



National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230

October 18, 2013

Dear Colleague,

During the partial government shutdown October 1-16, 2013, the National Science Foundation (NSF) was able to maintain support of researchers in the Arctic with funds committed through grants and contracts prior to September 30th, 2013. A few excepted individuals worked with the Arctic research support and logistics contractor and others to manage the impacts of the shutdown. No funded science projects were cancelled, the Arctic Research Support and Logistics workshop took place October 7-9 but without participation from NSF and other federal employees. A workshop on Arctic Field Safety Risk Management scheduled for October 29-30 is postponed, but it will be rescheduled.

Looking forward, the Arctic Research Opportunities solicitation (http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5521&org=PLR&from=home) deadline of December 6, 2013 currently remains unchanged. However, be aware that NSF is looking at the impact of several missed deadlines in other programs during the hiatus and may need to adjust deadlines to manage the overall demand on NSF's proposal management system. We remind the community that the revised solicitation provides significant updates to the arctic research programs. In particular, Arctic System Science (ARCSS) and Arctic Natural Sciences (ANS) have better defined their programs to assist researchers in determining whether ARCSS or ANS is most appropriate for their proposal and to help them craft their proposal for that program. Program Directors returning to work after this hiatus are available to answer your questions via telephone and email. I encourage you to communicate with program directors in particular to answer questions about revisions to the solicitation.

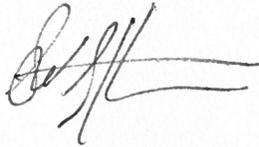
The greatest impact of the shutdown is the loss of two weeks of planning time for fieldwork in 2014 and providing logistics support letters to investigators proposing to the December 6, 2013 deadline of the Arctic Research Opportunities solicitation. For that reason, we strongly encourage awardees with 2014 fieldwork being supported through NSF awards or contracts to provide timely responses to support providers so they can develop effective and efficient plans for fieldwork, and their supporting budgets before December 31st, 2013.

Similarly, for investigators requesting field research support through NSF-funded support providers, please communicate with the providers as soon as possible to allow them time to develop field support plans to be submitted with your proposal. These logistics letters can take several weeks to prepare depending on workload and the complexity of the logistics being proposed. This includes support provided by CH2M HILL Polar Services (CPS), Ice drilling services (IDDO/IDPO,) UNAVCO, Ship-based Science Technical Support (STARC) on Healy, and others.

Some of you will have also been impacted by the NSF shutdown with respect to proposal and award processing, participation in panels and meetings and other issues. Advice from NSF is expected in the next week or two.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we resume the important task of supporting the arctic research enterprise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Stephenson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Simon Stephenson