which is a commercial-off-the-shelf product modified to include DoD standards point of location codes (SPLC) and several locations within CONUS and overseas. Use of DTOD will move DoD closer to a single, automated, and widely used commercial standard for all its various transportation programs. DTOD and PC*MILER will be subject to the same version control process and will feature delivery systems compatible with current commercial usage for like products.

Comment: Carrier information systems use AS400 and Unix operating systems. It is not clear whether DTOD will run on these larger systems.

Response: DoD has chosen to use a Windows NT operating system. However, carriers are free to license a PC*MILER version that will run on an operating system of their choice. ALK currently has versions of PC*MILER for AS400 and Unix operating systems.

Comment: Many small businesses do not have updated computer capability or do not use computers.

Response: MTMC realizes that all carriers do not operate their businesses in the same way. However, current and future business practices are centered on the use of computers in one way or another. As the business process changes to embrace principles of electronic commerce (e.g., electronic data interchange and electronic funds transfer), MTMC is anxious to capitalize on the economies and efficiencies those changes represent. MTMC is confident that commercial shippers and transportation providers are moving in the same direction.

Comment: PC*MILER is unproven in industry and lacks version control.

Response: Currently, over 9500 shippers and carriers in commercial transportation are using PC*MILER. The DTOD project office, in conjunction with the software vendor, will maintain precise versions control of the distance software to ensure all parties (finance centers, audit agencies, shippers, and carriers) have the same version of DTOD/PC*MILER at the same time.

Comment: DoD's proposed implementation of DTOD in its freight program violates the Regulatory Flexibility Act by failing to include an initial regulatory flexibility analysis.

Response: DoD's decision to adopt and implement a single, integrated mileage calculation source is a procurement policy decision that is directly related to the basis DoD will use to pay for commercial transportation services. The decision and steps taken to implement DTOD in DoD's freight program relate to public contracts and are exempt from the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601–612. This policy decision to implement a single distance calculation source for internal agency travel entitlement and procurement purposes is not considered rule making within the meaning of the Administrative Procedure Act or the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

2. Regulatory Flexibility Act

Implementation of this policy change in DoD's freight program involves public contracts and is designed to standardize distance calculation in the payment and audit process. This change is not considered rule making within the meaning of the Administrative Procedures Act or the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601–612.

3. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3051, et seq., does not apply because no information collection reporting or records keeping responsibilities are imposed on offerors, contractors, or members of the public.

David E. Cook,

Col, USAF, Director, JTMO.

[FR Doc. 99–2325 Filed 1–29–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Web-Based Education Commission; Notice of Establishment

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Education.

ACTION: Notice of Establishment of the Web-Based Education Commission.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education announces his intention to establish the Web-Based Education Commission under the authority of the Higher Education Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105–244) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463; 5 U.S.C.A. Appendix 2).

PURPOSE: The Secretary has determined that the establishment of the Web-Based Education Commission is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Department by law. This Commission is required to conduct a thorough study to assess the educational software available in retail markets for secondary and postsecondary students who choose to use such software. The Commission will hold public hearings throughout the United States to produce this study. The Commission will issue a final report to the President and Congress, not later than six months after the first meeting. This report shall contain a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions together with its recommendations. The recommendations shall address what legislation and administrative actions they consider appropriate; and what they regard as the appropriate Federal role in determining the quality of the educational software products. The Commission shall consist of Fourteen members, appointed by the President, Secretary, and Congress, who have expertise in the Internet technology industry, in accreditation, establishing statewide curricula, and establishing information technology networks pertaining to education curricula.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Maureen McLaughlin, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Innovation, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC 20202 Telephone: (202) 205–2987.

Dated: January 26, 1999.

Richard W. Riley,

Secretary of Education.

[FR Doc. 99–2332 Filed 1–29–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation

Date and Time: Thursday, March 4, 1999, 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Place: The Latham Hotel, 3000 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037, (202) 726–5000. The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. An individual with a disability who will need an accommodation to participate in the meeting (e.g., interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format) should notify the contact person listed in this notice at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although the Department will attempt to meet a request received after that date, the requested accommodations may not be available because of insufficient time to arrange them.

Status:

Parts of this meeting will be open to the public.

Parts of this meeting will be closed to the public.

Matters to be Considered: The standard of accreditation applied to medical schools by several foreign countries and the comparability of those standards to the standards of accreditation applied to United States medical schools. Discussions of the standards of accreditation will be held in sessions open to the public. Discussions that focus on specific

determination of comparability are closed to the public in order that each country may be properly notified of the decision.

