

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 Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Financial and Chief Information Officer, 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 at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

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: November 24, 1998.

Kent H. Hannaman,

*Leader, Information Management Group,
Office of the Chief Financial and Chief
Information Officer.*

**Office of Educational Research and
Improvement**

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Data Collection for Third International Mathematics and Science Study—Report (TIMSS-R).

Frequency: One-Time Student Assessment.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Not-for-profit institutions.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 11,250

Burden Hours: 24,583

Abstract: In order to provide international benchmarks against which to measure the performance of American students in mathematics and science, with comparisons of data for 1995 and 1999, and to measure progress toward the U.S. national goal of being first in the world in mathematics and science in the year 2000, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) wishes to repeat TIMSS for the 8th grade in U.S. schools in 1999.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Annual Performance for the Student Support Services (SSS) Program.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 800

Burden Hours: 3,600

Abstract: SSS grantees must submit the report annually so the Department can evaluate the performance of grantees prior to awarding continuation grants and to assess a grantee's prior experience at the end of each budget period. The Department will also aggregate the data to provide descriptive information and analyze program impact.

[FR Doc. 98-31893 Filed 11-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**National Assessment Governing
Board; Public Forum**

AGENCY: National Assessment Governing Board; Education.

ACTION: Notice of information collection activity.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) will submit an Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget for approval.

The ICR is: Similarities Classification Validation Research Study of the Achievement Levels for the Writing National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and the Civics National Assessment of Educational Progress.

DATES: Public comments must be submitted on or before February 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted by February 1, 1999. Mail to Patricia Hanick, NAEP ALS Project Manager, ACT, Inc., 2255 North

Dubuque Road, P.O. Box 168, Iowa City, IA 52243-0168. Copies of the complete ICR and accompanying appendices may be obtained from the NAEP ALS Project Manager at the address above.

Comments may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to Hanick@ACT.org. Electronic comments must be identified by the title of the ICR. No confidential business information should be submitted through e-mail.

Information submitted as a comment concerning this document may be claimed confidential by marketing any part or all of that information as confidential business information (CBI). Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. A copy of the comment that does not contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential may be disclosed publicly by NAGB without prior notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patricia Hanick, NAEP ALS Project Manager, ACT, Inc., 2255 North Dubuque Road, P.O. Box 168, Iowa City, IA 52243-0168, Telephone: (319) 337-1452 or (800) 525-6930, e-mail: Hanick@ACT.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Electronic copies of this ICR can be obtained from the contact person listed above.

I. Information Collection Request

NAGB is seeking comments on the following Information Collection Request (ICR).

Title: Similarities Classification Validation Research Study of the Achievement Levels for the Writing NAEP and the Civics NAEP.

Affected Entities: Parties affected by this information collection are civics and writing teachers who served as grade 8 achievement levels-setting (ALS) panelists for pilot studies and ALS meetings. Additional parties include the eighth grade students of these teachers as well as their school administrators.

Abstract: The purpose of this information collection activity is to gather information for NAGB relating to the issue of the validity of the achievement levels and the achievement levels-setting process for the 1998 NAEP in Writing and in Civics. In particular, Congress has denied that the achievement levels must be shown to be reasonable, valid, and informative to the public. The research design class for administration of an extended NAEP. The students to be assessed are currently enrolled in courses taught by

teachers who participate in setting the achievement levels. The focus of the study is to assess the correspondence between the teachers' estimates of the performance of their students on this assessment and the empirical performance of the student on the assessment. The teachers who will be asked to participate in this study are familiar with the content of the assessment framework and with the pool of items developed for the 1998 assessment. They also are familiar with the meaning of the achievement levels describing what students should know and be able to do and the abilities of the students who will be assessed. Teachers will not know how their individual students performed on the assessment. If the achievement levels are "reasonable, valid, and informative," there should be relatively high correspondence between the teachers' estimates of performance and the actual performance of students with respect to the achievement levels.

No third party notification or public disclosure burden is associated with this collection.

Burden Statement: The estimated maximum total respondent burden is 6957 hours, and the average burden per student is 1.92 hours. This is a one-time data collection effort. Neither small businesses nor other small entities are included in the survey.

