

**SUMMARY:** The Director, Information Resources Management Group, 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 12, 1997. A regular clearance process is also beginning. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before April 25, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Wendy Taylor, Desk Officer: Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 7th & D Streets, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651. Written comments regarding the regular clearance and requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651, or should be electronic mailed to the internet address #FIRB@ed.gov, or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

**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 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3506 (c)(2)(A)) 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 Director of the Information Resources Management Group, 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 at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

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 18, 1997.  
Gloria Parker,  
*Director, Information Resources Management Group.*

Office of the Under Secretary

*Type of Review:* NEW.  
*Title:* Study of Barriers, Benefits, and Costs of Using Private Schools to Alleviate Overcrowding in Public Schools.

*Abstract:* This congressionally-mandated study will examine the extent to which private schools (including religious schools) might be used to alleviate overcrowding in urban public schools by accepting public school students in exchange for tuition reimbursement. The study is examining the extent of overcrowding in urban public schools and the extent to which private schools in these areas have spaces available that might be used to accommodate students from overcrowded public schools. The study will also examine the costs that would be involved in such a program (including tuition reimbursement, transportation, and administration), program design and implementation issues that would need to be considered in developing such a proposal, and the

constitutional issues and other legal impediments that might be raised if such a proposal were adopted.

*Additional Information:* The study was mandated in the Conference Report for H.R. 3610 (Report 104-863, September 28, 1996, p. 1060) and is due to the Appropriations Committees by September 1, 1997. An emergency clearance is needed in order to meet this deadline.

*Frequency:* One Time.  
*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.  
*Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*  
Responses: 1,035.  
Burden Hours: 345.

[FR Doc. 97-4410 Filed 2-21-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

### Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.  
**ACTION:** Submission for OMB review; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Director, Information Resources Management Group, 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 March 26, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Wendy Taylor, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, 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, S.W., 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 Director of the Information Resources Management Group 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.

Dated: February 18, 1997.

Gloria Parker,

*Director, Information Resources Management Group.*

Office of Bilingual Education and  
Minority Languages and Affairs

*Type of Review:* REINSTATEMENT.

*Title:* Biennial Report Form for the  
Emergency Immigrant Education  
Program.

*Frequency:* Biennially.

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

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden:*

Responses: 944.

Burden Hours: 5,620.

*Abstract:* This form is used by State educational agencies to submit a biennial report to the Secretary concerning expenditures of EIEP funds by their local educational agencies as well as national origin of immigrant children served under the Emergency Immigrant Education Act (Title VI of Public Law 98-511, 20 U.S.C. 4101-4108, as amended by Pub. L. 103-382, 20 U.S.C. 7541-7549).

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Energy Research

#### Energy Research Financial Assistance Program Notice 97-09: Biotechnological Investigations— Ocean Margin Program (BI-OMP)

**AGENCY:** Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice inviting research grant applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Health and Environmental Research (OHER) of the Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces its interest in receiving research applications involving the use of molecular biological and biogeochemical techniques to understand the linkages between coastal carbon and nitrogen cycles (primary production and microbial processes) in the Northern and Temperate latitudes. This information is crucial to the responses of ocean margin ecosystems to atmospheric radiative budgets and global biogeochemical cycles. Specifically, DOE seeks applications to:

- Apply new and innovative techniques in marine molecular biology and marine biotechnology to assess fixation of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, determine the mechanisms and processes that control the dynamics of nitrogen fixation or denitrification in coastal waters and sediments, define the coupling and/or decoupling of carbon and nitrogen cycles in coastal environments, and determine the linkages between the function and structure of microbial communities mediating carbon and nitrogen cycling in coastal environments, and
- Examine the environmental factors (including nutrient availability, temperature, irradiance, and biopolymer lability) that affect the linkages between primary productivity, the utilization of particulate and dissolved organic matter (POM and DOM) by bacterial populations, and nitrogen cycling in coastal areas.

Applications must involve mutually collaborative partnerships between institutions with a strong tradition of research in marine sciences and those institutions with developing research capabilities in marine science. Partnerships are particularly encouraged with institutions that traditionally have served groups underrepresented in the sciences. The goals of such collaborative research projects are to enhance the research capabilities of both institutions, to promote significant interactions between institutions, and to

foster long term collaboration among investigators.

**DATES:** To permit timely consideration for awards in Fiscal Year 1997 and early Fiscal Year 1998, formal applications submitted in response to this notice should be received by 4:30 p.m., E.D.T., May 6, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Formal applications referencing Program Notice 97-09 should be forwarded to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Research, Grants and Contracts Division, ER-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, ATTN: Program Notice 97-09. This address also must be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or any commercial mail delivery service, or when hand-carried by the applicant.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Anna Palmisano, Environmental Sciences Division, ER-74, Office of Health and Environmental Research, Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, telephone (301) 903-4183, e-mail anna.palmisano@oer.doe.gov, fax (301) 903-8519.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The primary research goal of the Biotechnological Investigations—Ocean Margin Program is to establish a more thorough understanding of the molecular to global scale links and feedback mechanisms between solar irradiance, marine microbial activity, primary productivity, carbon and nitrogen cycles and remotely-sensed ocean color data. This information is crucial to understanding the responses of marine biological systems to changes in atmospheric radiative budgets and global biogeochemical cycles.

#### Program Relationships

The Biotechnological Investigations—Ocean Margins Program is expected to build on past research results and accomplishments within the Ocean Margins Program (OMP) component of the Biological and Environmental Research (BER) program. The main objective of OMP was determining whether primary productivity on continental shelves is quantitatively significant in removing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere. Other objectives of the OMP were: (1) Quantifying the ecological and biogeochemical processes that affect the cycling, flux, and storage of carbon and other biogenic elements at the land/ocean interface; and (2) Defining ocean margin sources and sinks in global biogeochemical cycles.