

will be analyzed; and a recommended plan will be selected.

To solicit public input into the study and into the island selection, up to three public scoping meetings are planned for the late January/early February 2003 timeframe. A newsletter broadcasting the dates, times, and locations will be sent to agencies, groups and individuals on the study's mailing list once the meetings have been scheduled. To verify your inclusion, or to be added in the mailing list, please contact the study team leader, Ms. Michele Bistany (*see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT*).

The study will be conducted in compliance with Section 404 and Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Prime and Unique Farmlands, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Act. All appropriate documentation (*i.e.*, Section 7, Section 106 coordination letters, and public and agency comments) will be obtained and included as part of the EIS.

As part of the EIS process, recommendations will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for the protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which may reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposal, will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, among these are wetlands; fish and wildlife resources; cultural resources; land use; water and air quality; hazardous, toxic, and radioactive substances; threatened and endangered species; regional geology; aesthetics; environmental justice; cumulative impacts; and the general needs and welfare of the public.

The draft EIS for the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island environmental restoration study is expected for public release in July 2005.

**Robert W. Lindner,**

*Chief, Planning Division.*

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**BILLING CODE 3710-41-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

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

**SUMMARY:** The 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 February 18, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments regarding the emergency review 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.

**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 Leader, Regulatory Information Management, 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: January 13, 2003.

**John Tressler,**

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

### Federal Student Aid

*Type of Review:* New Collection.

*Title:* EZ-Audit: Electronic Submission of Financial Statements and Compliance Audits.

*Abstract:* EZ-Audit will support the conversion and electronic submission of financial statements and existing compliance audits as required by 34 CFR 668.23 for all institutions participating in the Title IV, FSA programs.

*Additional Information:* Schools receiving Title IV funding must submit an audit in order to prove that they are financially solvent. Emergency clearance is requested for this collection because if submission is not done in a timely manner, Title IV institutions will be in jeopardy of noncompliance and will also lose funding.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Affected Public:* Not-for-profit institutions (primary), State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

*Responses:* 4000.

*Burden Hours:* 4000.

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. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address [OCIO\\_RIMG@ed.gov](mailto:OCIO_RIMG@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 Joe Schubart at (202) 708-9266. 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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