An Invitation to State and Local Governments and the Academic and Public Interest Groups that Serve Them to Join in Research

1. **What is the NBS Intergovernmental Personnel Exchange Program?**

   - A program, based on the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970, which provides opportunities for State and local government personnel, including members of university and public interest groups that serve them, to be assigned to Federal agencies. At the National Bureau of Standards' (NBS) laboratories in Gaithersburg, Md., or Boulder, Colo., arrangements may be made to work in partnership with NBS staff on problems of clear mutual interest.
   - A parallel exchange program (not elaborated on in this brochure) is available to NBS employees who may arrange to work with State or local governments or their constituent organizations.

2. **What are the potential advantages to participants in the Intergovernmental Personnel Exchange Program?**

   - Cooperative research and development.
   - Collaboration and consultation with professionals of recognized stature in their areas of expertise.
   - Broadening personal scientific and technical capabilities.
   - Technical contributions of interest and significance to State and local governments, and ultimately the public.

3. **What are the advantages to organizations sponsoring participants?**

   - Use of extensive laboratory and other research facilities at NBS.
   - Availability of the full spectrum of NBS information and services.
   - A means of communicating State and local government views directly to NBS.
   - Establishment of contacts at NBS and in the Washington, D.C., area that may provide continuing technical support to State and local programs.

4. **What are the criteria for participation in the NBS Intergovernmental Personnel Exchange Program?**

   - Participants must be employees of a State or local government or one of the universities or instrumentalities such as public interest groups that serve them.
   - Participants must have the background, training, and abilities appropriate to the assignment.
   - Project must be within the scope of NBS activities and interests.

5. What are the opportunities for prospective participants in the Intergovernmental Personnel Exchange Program?

- Opportunities are as varied as the work of NBS itself. Projects of established mutual interest will be welcomed in essentially all areas of Bureau activity provided the NBS resources are available to pursue those interests. The nature of potential projects is suggested by the technical activities listed in this brochure, but projects crossing organizational lines may also be arranged. The technical content of specific intergovernmental projects is defined through direct discussion between representatives of the prospective sponsor and NBS staff members in each case.

6. How is an Intergovernmental Personnel Exchange implemented?

- When a mutual interest has been defined, a Memorandum of Agreement is executed between the sponsor and NBS. This agreement specifies the nature, objective and scope of the project, names the participant(s), identifies the individuals responsible for the project on behalf of the sponsor and NBS, and describes the terms and conditions of the relationship between the sponsor and NBS.

7. How are the participants supported?

- An individual participating in the Intergovernmental Personnel Exchange Program remains an employee of the sponsoring organization.
- The sponsoring organization and NBS negotiate salary, fringe benefits, and travel.
- NBS and the sponsor will determine jointly the period of assignment in the program.
- NBS provides at no cost to the participant: technical supervision, office and laboratory space, routine supplies and services, and the use of available research equipment not normally subject to time or usage charges.
- Special supplies and services (e.g., materials, shop work, computing time, formal report preparation) are billed to sponsoring organizations at the same rates charged to NBS organizational units.

8. How long is an Intergovernmental Personnel Exchange participant permitted to be assigned to a project?

- Thirty days is minimum time and two years is the maximum (with possibility of extensions for up to two years).

9. Can more than one Intergovernmental Personnel Exchange participant be assigned to the same project?

- Yes. Two or more participants may work simultaneously on projects of larger scope.

10. When do Intergovernmental Exchange projects start?

- At a date that is mutually convenient to the sponsor and NBS. There is no fixed schedule of starting dates.

11. What about patent rights?

- If an invention is made, the participant may be required to assign all domestic rights therein to the United States Government under the same conditions as those which apply to inventions made by Federal Government employees. Under certain conditions foreign rights may be reserved to the participant subject to royalty-free license to the Government.

