

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army****Intent To Prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (E-SEIS) for Permitting Continued Mining Operations of PCS Phosphate, White Springs (Hamilton County), Florida**

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division (Corps), has received a request for a modification to Department of the Army permit no. 19840452 for the PCS Phosphate-White Springs mine (PCS Phosphate), located in Hamilton County, Florida. A more minor modification was issued in 1997. The Corps has determined that the proposed modification of the existing permit will involve substantial changes that are relevant to environmental concerns. Therefore, a Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement, dated February 1986 will be prepared.

ADDRESSES: Chief, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Osvaldo Collazo, 904-232-1675.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: PCS Phosphate has been engaged in phosphate mining in its project area in Hamilton County under permits from the Corps, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and Hamilton County. The current Federal permit will expire in 2002. PCS Phosphate has begun the application process with state and Federal regulatory agencies for the permitting of continued mining operations within the company's 100,000-acre project area in Hamilton County. The modification involves mining new sites within the general boundary of the project area. This is the same project area reviewed under the original EIS.

Proposed new mining areas include jurisdictional wetlands. Permit modification would be issued under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, as amended. Permits would be issued under a joint permitting process with the DEP. A new permit would also be required from Hamilton County. Other state, regional, and Federal agencies are expected to participate in the permit evaluation. Mitigation for loss of wetland functions and values is anticipated.

In addition, PCS Phosphate has requested that the DEP initiate a process

under s. 403.752, Florida Statutes for coordinated review and agency actions. The process will be expected to result in a binding ecosystem management agreement, which would include the required state permits and approvals. The ecosystem management agreement process requested by PCS Phosphate includes the opportunity for public participation and comment. The Corps agreed that these public meetings would also serve the purpose of the scoping process and review and the SEIS and permit actions. The first public meeting was held on December 11, 1997. Public comment was initially requested in two areas: (1) the scope of the environmental studies to be performed for support of permitting actions and (2) identification of persons or organizations for both active participation in the process and receipt of periodic mailings. Coordination has included a number of Federal, state, regional, local agencies, and environmental groups including but not limited to the following: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, State Historic Preservation Officer, Suwannee River Water Management District, Hamilton County, Florida Department of Community Affairs, Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, Sierra Club, 4 Rivers Audubon, and Florida Defenders of the Environment.

Scoping: The public meetings provided much information that has served the scoping process. A draft Plan of Study for the Ecosystem Management Agreement and the SEIS has been prepared. This Plan of Study is intended to fulfill the information requirements for all anticipated regulatory actions. The results of the study will be compiled into a Supplemental Technical Background Document (TDB) and analyzed in a SEIS. The document can be made available for review upon request. The Corps will hold a formal public scoping meeting on July 30, 1998. All parties are invited to participate in the scoping process by identifying any additional concerns on issues, studies needed, alternatives, procedures, and other matters related to the scoping process.

Public Participation: We invite the participation of affected Federal, state and local agencies, and other interested private organizations and individuals.

Draft SEIS Preparation: We estimate that the Supplemental TBD will be available to the public on or about mid 1999, and the Draft SEIS will be prepared later that year.

Dated: June 17, 1998.

Marie G. Burns,

Acting Chief, Regulatory Division.

[FR Doc. 98-17483 Filed 6-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-AJ-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**National Assessment Governing Board**

AGENCY: National Assessment Governing Board; Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of Information Collection Activity; Request for Comment.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces a proposed information collection request (ICR) of the National Assessment Governing Board. The information collection is to conduct pilot tests of items developed for use in the proposed voluntary national tests in 4th grade reading and 8th grade mathematics. Before submitting the ICR to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Governing Board is soliciting comments on the information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before August 31, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments identified by "ICR: Voluntary National Tests—Pilot," by mail or in person addressed to Ray Fields, Assistant Director for Policy and Research, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20002. Comments may be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to Ray __ Fields@ED.GOV. Comments sent by e-mail must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

All written comments will be available for public inspection at the address given above from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ray Fields, Assistant Director for Policy and Research, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20002. Telephone: (202) 357-0395, e-mail: Ray __ Fields@ED.GOV.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Information Collection Request**

The National Assessment Governing Board is seeking comments on the following Information Collection Request (ICR).

