

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Acting Leader, Information Collection Clearance Division, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before September 15, 2008.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Acting Leader, Information Collection Clearance Division, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: July 14, 2008.

James Hyler,

Acting Leader, Information Collection Clearance Division, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management.

Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development

Type of Review: New.

Title: Evaluation of the Growth Model Pilot Program.

Frequency: One time.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit; State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 36.

Burden Hours: 81.

Abstract: In November 2005 the U.S. Department of Education initiated the Growth Model Pilot Program (GMPP) with the goal of approving up to ten States to incorporate growth models in school AYP determinations under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). As a condition of participation in GMPP, States are required to participate in an evaluation. The evaluation is designed to provide a more comprehensive picture of GMPP. Authorization to conduct this study is provided by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Pub. L. 107-110), Part E, Section 1501.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 3759. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., LBJ, Washington, DC 20202-4537. Requests may also be electronically mailed to ICDocketMgr@ed.gov or faxed to 202-401-0920. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be electronically mailed to ICDocketMgr@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. E8-16430 Filed 7-17-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Office of the Deputy Secretary; Opportunity To Participate in a National Math Panel Forum To Help Improve the Teaching and Learning of Mathematics Based on the Findings and Recommendations of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel's Final Report**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: National Math Panel Forum participation.

SUMMARY: For students to compete in the 21st-century global economy, knowledge of and proficiency in mathematics are critical. Today's high school graduates need to have solid mathematics skills—whether they are headed to college or to the workforce. To help ensure our nation's future competitiveness and economic viability, President George W. Bush created the National Mathematics Advisory Panel (National Math Panel) in April 2006. The Panel was charged with reviewing the best available scientific evidence and making recommendations on improving mathematics education with a focus on readiness for and success in algebra and mathematics education in grades K-8.

The National Math Panel's final report, *Foundations for Success: Report of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel*, was issued on March 13, 2008. The report contains 45 findings and recommendations on numerous topics, including curricular content, learning processes, instructional practices and materials, teachers, assessments, and future research priorities.

In response to a National Math Panel recommendation, the U.S. Department of Education, in partnership with the Conference Board of Mathematical Sciences, is hosting a National Math Panel Forum (Forum) to bring together various organizations and other interested parties to discuss ways to engage their members or constituents in discussions about the National Math Panel's findings and recommendations and how the organizations and parties can collaborate and coordinate efforts to use the findings to improve mathematics education in the United States.

DATES: Registration to participate in and attend the Forum will open on July 16, 2008 and close on Friday, August 8, 2008.

Forum Dates:

Monday, October 6, 2008—Evening Reception—(Times to be determined).

Tuesday, October 7, 2008—Forum—

(Times to be determined).

Location: Washington, DC area. (The National Math Panel Web site, <http://www.ed.gov/MathPanel>, will be updated when the exact location and times have been set for the Forum. Those who expressed interest in participating will be notified of the update).

Registration Process: Interested organizations and parties should complete an online registration form. The registration form is located at: <http://www.ed.gov/MathPanel> and will be available at the start of registration on July 16, 2008. Correspondence should be sent via e-mail or fax to: National Math Panel Forum, c/o Ida Eblinger Kelley, Office of Communications and Outreach, U.S. Department of Education, e-mail: NationalMathPanel@ed.gov, FAX: 202-205-9133; or c/o William McCallum, Chair, Conference Board of Mathematical Sciences, e-mail: wmc@math.arizona.edu.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On March 13, 2008, the National Math Panel presented its final report to the President and the Secretary of Education. During the course of two years, expert panelists, including a number of leading mathematicians, cognitive psychologists, and educators, reviewed more than 16,000 research publications and policy reports and received public testimony from 110 individuals. In addition, the Panel reviewed commentary from 160 organizations and individuals, and analyzed survey results from 743 active teachers of algebra before preparing the final report with policy advice on how to improve mathematics achievement for all students in the United States.

