

Dated: February 24, 2009.

**Angela C. Arrington,**

*IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management.*

### Office of Postsecondary Education

*Type of Review:* New.

*Title:* Competitive Loan Auction Pilot Program.

*Abstract:* The Department of Education is requesting emergency clearance of all documents associated with this clearance by March 2, 2009 to meet Congressional legislative mandates. This data collection is necessary to conduct an auction for the rights to originate PLUS loans to parent borrowers under the Federal PLUS Program authorized by Section 428B of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), for the period beginning on or after July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2011. The HEA, as amended by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA), requires that the right to originate PLUS loans to new parent borrowers under the Federal PLUS Program be determined through a competitive sealed bid, one-round auction to be conducted for each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (State). The information requested is necessary to determine whether the winning bidders will be able to make and service the PLUS loans made to parents as a result of the auction as well as to conduct the auction itself.

*Additional Information:* The U.S. Department of Education requests that OMB grant an emergency clearance by March 2, 2009 for all documents associated with the Competitive Loan Auction Pilot Program for PLUS loans, so that Congressional legislative mandates may be satisfied. The Competitive Loan Auction Pilot Program for PLUS loans is a new Federal Family Education Loan program. This pilot program was mandated by Congress in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (CCRAA) and in the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended, Title IV, Part I, Section 499, Competitive Loan Auction Pilot Program. We are requesting permission for an emergency clearance to allow eligible lenders to participate in the prequalification process. We must meet the deadline set by Congress to have the pilot program in place and running by July 1, 2009, so that lenders may process student aid applications.

The Department will conduct The Competitive Loan Auction Pilot Program in two parts. First, lenders must submit a prequalification form that collects specific information necessary

for the Department to determine if the lender has the financial and technological resources necessary to make loans to parents under the PLUS loan program in the state(s) in which the lender will bid. Secondly, once pre-qualified, lenders may submit a bid which is the lowest special allowance payment (SAP), as defined in Section 438 of the HEA, they are willing to accept for Federal PLUS Loans made pursuant to the auction. Only two eligible lenders (as defined in Section 435(d) of the HEA) meeting the pre-qualification requirements will be identified for each State and they will be the sole eligible lenders authorized to originate Federal PLUS loans to new parent borrowers. The Department must have clearance of the documents by March 2, 2009 so that the prequalification process can begin, the subsequent auction held, and winning bidders notified so they will have sufficient time to operationalize their business processes.

*Frequency:* Biennially.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

Responses: 25.

Burden Hours: 18.

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 3966. 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 the Internet address [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.031A]

### Strengthening Institutions Program

**AGENCY:** Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to fund down the fiscal year (FY) 2008 grant slate for the Strengthening Institutions Program.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary intends to use the grant slate developed in FY 2008 for the Strengthening Institutions Program authorized by Title III, Part A of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), to make new grant awards in FY 2009. The Secretary takes this action because a significant number of high-quality applications remain on last year's grant slate. We expect to use an estimated \$19,308,000 for new awards in FY 2009. The actual level of funding depends on final Congressional action.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Darlene B. Collins, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20006-6450. Telephone: (202) 502-7576 or via Internet: [darlene.collins@ed.gov](mailto:darlene.collins@ed.gov).

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

On April 22, 2008, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (73 FR 21614) inviting applications for new awards under the Strengthening Institutions Program.

In response to this notice, we received a significant number of high-quality applications for grants under the Strengthening Institutions Program and made 61 new grant awards. However, many applications that were awarded high scores by peer reviewers did not receive funding in FY 2008.

Limited funding may be available for new awards under this program in FY 2009. To conserve funding that would have been required for a peer review of new grant applications and to instead use those funds to support grant activities, we will select grantees in FY 2009 from the existing slate of applicants. This slate was developed during the FY 2008 competition using

the selection criteria, application requirements, and definitions referenced in the **Federal Register** notice.

**Note:** To be eligible to receive a grant under the process outlined in this notice all Individual Development grant applicants that received a peer review score of 89.33 or above during the FY 2008 Title III, Part A Strengthening Institutions Program competition and that did not receive funding in the FY 2008 competition for the Strengthening Institutions Program MUST apply for designation as an eligible institution for the programs authorized by Title III and Title V of the HEA. The notice inviting applications for designation as an eligible institution under the Title III and Title V programs was published in the **Federal Register** on January 21, 2009 (74 FR 3579). For those applicant institutions seeking eligibility to apply for funds under the Title III and Title V programs, the deadline for applications was February 20, 2009.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1057–1059d.