Supplemenatry Information: Pursuant to section 481 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended in 1992 (20 U.S.C. 1088), the Secretary established within the Department of Education the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation. The Committee's responsibilities are to (1) evaluate the standards of accreditation applied to applicant foreign medical schools; and (2) determine the comparability of those standards to standards for accreditation applied to United States medical schools.

For Further Information Contact: Bonnie LeBold, Executive Director, National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation, 7th and D Streets, SW, Room 3082, ROB #3, Washington, DC 20202–7563. Telephone: (202) 260–3636. Beginning February 22, 1999, you may call to obtain the identity of the countries whose standards are to be evaluated during this meeting.

Greg Woods,

Chief Operating Officer, Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs.

[FR Doc. 99–2235 Filed 1–29–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 99–03; Environmental Meteorology Program—Vertical Transport and Mixing

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of Extension of Application Due Date.

SUMMARY: The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), published a Notice in the **Federal Register** on December 22, 1998, announcing its interest in receiving applications for the Environmental Meteorology Program (EMP), Vertical Transport and Mixing (VTMX) Science Team. Since the publication of the Notice and due to unforeseen circumstances, OBER is changing the date that formal applications are due.

In the **Federal Register** of December 22, 1998, in FR Doc. 98–33858, on page 70758 under the **DATES** heading, formal applications in response to this notice were requested by 4:30 p.m., E.S.T., March 12, 1999. With this Notice of Extension, OBER is changing the due date for formal applications from March 12, 1999, to 4:30 p.m., E.S.T., March 30, 1999. Also, stated in the original notice, applicants were urged to access web site http://www.pnl.gov/VTMX to review abstracts of proposals from DOE laboratory scientists that will be tentatively selected for funding. These abstracts were to be posted there by February 12, 1999. This date is being changed to February 26, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Lunn, telephone: (303) 903–4819.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 22, 1999.

John Rodney Clark,

Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 99–2309 Filed 1–29–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 99–14; Low Dose Radiation Research Program

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Offices of Science (SC) and Environmental Management (EM), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announce their interest in receiving applications for research that supports the Low Dose Radiation Research Program. Research is sought in the following areas:

(1) Low dose radiation vs. endogenous oxidative damage—the same or different?

(2) Understanding biological responses to radiation and oxidative damage.

(3) Thresholds for low dose radiation—fact or fiction?

(4) Genetic factors that affect individual susceptibility to low dose radiation.

(5) Communication of research results.

This Program uses modern molecular tools to develop a better scientific basis for understanding exposures and risks to humans from low dose radiation that can be used to achieve acceptable levels of human health protection at the lowest possible cost. Proposed basic research should contribute to EM needs by decreasing health risks to the public and workers from low dose radiation, providing opportunities for major cost reductions in cleaning up DOE's environmental problems, and reducing the time required to achieve EM's mission goals.

DATES: Potential applicants should submit a one page preapplication referencing Program Notice 99–14 by 4:30 P.M. E.S.T., February 23, 1999. A response to preapplications discussing the potential program relevance of a formal application generally will be communicated within 7 days of receipt.

The deadline for receipt of formal applications is 4:30 P.M., E.D.T., April 13, 1999, in order to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award in FY 1999 and FY 2000.

ADDRESSES: Preapplications referencing Program Notice 99–14, should be sent by E-mail to joanne.corcoran@science.doe.gov. Preapplications will also be accepted if mailed to the following address: Ms. Joanne Corcoran, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, SC–72, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874–1290.

Formal applications, referencing Program Notice 99–14, should be sent to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Grants and Contracts Division, SC–64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874–1290, ATTN: Program Notice 99–14. This address must be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express, commercial mail delivery service, or when hand carried by the applicant.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. David Thomassen, telephone: (301) 903–9817, E-mail: david.thomassen@science.doe.gov, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, SC–72, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874–1290 or Mr. Mark Gilbertson, Office of Science and Risk Policy, Office of Science and Technology, Office of Environmental Management, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585, telephone: (202) 586–7150, E-mail: mark.gilbertson@em.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Low Dose Radiation Research Program

Background and Overview

Each and every cell in the human body is constantly engaged in a life and death struggle to survive ''in spite of itself.'' Normal physiological processes needed for cell survival generate toxic oxidative products that are damaging, even mutagenic, and potentially carcinogenic. Yet cells and people survive because of the cell's remarkable capacity to repair the majority, if not all, of this oxidative damage. We don't know, however, the relationship