The National Math Panel's final report calls on the nation to improve the "delivery system in mathematics education—the system that translates mathematical knowledge into value and ability for the next generation." Furthermore, the report states:

"Positive results can be achieved in a reasonable time at accessible cost, but a consistent, wise, community-wide effort will be required. Education in the United States has many participants in many locales—teachers, students, and parents; state school officers, school board members, superintendents, and principals; curriculum developers, textbook writers, and textbook editors; those who develop assessment tools; those who prepare teachers and help them to continue their development; those who carry out relevant research; association leaders and government officials at the federal, state, and local levels. All carry responsibilities. All can be important to success.

"The network of these many participants is linked through interacting national associations. A coordinated national approach toward improved mathematics education will require an annual forum of their leaders for at least a decade. The Panel recommends that the U.S. Secretary of Education take the lead in convening the forum initially, charge it to organize in a way that will sustain an effective effort, and request a brief annual report on the mutual agenda adopted for the year ahead."

To read the National Math Panel's final report and Reports of the Task Groups and Subcommittees please visit: <http://www.ed.gov/MathPanel>.

Goals of the Forum

To answer the National Math Panel's call to build a sustained effort to improve mathematics education, the U.S. Department of Education and the Conference Board of Mathematical Sciences are requesting educational, scholarly, business, and community organizations and other interested parties to participate in a Forum with the goal of creating a network or networks committed to taking steps for the years to come to improve mathematics education, using the findings and recommendations of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel as a platform for action.

The long-term goal of this effort is to improve the teaching and learning of mathematics in order to prepare our students to succeed in algebra and higher-level mathematics by addressing the National Math Panel's evidence-based findings and recommendations. The ultimate goal is to ensure that U.S. children have the skills to pursue careers in mathematics and sciences, as well as to compete in this increasingly competitive global economy as informed citizens.

Forum Focus

The Forum in October will be the first in a series of forums. Understanding that the panel's findings are extensive and cover many areas, this initial Forum will focus on four of the seven National Math Panel recommendation topics. These topics include the following:

- Teachers and Teacher Education
- Learning Processes
- Instructional Materials
- Research Policies and Mechanisms

Other topics, including Curricular Content, Instructional Practices, and Assessment, may also be discussed during the Forum and will be addressed in future forums.

Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the forum (e.g., interpreting services, assistance listening devices, or

materials in alternative format) should notify Ida Kelley at (202) 401-6143 or Ida.Kelley@ed.gov no later than Friday, September 12, 2008. We will attempt to meet requests for accommodations after this date but cannot guarantee their availability. The forum site is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Participation

All interested organizations and parties committed to improving the teaching and learning of mathematics in this country are encouraged to participate in the Forum. Participants will be asked to complete online registration materials that address the following:

- A description of the specific steps or actions the organization or party is planning, or will plan, to take, building on the platform of the National Math Panel's findings and recommendations related to the four topics listed above;
- A brief statement of why the organization or party is interested in participating, along with a description of the organization's or party's resources to carry out the plan, including existing programs or efforts that could support the goals of the Forum; and
- A commitment to send a team of 2-4 individuals to the Forum. Organizations that seek to participate in the Forum should submit their registration by August 8, 2008, at <http://www.ed.gov/MathPanel>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

National Math Panel Forum, c/o Ida Eblinger Kelley, Office of Communications and Outreach, U.S. Department of Education, E-mail: NationalMathPanel@ed.gov, Phone: 202-401-6143, FAX: 202-205-9133, or c/o William McCallum, Conference Board of Mathematical Sciences, e-mail: wmc@math.arizona.edu.

Electronic Access to This Document: You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister/index.html>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code

of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Raymond Simon,

Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education.

[FR Doc. E8-16423 Filed 7-17-08; 8:45 am]

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U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Notice

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, August 5, 2008, 12 Noon-3 p.m.

PLACE: U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 1225 New York Ave., NW., Suite 150, Washington, DC 20005, (Metro Stop: Metro Center).

AGENDA: Commissioners will hold a workshop discussion on Preparing for Election Day 2008 and Statewide Voter Registration Databases. Commissioners will receive a briefing regarding the Research Department Work Plan. The Commission will consider other administrative matters.

This meeting will be open to the public.

PERSON TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION: Bryan Whitener, Telephone: (202) 566-3100.