#### *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>.

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>.

**Delegation of Authority:** The Secretary of Education has delegated authority to Daniel T. Madzelan, Director, Forecasting and Policy Analysis for the Office of Postsecondary Education to perform the functions of the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

Dated: February 25, 2009.

**Daniel T. Madzelan,**

*Director, Forecasting and Policy Analysis.*

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**BILLING CODE 4000–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Bonneville Power Administration

#### **Fiscal Year (FY) 2010–2011 Proposed Power and Transmission Rate Adjustments; Public Hearing and Opportunities for Public Review and Comment; Correction**

**AGENCY:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of FY 2010–2011 Proposed Power and Transmission Rate Adjustments; Correction.

**SUMMARY:** On February 10, 2009, BPA published a notice in the **Federal Register** (74 FR 6609), (February 10, 2009 Notice) announcing its upcoming consolidated rate proceeding, BPA–10, with separate sub-dockets for power and transmission rates for FY 2010–2011. However, on page 6611, third column in Part III.A., Distinguishing Between “Participants” and “Parties,” of the February 10, 2009 Notice, BPA made a misstatement that it now wishes to correct. The fifth sentence in this section, which stated “BPA customers whose rates are subject to this proceeding, or their affiliated customer groups, may not submit participant comments.”, is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following sentence “Any entity that has intervened in this proceeding may not submit participant comments.”

Part III.A., on page 6611, third column is corrected to read as follows:

#### **Part III—Public Participation**

##### *A. Distinguishing Between “Participants” and “Parties”*

BPA distinguishes between “participants in” and “parties to” the hearings. Apart from the formal hearing process, BPA will receive written comments, views, opinions, and information from “participants,” who are defined in BPA’s Procedures as persons who may submit comments without being subject to the duties of, or having the privileges of, parties. Participants’ written comments will be made part of the official record and considered by the Administrator. Participants are not entitled to participate in the prehearing conference; may not cross-examine parties’ witnesses, seek discovery, or serve or be served with documents; and are not subject to the same procedural requirements as parties. Any entity that has intervened in this proceeding may not submit participant comments. Members or employees of entities that have intervened in the rate proceeding

may submit general comments as participants but may not use the comment procedures to address specific issues raised by their intervenor organization or others.

Written comments by participants will be included in the record if they are received by April 24, 2009. Written views, supporting information, questions, and arguments should be submitted to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this Notice.

Entities or persons become parties to the proceeding by filing petitions to intervene, which must state the name and address of the entity or person requesting party status and their interest in the hearing. BPA customers and affiliated customer groups will be granted intervention based on a petition filed in conformance with BPA’s Procedures. Other petitioners must explain their interests in sufficient detail to permit the hearing officer to determine whether such petitioners have a relevant interest in the hearing. Pursuant to Rule 1010.1(d) of BPA’s Procedures, BPA waives the requirement in Rule 1010.4(d) that an opposition to an intervention petition be filed and served 24 hours before the prehearing conference. Any opposition to an intervention petition must instead be made at the prehearing conference. Any party, including BPA, may oppose a petition for intervention. All timely petitions will be ruled on by the hearing officer. Late interventions are strongly disfavored. Opposition to an untimely petition to intervene must be filed and received by BPA within two days after service of the petition.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Heidi Helwig—DKE–7, Public Affairs Specialist, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, Oregon 97208–3621; by phone at 503–230–3488 or toll free at 1–800–622–4519; or via e-mail to [hyhelwig@bpa.gov](mailto:hyhelwig@bpa.gov).

**Responsible Official:** Mr. Raymond D. Bliven, Power Rates Manager, is the official responsible for the development of BPA’s power rates, and Mr. Edison Elizeh, Commercial Business Assessment Manager, is the official responsible for the development of BPA’s transmission and ancillary services rates.

**BPA Attorney Advisors:** Mr. Peter J. Burger is the principal BPA attorney assigned to the power rates sub-docket proceeding, and Mr. Barry Bennett is the principal BPA attorney assigned to the transmission and ancillary services rates sub-docket proceeding. Mr. Burger may be contacted as follows: by U.S. Mail at Mr. Peter J. Burger, Office of General