

**Attachment 23A**

**Explanatory Note for National Science Foundation (NSF) Report  
November 2, 2009**

As of September 30, 2009, NSF has made a total of 4,686 awards funded under Division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

The NSF spreadsheet lists all three of the programs for which NSF received ARRA funding. These programs are: 1) Research & Related Activities; 2) Major Research Equipment & Facilities Construction (MREFC); and 3) Education & Human Resources.

Page 2 of the spreadsheet lists three NEPA actions for activities anticipated to be funded through the MREFC account. NEPA has been completed on two of these activities. A final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was issued in late July, 2009 for the third activity, the proposed Advanced Technology Solar Telescope (ATST).

The ATST EIS was pending on the previous ARRA NEPA Report. Please note that, as referenced above, a Record of Decision for the proposed ATST has not yet been issued because we are in the process of concluding our compliance obligations under the NHPA and ESA. NHPA compliance is in the very final stage of completion. With regard to our ESA compliance, NSF is in the process of clarifying an outstanding ESA issue with Fish and Wildlife and once that issue is resolved, the Record of Decision will be issued. This is anticipated to occur within the next Section 1609(c) reporting period.

The spreadsheet also lists awards through the Research & Related Activities (R&RA) and Education & Human Resources (E&HR) accounts. These awards (4,608 R&RA awards and 76 E&HR awards) are general research awards that support individual scientific research projects that, under NSF's regulations implementing NEPA, are categorically excluded (*See* 45 CFR § 640.3). NSF significantly increased the number of awards made during this reporting period; the number of awards increased by more than 3300.

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