Type of Review: New.

Title: Pilot Tests for the Voluntary National Tests in 4th Grade Reading and 8th Grade Mathematics.

Affected Entities: Parties affected by this information collection are state, local, Tribal Government or non-public education agencies.

Abstract: Pub. L. 105-78 vests exclusive authority to develop the voluntary national tests in the Governing Board and also prohibits the use of Fiscal Year 1998 funds for pilot testing, field testing, implementation, administration, or distribution of voluntary national tests. If Congress does not prohibit further development of the voluntary national tests after September 30, 1998, the Governing Board intends to begin pilot testing of items (i.e., test questions) in March 1999.

Public Law 105-78 also requires the Governing Board to make four determinations about the voluntary national tests: (1) the extent to which test items selected for use on the tests are free from racial, cultural, or gender bias, (2) whether the test development process and test items adequately assess student reading and mathematics comprehension in the form most likely to yield accurate information regarding student achievement in reading and mathematics, (3) whether the test development process and test items take into account the needs of disadvantaged, limited English proficient, and disabled students, and (4) whether the test development process takes into account how parents, guardians, and students will appropriately be informed about testing content, purpose and uses.

The purpose of the pilot test is to gather data on the test questions in order to construct multiple equated test forms (i.e., test booklets that are essentially interchangeable) in 4th grade reading and in 8th grade mathematics and to provide information related to the four determinations. Test forms would be constructed on the basis of the pilot test data and would be field-tested in March of 2000. The overall purpose of the field-testing is to ensure that the test forms are in fact equated to each other. Test forms developed in this first cycle would be available for use in March 2001. Further item and test development is expected, with pilot testing in March of 2000 and 2001, and field-testing, for respective cycles, in March 2001 and 2002.

Approximately 1,100 test items in 4th grade reading and 1,100 test items in 8th grade mathematics will be pilot tested in March 1999. Individual 4th grade students will respond to 45 reading items; individual 8th grade students

will respond to 60 mathematics items. This is the same number of items that will be on the respective test forms for field-testing. The objective is to produce six equated test forms in reading and in mathematics for the year 2000 field test. Thus, 270 reading test items and 360 mathematics test items are required for the field-test forms. This provides a ratio of pilot tested items to field-tested items of 4:1 for reading and 3:1 for mathematics.

The pilot tests will be conducted on nationally representative samples. The sample size is based on at least 800 students per test item. For 4th grade reading, the March 1999 pilot will involve an estimated 24,000 students in 558 schools. The March 2000 and 2001 pilot tests in 4th grade reading will each involve an estimated 16,000 students in 374 schools. For 8th grade mathematics, the March 1999 pilot test will involve an estimated 19,200 students in 344 schools. The March 2000 and 2001 pilot tests in 8th grade mathematics will each involve an estimated 13,000 students in 231 schools. The reason for the smaller sample sizes in 2000 and 2001 is that the target is to field test four test forms in the second and third development cycles as opposed to six in the first cycle (i.e., March 1999 pilot test, March 2000 field test).

In order to ensure adequate control and proper identification of the booklets of test items, and conduct necessary analyses of the data that results from the information collection, the following background information will be collected on the cover of the booklets of test questions: student name, date of birth, race/ethnicity, and sex (all to be supplied by the student), and special education status, limited English proficiency status, disadvantaged status, test administration accommodations, primary language, the test administrator under contract). Although students will write their name on each booklet for identification purposes during the administration of the pilot test, the students' names will be removed from the booklet shortly after the pilot test. Student names will not be included in the database for analysis and will not leave the school building where pilot testing is taking place. Instead, a unique numeric or alphanumeric identifier will be assigned to each booklet for tracking and analysis purposes. No third party notification or public disclosure burden is associated with this collection.

