SECTION X - Public Release of Project Information

The University encourages the public dissemination of general research results but recognizes the sponsor's rights with respect to certain kinds of information relating to projects. Public announcements concerning new programs, for example, are commonly released by the sponsor or simultaneously by the sponsor and the University. Any release of research results requires the approval of the principal investigator. Results should not be released by students, technicians, or non-university employees serving on a project.

In all cases, principal investigators should consult with the Senior Research Administrator when negotiations with the sponsor need to be undertaken about the release of project information. When findings of a project are newsworthy, most sponsors wish to be informed before any public announcement is arranged. Official university news stories should be coordinated with principal investigators and must be coordinated through the Office of Public Relations before being released to the news media.

Current Federal legislation requires that statements, press releases, and other documentation describing projects or programs funded in whole or in part with Federal money must state the percentage of total costs and the dollar amount which will be financed with Federal money. Some agencies, notably PHS, require acknowledgement of "other" funds that contribute to the programs as well.

Some sponsors reserve the right to review and/or approve any project information prior to public release. Please check with the appropriate Sponsored Programs Senior Research Administrator (http://portal.research.colostate.edu/research/staffsummary.htm) prior to any public release of project information.

Confidentiality of Contract and Grant Applications

From time to time, faculty members are contacted by individuals from outside the University community who request information about the research being conducted in University laboratories. University policy on this matter is defined in Section I.1, Colorado Open Records Act, of the CSU Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Staff Manual (http://facultycouncil.colostate.edu/files/manual/sectioni.htm).

If requested, abstracts of active projects are released by the Office of Sponsored Programs; however, the Vice President for Research defers to the individual investigator to make the decision whether or not to provide additional detail about grant or contract applications or agreements and bona fide research projects.

If inquiries are made from the news media regarding contract or grant applications or agreements and/or research projects, you may find it helpful to direct them to the Office of Public Relations (Telephone 491-6432), which has the responsibility of coordinating responses of this nature.