To whom it may concern:

Please find below NFPA’s comments on the RFI Response: Federal Technology Transfer Authorities and Process. Our comments do not correspond with the questions from the original Federal Register notice from May 1, 2018.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is a global, nonprofit organization, founded in 1896, devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards.

NFPA delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

NFPA has had a long and fruitful interaction with a number of federal research laboratories and believe they play an essential role in the transfer of research and technology to the safety community which NFPA represents.  Our strongest connection has been to National Institute of Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Engineering Laboratory, through their research to address the nation’s fire problem.  NIST’s staff has been actively participating in the development of NFPA’s consensus codes and standards, bringing their knowledge and research results to a broad range of building safety issues. In addition, research conducted by NIST into climate change and its effects on the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) has been used by Firewise USA®, an NFPA program that teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action to prevent losses.

Other federal laboratory collaborations include the Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in the study of the hazards associated with new battery technologies.  Once again, the Department’s staff has participated in NFPA’s codes and standards development processes and public awareness programs related to energy storage systems, photovoltaic panels, and electric vehicle responder and facility safety, ensuring an effective technology transfer mechanism.

In both cases, federal laboratory staff participated in collaborative research agenda setting with a result that their research programs are aligned with the needs of the safety community.  We believe that this participation and collaboration is an essential component of effective technology transfer between federal laboratories and our community.

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