers is given maximum protection from disclosure. In addition to providing valuable input to NSF, reviewers report that they professionally benefit from serving on panels.

Reviewers are selected primarily on the basis of discipline and specialty. DMR also selects reviewers to represent various types of institutions and organizations, geographical areas, and populations. Serving on a panel involves participating in a meeting held in the Washington, D.C., area for one to three days to read and discuss proposals and write reviews. NSF directly purchases panelists' airline tickets and provides panelists compensation to cover hotel and meal expenses.

DMR seeks to maintain a pool of potential reviewers. Persons who submit the Reviewer Background Information survey may not be invited to review immediately, but this information is retained for future reference in selecting reviewers.

The information requested on the Reviewer Background Information survey is pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. Disclosure of all information is entirely voluntary. The purpose of this background information is to assist in the identification of prospective panelists to review proposals or provide guidance to NSF staff in connection with the administration of NSF science education support programs. Other NSF programs requesting names of potential reviewers or specialists in particular fields may also be given information from this form. Except for these purposes, this information will not be disclosed except as part of statistical reports or in a form that would not allow identification of individuals.