

examine the Federal financial aid formula and application forms in order to simplify and streamline the programs to make the system easier, more responsive, and fairer for students and families. The Advisory Committee is well suited to conduct this study, drawing upon the expertise of its 11 members and its experience conducting other broad studies on financial aid issues. The Advisory Committee also has the particular mission of examining the impact of these issues on low- and moderate-income students, a specific goal of the study.

The legislative charge to the Advisory Committee calls for the study to be conducted in two phases resulting in an interim report and a final report. In executing the study, the Advisory Committee will:

- Examine options to simplify forms and reduce data elements;
- Address the student work penalty;
- Make recommendations on ways to measure the burden of state and local taxes on Expected Family Contribution (EFC);
- Discuss ways to provide students with an early notification of eligibility.

The interim report will be complete six months from the enactment of the bill and will focus on legislative recommendations. The second phase of the study, which will yield a final report one year from enactment, will address regulatory and administrative solutions to financial aid simplification. The Advisory Committee will consult with a wide range of interested parties, and will also consult a forms design expert.

The Advisory Committee initiated the simplification study with a hearing on February 5, 2004. At this hearing, the Advisory Committee heard from Congress, the Department of Education, members of the higher education community, and representatives of the early intervention and outreach community about their perspectives on simplification.

The Advisory Committee has two regional field hearings scheduled to gather additional feedback about financial aid simplification. The Advisory Committee will conduct hearings at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) on March 30, 2004, and at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM), Los Angeles Campus, on April 15, 2004.

The Advisory Committee invites the public to submit written comments and recommendations to the following e-mail address: [ADV\\_COMSFA@ed.gov](mailto:ADV_COMSFA@ed.gov). Information regarding the simplification study will also be available on the Advisory Committee's web site, <http://www.ed.gov/ACSFA>.

### Study Questions and Goals

#### *Can Federal Need Analysis Be Simplified and Improved?*

- Can the methodology used to calculate the expected family contribution (EFC) be simplified without significant adverse effects on program intent, costs, integrity, delivery, and distribution of awards?
- Can the number of data elements, and, accordingly, the number and complexity of questions asked of students and families, used to calculate the EFC be reduced without significant adverse effects on program intent, costs, integrity, delivery, and distribution of awards?
- Are the procedures for determining the data elements used to calculate the EFC, including determining and updating offsets and allowances, the most efficient, effective, and fair means to determine a family's available income and assets?
- Is the methodology used to calculate the EFC, specifically the consideration of income earned by a dependent student and its effect on Pell Grant eligibility, an effective and fair means to determine a family's available income and a student's need?

#### *Can Federal Student Air Delivery Be Streamlined and Improved?*

- Can the nature and timing of the FAFSA, eligibility and award determination, financial aid processing, and funds delivery be streamlined further for students and families, institutions, and States?
- Is it feasible to allow students to complete only those limited sections of the FAFSA that apply to their specific circumstances and the State in which they reside?
- Can a widely disseminated printed form, or the use of an Internet or other electronic means, be developed to notify individuals of an estimation of their approximate eligibility for grant, work-study, and loan assistance upon completion and verification of the simplified application form?
- Can information provided on other Federal forms that are designed to determine eligibility for various Federal need-based assistance programs be used to qualify potential students for the simplified needs test?

This document is intended to notify the general public

**DATES:** We must receive your comments on or before April 23, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Send all comments about the simplification study to the Advisory Committee using the following email address: [adv\\_COMSFA@ed.gov](mailto:adv_COMSFA@ed.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Brian K. Fitzgerald, Staff Director, Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, Capitol Place, 80 F Street, NW., Suite 413, Washington, DC 20202-7582, (202) 219-2099.

#### *Assistance to Individuals With Disabilities in Reviewing the Simplification Study*

On request, we will supply an appropriate aid, such as a reader or print magnifier, to an individual with a disability who needs assistance to review comments or other documents. Although we will attempt to meet a request we receive, we may not be able to make available the requested auxiliary aid or service because of insufficient time to arrange it.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** To ensure that your comments have maximum effect in developing the final recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of Education, we urge you to identify clearly the specific study questions and goals that each of your comments addresses and to arrange your comments in the same order as indicated in the study announcement.