II. Request for Comments

NAGB solicits comments to:

(i) Evaluate whether the proposed data collection is an appropriate method to determine whether the achievement levels are valid.

(ii) Enhance the accuracy, quality, and utility of the information to be collected.

Records are kept of all public comments and are available for public inspection at the U.S. Department of Education, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Dated: November 25, 1998.

Roy Truby,

Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board.

[FR Doc. 98-31913 Filed 11-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Record of Decision on Management of Certain Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy Stored at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Record of Decision.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) has decided to prepare the categories of plutonium residues and scrub alloy listed below for disposal or other disposition as specified in the Preferred Alternative contained in the Final Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Certain Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy Stored at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (the Final EIS, DOE/EIS-0277F, August 1998). The material categories covered by this Record of Decision are: (1) Sand, slag and crucible residues, (2) Direct oxide reduction salt residues (low plutonium concentration), (3) Combustible residues, (4) Plutonium fluoride residues, (5) Ful Flo filter media residues, (6) Glass residues, (7) Graphite residues, (8) Inorganic (metal and other) residues, and (9) Scrub alloy.

Additional Copies: Copies of the Final EIS and this Record of Decision are available in the public reading rooms and libraries identified in the **Federal Register** Notice that announced the availability of the Final EIS (63 FR 46006, August 28, 1998), or by calling the Center for Environmental Management Information at 1-800-736-3282 (toll free) or 202-863-5084 (in Washington, DC).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the management of plutonium residues and scrub alloy currently stored at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, contact: Ms. Patty Bubar, Acting Director, Rocky Flats Office (EM-64), Office of Nuclear Material and Facility Stabilization, Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585, Telephone: 301-903-7130.

For information concerning development of the Final EIS or this Record of Decision, contact: Mr. Charles R. Head, Senior Technical Advisor, Office of Nuclear Material and Facility Stabilization (EM-60), Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585, Telephone: 202-586-5151.

For information on DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, contact: Ms. Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585 Telephone: 202-586-4600, or leave a message at 1-800-472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Synopsis of the Decision

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced issuance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Certain Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy Stored at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (the Final EIS, DOE/EIS-0277F) on August 28, 1998 (63 FR 46006, August 28, 1998). In the Final EIS, DOE considered the potential environmental impacts of a proposed action to prepare certain plutonium residues and scrub alloy currently stored at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (Rocky Flats) near Golden, Colorado, for disposal or other disposition. After consideration of the Final EIS, including public comments submitted on the Draft EIS, and public comments submitted following issuance of the Final EIS, DOE has decided to implement the Preferred Alternative specified in the Final EIS for the following categories of material: (1) Sand, slag and crucible residues, (2) Direct oxide reduction salt residues (low plutonium concentration), (3) Combustible residues, (4) Plutonium fluoride residues, (5) Ful Flo filter media residues, (6) Glass residues, (7) Graphite residues, (8) Inorganic (metal and other) residues, and (9) Scrub alloy.

Implementation of the Preferred Alternative will involve the following:

1. Up to approximately 6,587 kg of plutonium residues (containing up to approximately 351 kg of plutonium) will be processed at Rocky Flats and packaged in preparation for disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico. These residues consist of direct oxide reduction salt residues containing low concentrations of plutonium, combustible residues, Ful Flo filter media residues, glass residues, graphite residues and inorganic (metal and other) residues. The processed residues will remain in storage at Rocky Flats until they are shipped to WIPP for disposal.

2. Approximately 3,377 kg of sand, slag and crucible residues and plutonium fluoride residues (containing approximately 271 kg of plutonium), and approximately 700 kg of scrub alloy (containing approximately 200 kg of plutonium) will be packaged and shipped to the Savannah River Site near Aiken, South Carolina, where these materials will be stabilized in the F-Canyon by chemically separating the plutonium from the remaining materials in the residues and scrub alloy. The separated plutonium will be placed in safe and secure storage, along with a larger quantity of plutonium already in storage at the Savannah River Site, until DOE has completed the Surplus