

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: February 28, 2001.

**John Tressler,**

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

#### **Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services**

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Title:* Report of Children with Disabilities Exiting Special Education During the School Year.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Affected Public:* State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:* Responses: 58; Burden Hours: 53,244.

*Abstract:* This package provides instructions and a form necessary for States to report the number of students aged 14 and older served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B (IDEA-B) exiting special education. The form satisfies reporting requirements and is used by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to monitor State Educational Agencies (SEAs) and for Congressional reporting.

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](mailto: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 Sheila Carey at (202) 708-6287 or via her internet address [Sheila\\_Carey@ed.gov](mailto:Sheila_Carey@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. 01-5369 Filed 3-5-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests**

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed information collection requests.

**SUMMARY:** The Acting Leader, Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** An emergency review has been requested in accordance with the Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3507 (j)), since public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed. Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by March 5, 2001. A regular clearance process is also beginning. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 7, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Lauren Wittenberg, 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](mailto: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 Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Office of Management and Budget (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 Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection

requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection. 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. ED 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 respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: March 1, 2001.

**Joe Schubart,**

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

#### **Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs**

*Type of Review:* Revision.

*Title:* Joint Special Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (SLEAP) and Leveraging Educational Assistance and Partnership (LEAP) Formulas Grant Application Collection.

*Abstract:* The LEAP and SLEAP programs use matching Federal and State funds to provide a nationwide system of grants to assist postsecondary educational students with substantial financial need. On this application the states provide information the Department requires to obligate funds and for program management. The signed assurances legally bind the states to administer the programs according to regulatory and statutory requirements. With the clearance of this collection, the Department is seeking to automate the application for web-based applying for both the LEAP Program and the subprogram, SLEAP. There are no significant changes to the current LEAP form data elements. There are, however, some additional items pertaining to the SLEAP Program which combines the application into one form for both programs.

*Additional Information:* Because of the recent changes (December, 2000) to the law, the time schedule of having to

go live with the information collection early enough for states to apply for funding and the awarding of funds to states by July 1, 2001, the Department is requesting emergency approval.

*Frequency:* Annually

*Affected Public:* State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs

#### Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden

*Responses:* 56.

*Burden Hours:* 112.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651, or should be electronically mailed to the internet address OClO\_IMG\_Issues@ed.gov, or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements, contact Joseph Schubart at (202) 708-9266 or 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. 01-5430 Filed 3-5-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### National Energy Technology Laboratory

#### Notice of Intent To Issue a Financial Assistance Solicitation (PS)

**AGENCY:** National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Issue a Financial Assistance Solicitation (PS).

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the intent to issue Financial Assistance Solicitation No. DE-PS26-01NT40868 entitled "Gas Storage Program Solicitation." The general goal of this research and development effort is to support further development of the innovative gas storage concepts that are required to meet the needs of the natural gas industry and end-use customers of the U.S. through the year 2015. The Gas Storage Program's "Advanced Storage Concepts (ASC)" projects have been exploring alternatives to service the need for new storage development and expansion in close proximity to areas of growing residential natural gas use and existing and planned industrial and power generation facilities without conventional storage options.

**DATES:** The solicitation will be available on the DOE/NETL's Internet address at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business> on or about March 16, 2001. Based on the information contained herein, prospective Applicants are encouraged to begin defining their requirements and potential teaming arrangements prior to release of the solicitation.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kelly A. McDonald, Contract Specialist, MS 107, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, 3610 Collins Ferry Road, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880, E-mail Address: [kelly.mcdonald@netl.doe.gov](mailto:kelly.mcdonald@netl.doe.gov), Telephone Number: (304) 285-4113.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:** It is anticipated that this action will consist of a single solicitation with three (3) multiple needs areas that specifically address: (1) Proof-of-concept studies or demonstrations aimed at establishing the potential for full-scale field deployment and commercialization of previously developed technologies such as Lined Rock Cavern, Refrigerated-Mined Rock Cavern, Gas Storage as Hydrates, or Gas Storage in Basalt (a CD-ROM publication titled "Advanced Gas Storage Concepts: Technologies for the Future," which contains the final reports of the Lined Rock Cavern, Refrigerated-Mined Rock Cavern, and Gas Storage as Hydrates concepts, is available through the CD-ROM Ordering System at the NETL website <http://www.netl.doe.gov/publications>); (2) development of new ideas for innovative storage alternatives; or (3) development of technological innovations in salt brine disposal to overcome the dominant barrier to developing salt cavern storage in areas remote to ocean disposal. Proposed approaches are anticipated that will include teaming arrangements and can encompass any combination of theory, laboratory validation of concepts, field validation of concepts, proof-of-concept demonstration, or commercial technology demonstration. The overall goal of this solicitation shall be to work toward a demonstration of the storage concept at a commercially scalable size. It is anticipated that the work performed under this action will consist of three (3) phases similar to the following:

Phase I—Concept Definition and Research, Development and Testing (RD&T) Planning;

Phase II—Research, Development and Testing; and,

Phase III—Preliminary Engineering Design of the Storage Technology.

The maximum period of performance for all three (3) phases is estimated at forty-eight (48) months. The goal of this

procurement is to encourage private sector firms to proceed with detailed engineering design and obtain private sector funding for the construction and operation of an advanced natural gas storage technology. It is recognized that each Applicant may propose varying scopes of effort for one or more of the three (3) phases, and consequently, an Applicant is not required to perform all Phase I activities if significant work on Phase I type activities has previously been completed. If the Applicant proposes to initially proceed to Phase II or III efforts, information must be included in their application which demonstrates the merit of the previous research and reference to the results. For successful Applicants proposing to Phase II or III, the cost of work performed by the Recipient to satisfy the Phase I or II requirements prior to the execution of the resulting agreement will not be considered when calculating cost-share. Due to the nature and objective of this solicitation, it is anticipated that a mixture of proposals will be accepted with staggered beginning dates, and it is therefore anticipated that any Applicant selected for award shall proceed on its own schedule, independent of any other application. The schedule will be based on the best estimate of the time it will take the team to complete the three (3)-phase effort, address the objective of the advanced natural gas storage program, and meet the government's target date for completion of the Preliminary Engineering Design.

DOE anticipates multiple cooperative agreement awards under each area of interest resulting from this solicitation, and no fee or profit will be paid to a Recipient or Subrecipient under the awards. This particular program is covered by section 3001 and 3002 of the Energy Policy Act (EPAAct), 42 U.S.C. 13542 for financial assistance awards. EPAAct 3002 requires a cost-share commitment of at least twenty (20) percent from non-Federal sources for research and development projects and at least fifty (50) percent for demonstration and commercial projects. Depending on the phase and maturation stage of the agreement, cost-share expectations will range from 20 to 50 percent. The particular program is also covered by section 2306 of EPAAct, 42 U.S.C. 13525 for financial assistance awards. In order for a company to be eligible for an award under this solicitation, the Applicant must be a United States-owned company. If the Applicant is not a United States-owned company, it must be incorporated or organized in a foreign country that