Burden Statement: The annual burden respondent estimate is based on 90 minutes of testing and 30 minutes of test administration activities (e.g., delivering instructions, handing out and collecting booklets, and providing background

information as described above) per student, or two hours per student. For 4th grade reading, the burden estimate is 48,000 hours in 1999, 32,000 hours in 2000, and 32,000 hours in 2001. For 8th grade mathematics, the burden estimate is 38,400 hours in 1999, 26,000 hours in 2000, and 26,000 hours in 2001. Each respondent is required to respond only once per event. Respondents will be different individuals in different pilot test years.

Participation in the pilot test is voluntary. State, local, and non-public education agencies are not mandated or required to participate.

II. Request for Comments

The National Assessment Governing Board solicits comments to:

(a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Governing Board, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) Evaluate the accuracy of the Governing Board's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

(c) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(d) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

III. Public Record

A record has been established for this action. A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, is available for inspection from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The public record is located in Suite 825, 800 North Capital Street, NW., Washington, DC, 20002. Comments may be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to Ray_Fields@ED.GOV. Comments sent by e-mail must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

The official record for this action, as well as the public version, as described above will be kept in paper form. Accordingly, the National Assessment Governing Board will transfer all comments received electronically into printed, paper form as they are received and will place the paper copies in the official record which will also include all comments submitted directly in

writing. The official record is the paper record maintained at the National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Washington, DC 20002.

List of Subjects

Pilot tests for the voluntary national tests in 4th grade reading and 8th grade mathematics and Information Collection Requests.

Dated: June 25, 1998.

Roy Truby,

Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board.

[FR Doc. 98-17408 Filed 6-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Acting Deputy Chief Information Officer, 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 July 31, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

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 Acting Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this 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.

Hazel Fiers,

Acting Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review:

Title: Application for Seven Foreign Language and Area Studies Programs.

Frequency: Annually or Every 3 Years.

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

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden: Responses: 469; Burden Hours: 43,213.

Abstract: Collect program and budget information to make grants to institution of higher education. This information collection falls under the streamlined process for discretionary grants under OMB Control Number 1890-0001.

Office of the Under Secretary

Type of Review: New.

Title: Local Implementation of Federal Programs.

Frequency: One time.

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

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden: Responses: 849; Burden Hours: 872.

Abstract: The Department of Education is charged with evaluating Title I of ESEA and other elementary and secondary education legislation enacted by the 103rd Congress. These studies will collect information on the operations and effects at the district level of legislative provisions and federal assistance, in the context of state education reform efforts. Findings will

be used in reporting to Congress and improving information dissemination. Respondents are local superintendents, directors of federal programs, directors of research and assessment, and school principals.

No comments were received during the 60-day comment period. Minor revisions have been made to the instrument during the interim. There are two differences between the earlier version of the survey and the revised version being submitted to OMB, the are as follows:

(1) The original survey addressed a wide range of topics concerning the implementation of federal programs, with emphasis on data use, cross-program coordination, intergovernmental relations, and services to homeless children and youth. The revised survey is more focused on data needed for ED reporting to Congress under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). It incorporates a number of data elements required in the Department's Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plans. Questions about services to homeless children and youth have been dropped, and the number of questions about intergovernmental relations and the implementation of specific federal programs has been reduced.

(2) The revised version required a smaller sample. Rather than drawing a large random sample of approximately 1500 districts stratified by poverty and district size as previously planned, the instrument will now draw a smaller random sample of 789 districts that will permit national estimates, but not estimates for distinct strata. Additionally, the entire sample of districts in the ED Study of Education Resources and Funding is being incorporated into this sample so that the two studies can share key data elements.

[FR Doc. 98-17535 Filed 6-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-406-000]

CNG Transmission Corporation; Notice of Informal Settlement Conference

June 25, 1998.

Take notice that an informal settlement conference will be convened in this proceeding on Wednesday, July 1, 1998, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E.,