During and after the comment period, you may inspect all public comments about the simplification study at Capitol Place, 80 F Street, NW., Suite 413, Washington, DC between 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., eastern time, Monday through Friday (excluding Federal holidays). You may also view comments on the Advisory Committee simplification study at <http://www.ed.gov/ACSFA>.

Dated: March 1, 2004.

**Dr. Brian K. Fitzgerald,**  
Staff Director, Advisory Committee on  
Student Financial Assistance.

[FR Doc. 04-4900 Filed 3-4-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Savannah River

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.  
**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Savannah River. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Monday, March 22, 2004, 1 p.m.-6:15 p.m., Tuesday, March 23, 2004, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, 2100 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC 29210.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gerri Flemming, Closure Project Office, Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office, P.O. Box A, Aiken, SC 29802; Phone: (803) 952-7886.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Purpose of the Board:* The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

**Tentative Agenda**

*Monday, March 22, 2004*

1 p.m. Combined Committee Meeting  
5:15 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting  
6:15 p.m. Adjourn

*Tuesday, March 23, 2004*

8:30 a.m. Approval of Minutes; Agency Updates; Public Comment Session  
9:15 a.m. Facility Disposition & Site Remediation Committee Report  
10 a.m. Waste Management Committee Report  
10:45 a.m. Strategic & Legacy Management Committee Report  
11:30 a.m. Public Comment Session  
12 noon Lunch Break  
1 p.m. Nuclear Materials Committee Report  
2 p.m. Administrative Committee Report  
2:45 p.m. Bylaws Amendment Proposal  
3:45 p.m. Public Comment Session  
4 p.m. Adjourn

If needed, time will be allotted after public comments for items added to the agenda, and administrative details. A final agenda will be available at the meeting Monday, March 22, 2004.

*Public Participation:* The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make the oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Gerri Flemming's office at the address or telephone listed above. Requests must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided equal time to present their comments.

*Minutes:* The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and

copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to Gerri Flemming, Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office, PO Box A, Aiken, SC 29802, or by calling her at (803) 952-7886.

Issued at Washington, DC, on March 1, 2004.

**Rachel M. Samuel,**

*Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 04-5016 Filed 3-4-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Monday, March 22, 2004—8 a.m.—5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 23, 2004—8 a.m.—5 p.m.

Opportunities for public participation will be held Monday, March 22 from 12:15 to 12:30 p.m. and 5:15 to 5:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, March 23 from 11:45 to 12 noon and 3:50 to 4:05 p.m. Additional time may be made available for public comment during the presentations.

These times are subject to change as the meeting progresses, depending on the extent of comment offered. Please check with the meeting facilitator to confirm these times.

**ADDRESSES:** Ameritel Inn, 645 Lindsay Boulevard, Idaho Falls, ID 83402.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Peggy Hinman, INEEL CAB Administrator, North Wind, Inc., P.O. Box 51174, Idaho Falls, ID 83405, Phone (208) 557-7885, or visit the Board's Internet home page at <http://www.ida.net/users/cab>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Purpose of the Board:* The purpose of the Board is

to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of future use, cleanup levels, waste disposition and cleanup priorities at the INEEL.

The tentative objectives for the meeting include:

- Proposed modifications to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for storage and disposal of mixed waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.
- Authorized funding under the current contract for the Environmental Management program at the INEEL.
- Modified Fiscal Year 2004/2005 Performance Based Incentives.

*Public Participation:* This meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board facilitator either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral presentations pertaining to agenda items should contact the Board Chair at the address or telephone number listed above. Request must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Richard Provencher, Assistant Manager for Environmental Management, Idaho Operations Office, U.S. Department of Energy, is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Every individual wishing to make public comment will be provided equal time to present their comments.

*Minutes:* The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to Ms. Peggy Hinman, INEEL CAB Administrator, at the address and phone number listed above.

Issued at Washington, DC, on March 1, 2004.

**Rachel Samuel,**

*Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 04-5018 Filed 3-4-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**National Nuclear Security Administration**

**Presidential Directed Mission Requiring Authorization of National Security Provisions**

**AGENCY:** National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.