Thomas R. Wilkey,

Executive Director, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

[FR Doc. 08-1449 Filed 7-16-08; 1:33 pm]

BILLING CODE 6820-KF-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-8583-8]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under section 309 of the Clean Air Act and section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at 202-564-7167.

An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 11, 2008 (73 FR 19833).

Draft EISs

EIS No. 20080028, ERP No. D-BLM-J02055-UT, West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development Plan, Develop the Natural Gas Resource on Leased and Unleased Lands, Carbon County, UT.

Summary: EPA believes the Draft EIS inadequately assessed potentially significant environmental impacts to air quality from the proposed development of 807 natural gas wells on the West Tavaputs Plateau. Plans are being developed to conduct additional air quality modeling and possibly additional air emission controls to further reduce the project's contribution to ozone by reducing volatile organic compounds and nitrous oxide emissions associated with the proposed project. Rating 3.

EIS No. 20080136, ERP No. D-BIA-K65340-CA, Ione Band of Miwok Indians Project, Proposed 228.04 Acre Fee-to-Trust Land Transfer and Casino Project, Amador County, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental objections about water quality and reservoir construction impacts, and recommended recycled water use be maximized and that wastewater discharges occur through seasonal discharge to surface waters. Rating EO2.

EIS No. 20080160, ERP No. D-SFW-K91015-CA, Cullinan Ranch Unit Restoration Project, Proposing a Restoration Plan for 1,500 Acres of Former Hayfield Farm Land, San Pablo Bay, Issuance of Permits and/or Approval from Section 7 Endangered Species Act and U.S. Army COE Section 404 Permit, San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about contaminated sediment management, and requested additional information regarding impacts to the larger San Pablo Bay sediment budget, and the adaptive management strategy. Rating EC2.

EIS No. 20080192, ERP No. D-AFS-J65514-MT, Sheppard Creek Post-Fire Project, Timber Salvage, Implementation, Flathead National Forest, Flathead and Lincoln Counties, MT.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about adverse impacts from the proposed salvage and road construction on water quality and the adequacy of watershed restoration measures to assure consistency with the TMDL, as well as the proposed Alternative D salvage harvests in riparian areas. Rating EC1.

EIS No. 20080193, ERP No. D-AFS-L67047-AK, Spencer Mineral Materials Project, Proposal to Develop and Extract Quarry Rock and Gravel from a Mineral Materials Site near Spencer Glacier, Chugach National Forest, Kenai Borough, AK.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about the potential impacts to water quality, wetlands, and local air quality, as well as the proposed mitigation measures and anticipated effectiveness. The final EIS should include additional information and analysis concerning these impacts. Rating EC2.

EIS No. 20080194, ERP No. D-SFW-G99007-TX, Williamson County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan, Application for an Incidental Take Permit, Williamson County, TX.

Summary: EPA does not object to the proposed action. Rating LO.

EIS No. 20080080, ERP No. DA-COE-K36098-CA, Santa Ana River Interceptor (SARI) Protection/Relocation Project, Reduce the Risk of Damage to the SARI to allow for the Operation of Santa Ana River Project (SARP), and Releases from Prato Dam of up to 30,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), Right-of-Way Permit and U.S. COE section 404 Permit, Orange and Riverside Counties, CA.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about the preferred alternative and recommended further evaluation of alternatives that avoid river crossings. EPA also recommended additional construction emission controls to meet air quality requirements and additional analysis of potential groundwater contamination. Rating EC2.

EIS No. 20080166, ERP No. DR-AFS-F65035-WA, Cayuga Project, New Information Regarding American Marten, Regional Forester Sensitive Species (RFSS), Changed Condition on the Landscape from Spruce Decline and New Non-Native Invasive Species Survey Information, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Great Divide Ranger District, Ashland County, WI.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns because the proposed action would have adverse impacts on Regional Forester Species of Concern, and recommended selection of a different preferred alternative based on new information in the EIS and the Biological Opinion. Rating EC2.

FINAL EISs

EIS No. 20070549, ERP No. F-BLM-J02050-UT, Chapita Wells-Stagecoach