

(c) Where permissible under the statutes, standards, and order cited in paragraph (a) of this section, the Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Administrator of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration, the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, or their designees may waive the requirements in paragraph (b) of this section if he or she determines that there is no other practical means for securing appropriate expert advice on a particular grant application, contract project, or contract proposal.

(Sec. 215, 58 Stat. 690, as amended (42 U.S.C. 216); sec. 475, 88 Stat. 360, 89 Stat. 315, 92 Stat. 3436 (42 U.S.C. 289f-4))

[43 FR 7862, Feb. 24, 1978, as amended at 45 FR 35328, May 27, 1980; 49 FR 38111, Sept. 27, 1984]

#### § 52h.6 Availability of information.

Transcripts, minutes, and other documents made available to or prepared for or by a peer review group will be available for public inspection and copying to the extent provided in the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a), and implementing Department of Health and Human Services regulations (45 CFR parts 5, 5b).

#### § 52h.7 Grants; matters to be reviewed.

(a) No awarding official will make a grant based upon an application covered by this part unless the application has been reviewed by a peer review group in accordance with the provisions of this part and said group has made recommendations concerning the scientific merit of such application. In addition, where under applicable law an awarding official is required to secure the approval or advice of a national advisory council or board concerning an application, said application will not be considered by the council or board unless it has been reviewed by a peer review group in accordance with the provisions of this part and said group has made recommendations concerning the scientific merit of the application except where the council or board is the peer review group.

(b) Except to the extent otherwise provided for by law, such recommendations are advisory only and not binding on the awarding official or national advisory council or board.

#### § 52h.8 Grants; review criteria.

In carrying out its review under § 52h.7, the peer review group will take into account, among other factors:

(a) The significance and originality from a scientific or technical standpoint of the goals of the proposed research;

(b) The adequacy of the methodology proposed to carry out the research;

(c) The qualifications and experience of the principal investigator and proposed staff;

(d) The reasonable availability of resources necessary to the research;

(e) The reasonableness of the proposed budget and duration in relation to the proposed research; and

(f) Where an application involves activities which could have an adverse effect upon humans, animals, or the environment, the adequacy of the proposed means for protecting against or minimizing such effects.

#### § 52h.9 Unsolicited contract proposals; matters to be reviewed.

(a) No awarding official will award a contract based upon an unsolicited contract proposal covered by this part unless the proposal has been reviewed by a peer review group in accordance with the provisions of this part (pursuant to procedures set forth in 41 CFR subpart 3-4.52) and said group has made recommendations concerning the scientific merit of such proposal.

(b) Except to the extent otherwise provided for by law, such recommendations are advisory only and not binding on the awarding official.

#### § 52h.10 Contract projects involving solicited contract proposals; matters to be reviewed.

(a) Subject to paragraph (b) of this section, no awarding official will issue a request for contract proposals with respect to a contract project involving solicited contract proposals unless the project concept has been reviewed by a peer review group in accordance with the provisions of this part and said