

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District (Corps), will prepare and circulate a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and 40 CFR 1500 through 1508. The overall purpose of the EIS is to evaluate the environmental, economic, and social consequences related to the issuance of Section 10 and 404 Permits for Commercial Sand and Gravel Dredging in the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers in Pennsylvania. The action area studied includes River Miles 0 to 69.5 on the Allegheny River and River Miles 0 to 40 on the Ohio River. The Corps and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) issue permits for commercial dredging activities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Please address questions or comments regarding this notice to Mr. Albert H. Rogalla, CELRP-OR-F, Pittsburgh District, Corps of Engineers, William S. Moorhead Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186. Submit electronic comments to Irp.sandgraveleis@usace.army.mil

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: a. The commercial dredging companies seek extensions of their Corps Dredging Permits and PADEP Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permits, and PADEP Sand and Gravel License Agreements. These permits may be issued, suspended or modified pending completion of the NEPA process.

b. The purpose of this action is the issuance of permits to extract sand and gravel from the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers for commercial sale. This material supports diverse infrastructure and construction requirements for a variety of customers in the region.

c. Alternatives to be assessed are the complete cessation of commercial river dredging within the study area following denial of permit extensions and the expiration of existing permits held by the applicants; obtaining sand and gravel from the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers by commercial dredging by granting and extending the Department of the Army Section 10 and 404 permits to commercial sand and gravel companies for the removal of sand and gravel between river miles 0-69.5 on the Allegheny River and between river miles 0-40 on the Ohio River; and using land-based operations or importation of sand and gravel from other locations to meet the regional need for this material, implying complete cessation of commercial river dredging (other than for navigational purposes) and denial to

extend existing permits held by the applicants.

d. The Corps has held numerous Stakeholder meetings between 1996 and 2000 in which the scope and direction of the study were discussed. State agencies; federal agencies; a public interest organization; and sand and gravel companies directly impacted by the permit request participated in these discussions.

e. Interested parties are encouraged to send written or electronic comments concerning issues to be addressed, required studies, alternatives, procedures or other related matters or requests for information regarding the proposed study process to the point-of-contact above. All comments and information requests should be postmarked no later than 30 days after this Notice of Intent is published in the **Federal Register**.

f. The EIS will assess the impacts of sand and gravel dredging on various ecological resources including aquatic resources (fish, mussels, threatened and endangered species, and water quality), hydrology, noise, and cultural resources.

g. Appendix B, 33 CFR Part 325, provides that the Corps District Engineer may require the Permit Applicant and/or his/her consultant to provide relevant information for the Corps use in preparing an EIS. The applicants are collecting information to provide to the Corps. Prior to preparation of the Draft EIS, however, the Corps is required to solicit public input into the process.

h. The Corps will schedule a public hearing after the Draft EIS is issued.

i. The Draft EIS is expected to be available to the public no later than June 2002.

Raymond K. Scrocco,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District Engineer.
[FR Doc. 02-129 Filed 1-3-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3701-85-M

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 February 4, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Karen Lee, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address Karen_F_Lee@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: December 31, 2001.

John Tressler,

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

Office of the Undersecretary

Type of Review: New.

Title: Reading Excellence Act: School and Classroom Implementation and Impact Study.

Frequency: Annually.

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

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 1,035

Burden Hours: 735.

Abstract: The Reading Excellence Act School and Classroom Implementation and Impact Study (REA-SCII) is a six-year study to learn about the implementation and impact of the REA legislation on instructional practice in

reading and on student reading achievement. The Study has the following features: (1) A representative sample of 75 schools that have received REA Local Reading Initiative sub-grants; (2) a longitudinal sample of kindergarten students followed through the end of second grade; measures of student reading performance; multiple observations of classroom reading instruction in grades K–2; and surveys of and interview/focus groups with key school and district staff.

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.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 Sheila Carey at (202) 708–5359 or via her internet address 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.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Title: The Evaluation of Exchange, Language, International and Area Studies (EELIAS), NRC, FLAS and IIPP, UISFUL, Business and International Education Program (BIE), Centers for International Business Education Program (CIBE) and American Overseas Research Centers (AORC) (JS).

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions (primary).

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 60

Burden Hours: 2100.

Abstract: BIE, CIBE and AORC are being added for clearance to the system that already contains four other programs. Information collection assist IEGPS in meeting program planning and evaluation requirements. Program officers require performance information to justify continuation funding, and grantees use this information for self evaluations and to request continuation funding from the Department of Education.

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.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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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education; Notice of Request for Public Comment on the Department of Education's Initial Plans for Implementing a Consolidated State Application and a Consolidated Annual Report Under the Reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act

SUMMARY: We invite the public to submit comments on the Department's initial plans under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, for providing formula program grant funding to States on the basis of consolidated applications. Public comments will help the Department develop proposed criteria for submission of consolidated State applications and identify the information to be collected in the annual performance report that is required of each State. The Department expects to publish in February, for public review and comment, a separate notice in the **Federal Register** proposing criteria and procedures to govern the consolidated State application and annual State report.

DATES: Please send your comments on or before January 14, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Please address your comments to Marcia Kingman, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, using one of the following methods:

1. *Internet.* We encourage you to send your comments through the Internet to the following address: marcia.kingman@ed.gov. You should use the term "ESEA Consolidated Plan"

in the subject line of your electronic message.

2. *Fax Machine.* You also may submit your comments by fax machine at (202) 205–5870.

3. *Surface Mail.* Alternatively, you may submit your comments via surface mail addressed to: Marcia Kingman, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 3E213, Washington, DC 20202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marcia Kingman, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 3E213, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 260–2199.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person for information identified in the preceding paragraph.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In mid-December of 2001, the Congress gave final approval to H.R. 1, the No Child Left Behind Act. This bill, which now awaits the President's signature, will substantially revise the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), offering all of America's school children the opportunity and means to achieve academic success. In particular, the bill embodies the four key measures of the President's education reform plan: (1) Stronger accountability for results, (2) expanded flexibility and local control, (3) expanded options for parents, and (4) an emphasis on teaching methods that have been proven to work, particularly in reading instruction.

These measures are designed to produce fundamental reforms in classrooms throughout America. They will provide officials and administrators at the school, school district, and State levels substantial flexibility to plan and implement school programs that will help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged and minority students and their peers. At the same time, the new law will hold school officials accountable—to parents, students, and the public—for achieving results. These and other major changes to the ESEA through the No Child Left Behind Act will redefine the federal role in K–12 education to better focus on improving the academic performance of all American students. The full text of this pending law, and the House-Senate conference report summary of the final bill, may be found on the Internet at: <http://edworkforce.house.gov/issues/107th/education/nclb/nclb.htm>.