

property by negotiation or by competitive bid, are left to the Federal agency's discretion. Selecting a method of disposal implicates a broad range of factors and rests solely within the Secretary of the Navy's discretion.

Conclusion

The LRA's proposed reuse of NAWC Warminster, reflected in the Reuse Plan, is consistent with the requirements of the FPMR and Section 174.4 of the DoD Rule. The LRA has determined in its Reuse Plan that the property should be used for various purposes including residential, commercial, municipal, assisted living, low income and homeless assistance, and parks and recreational activities. The property's location, physical characteristics, and existing infrastructure as well as the current uses of adjacent property make it appropriate for the proposed uses.

The Reuse Plan responds to local economic conditions, promotes rapid economic recovery from the impact of the closure of NAWC Warminster, and is consistent with President Clinton's Five-Part Plan for Revitalizing Base Closure Communities, which emphasizes local economic redevelopment and creation of new jobs as the means to revitalize these communities. 32 CFR parts 174 and 175, 59 FR 16,123 (1994).

Although the "No Action" Alternative has less potential for causing adverse environmental impacts, this Alternative would not take advantage of the property's location, physical characteristics, and infrastructure or the current uses of adjacent property. Additionally, it would not foster local economic redevelopment of the NAWC Warminster property.

The acquiring entities, under the direction of Federal, State, and local agencies with regulatory authority over protected resources, will be responsible for adopting practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm that may result from implementing the Reuse Plan.

Accordingly, Navy will dispose of the surplus Federal property at Naval Air Warfare Center, Aircraft Division, Warminster, Pennsylvania, in a manner that is consistent with the Federal Lands Reuse Authority of Bucks County's Reuse Plan for the property.

Dated: October 15, 1999.

William J. Cassidy, Jr.,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy
(Conversion And Redevelopment).*

Dated: October 27, 1999.

J.L. Roth,

*Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate
General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register
Liaison Officer.*

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BILLING CODE 3810-FF-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education requests comments on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that the Secretary proposed to use for the 2001-2002 year. The FAFSA is completed by students and their families and the information submitted on the form is used to determine the students' eligibility and financial need for financial aid under the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, (Title IV, HEA Programs).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before January 3, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and 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.

In addition, interested persons can access this document on the Internet:

- (1) Go to IFAP at <http://ifap.ed.gov>.
- (2) Click on the "Bookshelf" or on "Current SFA Publications".
- (3) Scroll down and click on "FAFSAs and Renewal FAFSAs".
- (4) Click on "By 2001-2002 Award Year".
- (5) Click on "FAFSA Form/Instructions".

Please note that the free Adobe Acrobat Reader software, version 3.0 or greater, is necessary to view this file. This software can be downloaded for free from Adobe's website: <http://www.adobe.com>.

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 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), requires the Secretary, "in cooperation with agencies and organizations involved in providing student financial assistance," to "produce, distribute and process free of charge a common financial reporting form to be used to determine the need and eligibility of a student under" the Title IV, HEA Programs. This form is the FAFSA. In addition, Section 483 authorizes the Secretary to include non-financial data items that assist States in awarding State student financial assistance.

The Secretary requests comments on the draft 2001-2002 FAFSA that has been posted to the IFAP website (see above). In particular, the Secretary seeks comments on the following changes under consideration to the 2001-2002 FAFSA. References to the current FAFSA are to the 2000-2001 FAFSA.

- Revision of "dependents other than a spouse" question. Applicants who have dependents other than a spouse are considered "independent," and are therefore not required to report parental information on the FAFSA. "Dependents other than a spouse" includes, (1) children supported by the applicant, and (2) non-children dependents who live with and are supported by the applicant. The current FAFSA asks for both of these categories of dependents in a single question. In order to make the application easier to understand, the Secretary is considering splitting this into two separate questions.

- Business and investment farm net worth. As part of the continuing effort to simplify the FAFSA, the Secretary proposes to ask for business net worth and investment farm net worth in a single question.

- Two untaxed income worksheets. The current FAFSA collects untaxed income information through Worksheet A (and a separate earned income credit (EIC) question on the form itself). Some states and schools have indicated that the current Worksheet A is not useful for identifying particularly needy students. Some untaxed income is an indicator of need (e.g., welfare benefits, social security benefits) and some untaxed income is not (e.g., payments to tax-deferred pension and savings plans, tax exempt interest income). For 2001-2002, the Secretary proposes to split the current Worksheet A into a "non-needy" untaxed income worksheet

(Worksheet A) and a "needy" untaxed income worksheet (Worksheet B). The EIC question on the current form would be incorporated into the new Worksheet B. The current Worksheet B, which collects income exclusions, would become Worksheet C.

