

recruitment, and mortality; and (7) opportunistically photo-identify and biopsy sample various Balaenopterid species.

With this application for amendment, the permit holder requests authorization (Project III) to attach a non-invasive optical device ("critter cam") to seven North Atlantic right whales in Cape Cod Bay for collecting video documentation in order to better assess prey selectivity and movements of the whales during foraging and the quality of the food layer supporting the whales. This documentation will provide a subsurface tool for supplementing CCS' on-going oceanographic surveys and for "ground-truthing" current estimates of prey patch density and area in Cape Cod Bay.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: October 25, 2000.

Ann D. Terbush,

*Chief, Permits and Documentation Division,
Office of Protected Resources, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*

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BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, 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 January 2, 2001.

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 Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the 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. 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: October 25, 2000.

John Tressler,

*Leader, Regulatory Information Management,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

Office of the Undersecretary

Type of Review: New.

Title: Evaluation of the Partnership Grants Program of Title II of the Higher Education Act.

Frequency: Annually; Weekly.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit initiations; State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or Leas.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 453.

Burden Hours: 963.

Abstract: The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the impact, strengths and weaknesses of the Partnership Grants Program, one of the three programs authorized in Title II of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. This program is designed primarily to increase collaboration between schools of arts and sciences and schools of education, increase the rule of K-12 educators in the design and implementation of effective teacher education programs, and increase the

intensity and quality of clinical experiences for prospective teachers. The evaluation will measure the impact of grants in helping colleges of education, colleges of arts and sciences, school districts and other partners to work more closely together to improve the content and structure of the professional education offered to prospective teachers.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, or should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO-IMG-Issues@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request. Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at (202) 708-9266 or via his internet address Joe_Schubart@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. 00-27863 Filed 10-30-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 30, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Lauren Wittenberg, Acting Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address Lauren_Wittenberg@omb.eop.gov.

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 Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the 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.

Dated: October 26, 2000.

John Tressler,

*Leader Regulatory Information Management,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

*Office of Educational Research and
Improvement*

Type of Review: Reinstatement.

Title: Public Libraries Survey.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs; Federal Government.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour
Burden:*

Responses: 56.

Burden Hours: 1,680.

Abstract: The Public Libraries Survey is an annual survey of public libraries in the 50 States, D.C. and the Outlying Areas. Data for local public libraries are aggregated at the State and national levels. Federal, state, and local officials use the data for planning, evaluation, monitoring, budgeting, administration, and policy. Other users include librarians, educators, and researchers. The respondents are the 50 States, D.C. and the Outlying Areas.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, or should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_IMG_Issues@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information

collection when making your request. Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Kathy Axt at her internet address Kathy_Axt@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. 00-27876 Filed 10-30-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Draft Long-Term Stewardship Study

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of availability, opportunity to comment and public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the release of the Draft Long-Term Stewardship Study (Draft Study) for public review, comment and public hearing. This Draft Study has been prepared in accordance with the terms of a 1998 Settlement Agreement that resolved a lawsuit brought against DOE by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and other plaintiffs.

The Draft Study examines the institutional and programmatic issues facing DOE as it completes the environmental cleanup program at its sites. In keeping with the requirement that the Draft Study meet certain DOE requirements for public review in 10 CFR 1021.313, made applicable under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, DOE invites the general public, other Federal agencies, Native American Tribes, state and local governments, and all other interested parties to comment on the Draft Study. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive oral and written comments on the Draft Study.

DATES: The public comment period will extend to December 15, 2000.

Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

The public hearing will be held Thursday, November 30, 2000, from 9 am to 1 pm. Submit written notices of participation by November 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held at the U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Ave SW, Washington, D.C., Room 1E245.

Submit written notices of participation in the public hearing, requests for information about the Draft Study and written comments on the Draft Study to Steven Livingstone, Project Manager, Office of Long-Term

Stewardship (EM-51), Office of Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 45079, Washington, D.C. 20026-5079, phone: 202-586-9280; or submitted electronically to:

Steven.Livingstone@em.doe.gov; or submitted by fax to: 202-863-7036.

Copies of the Draft Study can be requested by telephone at 1-800-736-3282 ("1-800-7EM-DATA"). The Draft Study and its supporting technical documents also are available for review at www.em.doe.gov/lts and at the DOE Reading Room addresses referenced in the "Availability of the Draft Study and Related Information" section of this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

DOE has prepared the Draft Study on the possible consequences of long-term stewardship according to the terms of a 1998 settlement agreement that resolved a lawsuit brought against DOE by the Natural Resources Defense Council and 38 other plaintiffs [*Natural Resources Defense Council, et al. v. Richardson, et al.*, Civ. No. 97-936 (SS) (D.D.C. Dec. 12, 1998)]. The Draft Study incorporates input received during a public scoping process and examines the institutional and programmatic issues currently facing DOE as it completes the environmental cleanup program at its sites. Long-term stewardship, under the agreement, refers to:

The physical controls, institutions, information and other mechanisms needed to ensure protection of people and the environment at sites where DOE has completed or plans to complete "cleanup" (e.g., landfill closures, remedial actions, removal actions, and facility stabilization). This concept of long-term stewardship includes, inter alia, land-use controls, monitoring, maintenance, and information management.

Study Goal and Approach

The goal of the Draft Study is to inform decision-makers and the public about the long-term stewardship issues and challenges facing DOE and potential options for addressing such issues.

The Draft Study does:

- Describe DOE's long-term stewardship responsibilities, the status of current and ongoing stewardship obligations, activities and initiatives, and the plans for future activities;

- Analyze the national issues that DOE needs to address in planning for and conducting long-term stewardship activities; and

- Promote information exchange on long-term stewardship among DOE,