Exhibit 6: Action Class Matrix

The following matrix is provided to give reviewers some guidelines for assigning appropriate action classes to project plans. Many projects plans will fit different action classes for different review criteria. In these cases, the reviewer must decide whether strengths or weaknesses in a particular criterion override those of other criteria. For example, a Project Plan could be rated "not feasible" because of a lack of appropriate personnel and/or facilities, but still be excellent in every other way.

Action Class	CRITERIA			Recommend:
	Merit and Significance	**Approach and Procedures**	**Probability of Success**	
No Revision Required	Objectives are important to the national interest and closely fit the national program action plan.	The objectives and Experimental Plan are well conceived and the project plan is clearly articulated.	The research team has the necessary training and experience to accomplish the stated goals.	No revision is required, but minor changes to the project plan may be made.
	The project will lead to new knowledge and technology, or will produce results of value to customers.	The objectives directly address the stated research goals.	The objectives are reasonable with resources available, and necessary equipment and facilities are in place.	
	Similar research is not being conducted elsewhere.	The procedures and analytical methods are appropriate and sufficient to accomplish the objectives.	The research team is completely aware of the relevant current literature in the area.	

Minor Revision Required	Objectives are important to the national interest and closely fit the national program action plan.	The Experimental Plan is generally well conceived and all of the objectives are sound. The project plan is basically feasible.	The research team has the training and experience to accomplish the stated goals.	The project plan is basically feasible as written but requires some revision to increase quality to a higher level.
	The project will lead to new knowledge and technology, or will produce results of value to customers.	The objectives address the stated research goals.	The objectives are generally reasonable with resources available, and essential equipment and facilities are available.	
	Similar research is not being conducted elsewhere.	Some minor changes to one or more objectives are suggested, and may involve modifications or alterations to specified procedures or analytical methods.	The research team is aware of current literature in the area.	

Moderate Revision Required	Objectives are important to the national interest and fit the national program action plan.	The objectives and experimental plan are generally sound, but perhaps not clearly articulated.	The research team has most of the training and experience necessary but some areas could be strengthened. One or more of the objectives needs some modification in order to be reasonable with resources available.	The project plan is basically feasible as written but requires moderate revision to one or more objectives, perhaps involving changes to the experimental approaches, in order to increase quality to a higher level. The project plan may also need some rewriting for greater clarity.
	The project has potential to lead to new knowledge and technology, or to produce results of value to customers.	The objectives may need some modification to better fit the stated goals.	Most of the necessary equipment and essential facilities are in place but some aspects could be strengthened.	
	Similar research may be conducted at other locations suggesting some modification to the present project plan.	Moderate revision to one or more objectives may be required, and may involve changes in experimental approaches or analytical methods.	The research team is aware of most of the current literature in the area.	

Major Revision Required	One or more of the objectives may not closely fit the national program action plan.	One or more of the objectives may not directly address the stated goals.	The research team may lack some important aspects of training or expertise.	Substantial revision to one or more objectives is necessary, but the project plan should be sound and feasible after significant revision.
	The project plan as written is not likely to lead to new knowledge or new technology.	Major revision to one or more objectives may be necessary because of inappropriate hypotheses or inadequate experimental approaches.	Several objectives are not in line with the resources available.	
			Critical equipment, facilities or experimental tools are not yet in place or available to the research team.	
	Similar research is being conducted at other locations such that undesirable duplication of effort is apparent.		The research team is not aware of significant current literature in the area.	
Not Feasible	One or more of the objectives may not fit the national program action plan.	One or more of the objectives have major flaws, that may involve inappropriate hypotheses or completely inadequate experimental approaches.	The research team has substantive deficiencies in essential expertise or required facilities.	The project plan has major flaws or deficiencies, and cannot be simply revised to produce a sound project. If the project is not terminated, a complete redesign and rewrite are required.
	As written, the project plan will not lead to new knowledge or technology.	The objectives are unrelated to the stated goals.	The research team is completely unaware of current activity and literature in the area.	

Comments
for Section 18
Action Class Matrix