Note: A school suggested grouping untaxed income items by whether or not they had a tax form reference. The Secretary solicits comments on this suggestion in light of the proposed change to the current Worksheet A, above.

- **Grade level.** A school suggested that we add an additional code to the grade level question to differentiate first-year graduate/professional students from continuing graduate/professional students. The Secretary seeks comments on this proposed change.

In addition to comments on the draft 2001–2002 FAFSA, the Secretary requests comments on the following issues related to the FAFSA:

- **Special circumstances.** We received a suggestion to add a "check-off block" to the FAFSA to indicate special circumstances (e.g., reduced income or dependency issues). The Secretary solicits comments on this suggestion.

- **Net worth of assets.** In the redesign of the 1999–2000 FAFSA, separate value and debt questions about assets were combined into single net worth questions. The Secretary invites comment on any effect that this change has made on the delivery of student financial aid.

- **Single identifier.** The Secretary is considering switching from the current, six-digit "Federal School Code" to a single, eight-digit identifier in the "school codes" section of the FAFSA (Step Six).

The Secretary is publishing this request for comment under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* Under that Act, ED must obtain the review and approval of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before it may use a form to collect information. However, under the procedure for obtaining approval from OMB, ED must first obtain public comment of the proposed form, and to obtain that comment, ED must publish this notice in the **Federal Register**.

In addition to comments requested above, to accommodate the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Secretary is interested in receiving comments with regard to the following matters: (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: October 28, 1999.

William E. Burrow,

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

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Individuals and families.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden:

Responses: 11,134,376

Burden Hours: 7,073,050

Abstract: The FAFSA collects identifying and financial information about a student applying for Title IV, Higher Education Act (HEA) Program funds. This information is used to determine the student's financial need. The information is also used to determine the student's eligibility for grants and loans under the Title IV, HEA Programs. It is further used for determining a student's eligibility for State and institutional financial aid programs.

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BILLING CODE 4001–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Restricted Eligibility in Support of Advanced Coal Research at U.S. Colleges and Universities

AGENCY: Federal Energy Technology Center (FETC), Pittsburgh, Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Issuance of Financial Assistance Solicitation.

SUMMARY: FETC announces that, pursuant to 10 CFR 600.8(a)(2), and in support of advanced coal research to U.S. colleges and universities, it intends to conduct a competitive Program Solicitation and award financial assistance grants to qualified recipients. Proposals will be subjected to a comparative merit review by a technical panel of DOE subject-matter experts and external peer reviewers. Awards will be made to a limited number of proposers based on: the scientific merit of the proposals, application of relevant program policy factors, and the availability of funds.

DATES: This solicitation (available in both WordPerfect 6.1 and Portable Document Format (PDF)) will be released on DOE's FETC Internet site (<http://fetc-ip.fetc.doe.gov/business/solicit/2000sol.html>) on or about October 25, 1999. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions in the Program Solicitation and must be received at FETC by December 13, 1999. Prior to submitting your application to the solicitation, periodically check the FETC Website for any amendments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Ms. Debra A. Duncan, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Technology Center, P.O. Box 10940 (MS 921–107), Pittsburgh, PA 15236–0940; Telephone: 412–386–5700; Facsimile: 412–386–6137; e-mail: duncan@fetc.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through Program Solicitation DE–PS26–00FT40676, the DOE is interested in applications from U.S. colleges and universities, as well as university-affiliated research centers submitting applications through their respective universities. Applications will be selected to complement and enhance research being conducted in related Fossil Energy programs. Applications may be submitted individually (*i.e.*, by only one college/university) or jointly (*i.e.*, by "teams" made up of (1) three or more colleges/universities, or (2) two or more colleges/universities and at least one industrial partner. Collaboration, in the form of joint proposals, is *encouraged* but not required.

Eligibility. Applications submitted in response to this solicitation must address coal research in one of the key focus areas of the Core Program or as outlined in the Innovative Concepts Program.

Background. The current landscape of the U.S. energy industry, not unlike that in other parts of the world, is undergoing a transformation driven by changes such as deregulation of power generation, more stringent environmental standards and regulations, climate change concerns, and other market forces. With these changes come new players and a refocusing of existing players in providing energy services and products. The traditional settings of how energy (both electricity and fuel) is generated, transported, and utilized are likely to be very different in the coming decades. As market, policy, and regulatory forces evolve and shape the energy industry both domestically and globally, the opportunity exists for university, government, and industry partnerships to invest in advanced fossil energy