

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

WASHINGTON D C 20550

July 8, 1988



REF:

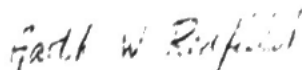
Quality of the National Science Foundation's awards for research projects depends on the critical judgments of expert reviewers. We hope you will help us evaluate the enclosed research proposal. Even if your specialty is not identical with that of the applicant, your review will be useful because general comments provide a valuable perspective.

All comments are welcome. We are especially interested in your evaluation of scientific quality and importance of the proposed research, and assessment of the capability of the applicant to make original and creative contributions to the scientific area represented by the proposed research. Attention should be given to significance of research objectives, feasibility of experimental design, rigor of hypotheses, and adequacy of data analysis. Recent accomplishments of the applicant, familiarity with related work, training and institutional facilities should be taken into account. We further request your comments on the quality of prior work described in the "RESULTS FROM PRIOR NSF SUPPORT" section of the proposal, if applicable. Although budgetary aspects should not influence your overall appraisal of the proposed project, budgetary comments will be useful.

"Information for Reviewers of Proposals" (NSF Form 1A, printed on the reverse side of the Proposal Evaluation Form) explains evaluation criteria, provides guidance for avoiding conflicts-of-interest, and discusses protection of confidentiality. Please read the entire sheet and adhere to the rating scale described. A rating sheet is enclosed, along with a preaddressed, franked envelope, for return to us by the date indicated. Please be sure to mark the summary rating at the bottom of the sheet and sign the review. You may retain the bottom copy. Please remove the carbon paper before mailing. If a brief delay in responding is necessary, we prefer a somewhat late review rather than none at all. However, if you cannot review the proposal within a reasonable time, please notify me promptly and destroy the proposal.

Thank you for your help in making our proposal review process a judicious one.

Sincerely yours,

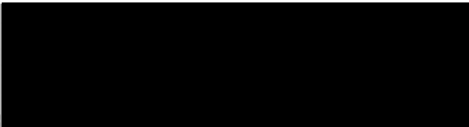


Garth W. Redfield
Associate Program Director
Ecology Program

PROPOSAL NO.	INSTITUTION	PLEASE RETURN BY
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR	NSF PROGRAM	
TITLE		

Please evaluate this proposal using the criteria presented on the back of this review form. Continue on additional sheet(s) as necessary.

OVERALL RATING: EXCELLENT VERY GOOD GOOD FAIR POOR

REVIEWER'S SIGNATURE	REVIEWER'S NAME (TYPED)
OTHER SUGGESTED REVIEWERS (OPTIONAL)	
PROPOSAL FILE	

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION INFORMATION FOR REVIEWERS

In meeting its statutory responsibilities, the National Science Foundation seeks to support the most meritorious research, whether basic or applied. Mail reviews play a key role in the National Science Foundation's evaluation of the merit of research proposals. Please provide both written comments and a summary rating on this Proposal Evaluation Form using the criteria provided below.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. **Research performance competence**—Capability of the investigator(s), the technical soundness of the proposed approach, and the adequacy of the institutional resources available. Please include comments on the proposer's recent research performance.

2. **Intrinsic merit of the research**—Likelihood that the research will lead to new discoveries or fundamental advances within its field of science or engineering, or have substantial impact on progress in that field or in other scientific and engineering fields.

3. **Utility or relevance of the research**—Likelihood that the research can contribute to the achievement of a goal that is extrinsic or in addition to that of the research field itself, and thereby serve as the basis for new or improved technology or assist in the solution of societal problems.

4. **Effect of the research on the infrastructure of science and engineering**—Potential of the proposed research to contribute to better understanding or improvement of the quality, distribution, or effectiveness of the Nation's scientific and engineering research, education, and human resources base.

Criteria 1, 2, and 3 constitute an integral set that should be applied in a balanced way to all research proposals in accordance with the objectives and content of each proposal. Criterion 1, research performance competence,

is essential to the evaluation of the quality of every research proposal; all three aspects should be addressed. The relative weight given Criteria 2 and 3 depends on the nature of the proposed research: Criterion 2, intrinsic merit, is emphasized in the evaluation of basic research proposals, while Criterion 3, utility or relevance, is emphasized in the evaluation of applied research proposals. Criterion 4, effect on the infrastructure of science and engineering, permits the evaluation of research proposals in terms of their potential for improving the scientific and engineering enterprise and its educational activities in ways other than those encompassed by the first three criteria.

SUMMARY RATINGS

Excellent: Probably will fall among top 10% of proposals in this subfield; highest priority for support. This category should be used only for truly outstanding proposals.

Very Good: Probably will fall among top 1/3 of proposals in this subfield; should be supported.

Good: Probably will fall among middle 1/3 of proposals in this subfield; worthy of support.

Fair: Probably will fall among lowest 1/3 of proposals in this subfield.

Poor: Proposal has serious deficiencies; should not be supported.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

If you have an affiliation or financial connection with the institution or the person submitting this proposal that might be construed as creating a conflict of interests, please describe those affiliations or interests on a separate page and attach it to your review. Regardless of any such affiliations or interests, unless you believe you cannot be objective, we would like to have your review. If you do not attach a statement we shall assume that you have no conflicting affiliations or interests.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROPOSALS AND PEER REVIEWS

The Foundation receives proposals in confidence and is responsible for protecting the confidentiality of their contents. For this reason, please do not copy, quote, or otherwise use material from this proposal. If you believe that a colleague can make a substantial contribution to the review, please consult the NSF Program Officer before disclosing either the contents of the proposal or the applicant's name. When you have completed your review, please destroy the proposal.

It is the policy of the Foundation that reviews will not be disclosed to persons outside the Government, except that verbatim copies without the name and affiliation of the reviewer will be sent to the principal investigator. The Foundation considers reviews to be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552) but cannot guarantee that it will not be forced to release reviews under FOIA or other laws.