12. How can interested persons find out more about NBS' Intergovernmental Personnel Exchange Program?

- **By contacting:**

Liaison Officer
State and Local Governmental Affairs
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C. 20234
Phone (301) 921-3814

Technical Activities

Basic Standards

- Acoustics
- Applied Mathematics
- Cryogenics
- Electricity
- Electromagnetics
- Heat
- Measurement Services
- Mechanics
- Nuclear Safeguards Measurements
- Optical Physics
- Quantum Physics
- Radiation
- Time and Frequency

Materials Research

- Air and Water Quality Measurement
- Analytical Chemistry
- Inorganic Materials
- Metallurgy
- Nondestructive Evaluation
- Physical Chemistry
- Polymers
- Standard Reference Materials

Applied Technology

- Building Technology
- Consumer Product Technology
- Electronic Technology
- Energy Conservation
- Fire Research
- Standards Application and Analysis

Computer Sciences and Technology

- ADP Standards Management
- Automation and Control
- Information Technology
- Pattern Recognition and Description
- Systems Engineering
- Systems and Software

Information Programs

- International Standards
- National Standard Reference Data System

Experimental Technology Incentives Program

Technology Transfer & Liaison Programs

- Industrial
- International
- State and Local Government

LC 1083

NBS Intergovernmental Personnel Exchange Program

Introduction

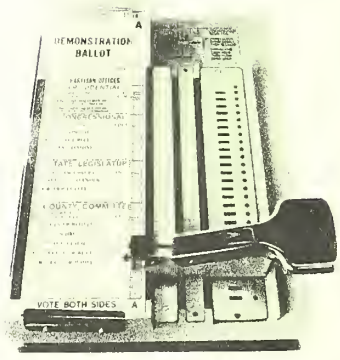
The National Bureau of Standards, as a participant in the Intergovernmental Personnel Exchange Program, invites employees of State and local governments, and members of universities or public interest organizations that serve them, to join NBS as Research Associates.

Since 1901 NBS has provided the basis for the Nation's measurement standards. These standards are the language through which people and nations buy and sell goods, develop products, judge the quality of their environment, and provide guidelines for the protection of health and safety.

The Bureau is involved in literally hundreds of projects that deal with some of the Nation's most pressing issues, such as energy conservation and research, fire prevention and protection, and consumer product safety. NBS has built a reputation for accuracy and reliability in the fields of measurement standards, materials research, applied technology, and computer utilization.

In carrying out this research, NBS has over the years provided direct and indirect support to numerous State and local programs. Two examples of this cooperation are the assistance provided by NBS in training State and local weights and measures officials and in coordinating the annual National Conference on Weights and Measures. Another example is a consumer-oriented smoke detector brochure produced by NBS and reprinted in more than one million copies by local fire departments.

Participants in the Intergovernmental Personnel Exchange Program may work on projects as broad in scope and as technically sophisticated as the activities listed in this brochure. While there is much to be learned by the participants, it should not be considered merely a training program; rather, it is a collaborative activity aimed at solving problems of mutual interest to the sponsoring organization and NBS.



Background

Service to State and local government in environmental measurements, equity in trade, productivity enhancement, fire, and building technology are time-honored parts of the NBS program.

The National Bureau of Standards has a long history of service to State and local governments. These services are often direct, but almost as often indirect, through other Government agencies or trade or professional associations.

NBS staff members publish more than 2,000 documents each year and serve on literally hundreds of standards writing committees. About 100 technical meetings are held each year to aid in dissemination of NBS research results.

NBS' modern facilities in Gaithersburg, Md., about 20 miles northwest of Washington, D.C., house about 3,200 employees and laboratories in Boulder, Colo., just north of Denver, house another 550.

Each year about 90 Industrial Research Associates, 40 Postdoctoral Research Associates, and more than 25 university personnel under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act work at NBS. These are strong programs building on a successful record and drawing participants from many industrial, trade and academic institutions. A few examples are:

Sponsor	Project
Armstrong Cork Company	Develop an analytical model of fire growth to enable prediction of the contribution of interior wall finishes to room fires
American Society for Testing and Materials	Develop standard reference materials and techniques for their use in connection with ASTM atmospheric sampling and analysis methods
Interdata, Inc.	Develop a methodology for building and testing highly accurate and fast mathematical routines for use with BASIC and FORTRAN
Collaborative Testing Services, Inc.	Establish measurement techniques and procedures to provide a high degree of confidence in the testing capabilities of individual laboratories
University of Michigan	Prepare mathematical models of solar heating systems and compare results with actual tests
University of New Hampshire	Evaluate the effectiveness of lighting systems with particular emphasis on contrast rendition.
Louisiana State University	Apply skills of a research architect to home improvement technology, housing security, and solar demonstration projects
University of Maryland	Apply skills of a textile expert to the selection of appropriate consumer product performance attributes for the testing and labeling program
Kansas State University	Measure powerplant particulates using new microraman spectroscopy techniques to learn of both surface and bulk characteristics

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