National Institute of Standards and Technology
WNRC Project
RG 167 records stored at WNRC

NOTE: This schedule provides one-time only disposition authority for the specific NIST and NIST predecessor records which are stored at WNRC. This schedule cannot be used to provide continuing disposition authority for NIST records which may be located elsewhere in agency custody.

1. National Inventors Council Files, 1940-53 Classified Records

National Inventors Council committee files, arranged by Committee number, thereunder by a NIC numerical designation, thereunder alphabetically by name of inventor. Each Committee was responsible evaluating submisssions for a specific area of science and technology, such as ordnance and firearms, metals and metalurgy, signals and communications, etc. The files contain explanations and evaluations of the more significant proposals received by the Council, which was established in 1940, under the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, to provide a clearing house for inventions that might be useful for national defense, and to bring such inventions to the attention of the armed forces. The NIC was most active during WW II but continued to solicit inventions into the mid-1950s. When the OTS was abolished, the Department of Commerce transferred its functions to the Bureau of Standards, which had provided both technical and administrative support to the NIC.

AUTHORIZED DISPOSITION: PERMANENT. Transfer to the National Archives in FY 1999.

See attachment for list of WNRC accessions and box numbers.

Justification: These records were appraised as permanent in an appraisal report dated March 25, 1971 (NN371-166). The appraisal report was not formally approved because of the restrictions imposed by the agency, which strongly believed in the proprietary nature of the records, precluded accessioning at that time. As late as 1988, the National Bureau of Standards Records Officer Bernie Hale, reiterated this position, saying that the records could not be opened to the public "until after the turn of the century." The value of these records for research into the history of science and technology is undisputed, and these records are especially significant considering the impact of technology on WW II.

2. National Inventors Council Plans and Drawings

Largely oversize plans, drawings, and supporting documents arrange alphabetically by last name of inventor. Files include photostats and blueprints. The plans and drawings were removed from the incoming correspondence files.

AUTHORIZED DISPOSITION: PERMANENT. Transfer to the National Archives in FY 1999.

See attachment for list of WNRC accessions and box numbers.

Justification: These plans and drawings visually supplement the inventions files documented in item1 above, and were part of the original inventors submissions.

According to Donna Miller, NIST Records Officer, 1st 2 bxs (A+B?) missing when she went to look through them. Charged out but no [illegible] name given. (Memo 10/2/02)

3. **National Inventors Council Chronological Files, 1947-54**

Chronological correspondence files ("Day Files") of the National Inventors Council, 1950-1958, and of John C. Green, 1947-1958. Green served as Chief Engineer for the Council during WW II, and was head of the Department of Commerce's Office of Technical Service, under which the NIC was established. Tissue copies of outgoing correspondence, including both form letters and substantive replies to inventors concerning the utilization of their submissions as well as entitlement due them.

AUTHORIZED DISPOSITION: PERMANENT. Transfer to the National Archives in FY 1999.

See attachment for list of WNRC accessions and box numbers.

Justification: These correspondence files relate to the inventions documented in item1 above. Given the lack of an index or other finding aids to the NIC files, these correspondence files should be permanent. They also provide a useful supplement to the invention files, because they document both NIC's post-war existence and continued interest by inventors in their submissions. Any duplicative files should be destroyed during archival processing of the records.

correspondence

4. **National Inventors Council Incoming Council**

Incoming correspondence files of the National Inventors Council, 1940-1953, largely inventors submissions and inquiries, arranged alphabetically by inventor's last name. All that remains of this is mid-T through ZZ, the rest having been destroyed. The bulk of this file had been permanently withdrawn by the agency and returned under a different accession number. That accession was destroyed under N1-40-90-2, the disposal authority for patented invention case files of the Office of Chief Counsel for Technology, Department of Commerce, which appears to have been inappropriate for these records.

AUTHORIZED DISPOSITION: PERMANENT. Transfer to the National Archives in FY 1999.