

application will address how the applicant plans to document student eligibility, including documentation of attendance.

6. Another major concern of the Department is that an applicant be committed as an institution to the success of its proposed activities. One way for an institution to demonstrate its commitment would be for the institution to include with its application a letter from its chief executive officer (or comparable official) expressing support for the application and acknowledgement of the responsibilities that the institution would assume if it were approved. Correspondingly, in the case of a consortium applicant, the submission of such a letter from the chief executive officer (or comparable official) of each of the participating institutions would demonstrate such commitment.

Regional Meetings

Interested parties are invited to attend one of four regional meetings where information, advice, and technical assistance will be provided about applying to participate in the Distance Education Demonstration Program and providing Federal financial aid to students enrolled in distance education programs. The regional meetings will begin with a brief description of eligibility requirements for the Distance Education Demonstration Program and the application and selection processes for this program. Individuals will then be provided an opportunity to ask questions regarding the application process and other matters relating to the Distance Education Demonstration Program. Department of Education staff with expertise on various issues relating to the Distance Education Demonstration Program will be available to answer these questions. Questions regarding eligibility and administration of Title IV, HEA student financial assistance programs may be relevant to institutions' interest in applying for the Distance Education Demonstration Program. Accordingly, during the course of the meeting, Department staff will also address questions that relate generally to the administration of aid in distance education programs.

For each of the meetings the Department of Education has reserved a limited number of hotel rooms at a special per diem room rate. To reserve these rates (see the exception for the November meeting) be certain to inform the hotel that you are attending the regional meetings with the Department of Education. The meeting sites are accessible to individuals with

disabilities. The Department will provide a sign language interpreter at each of the scheduled hearings. An individual with a disability who will need an auxiliary aid or service other than an interpreter to participate in the meeting (e.g., assistive listening device, or materials in an alternative format) should notify the contact person listed in this notice at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although the Department will attempt to meet a request received after that date, the requested auxiliary aid or service may not be available because of insufficient time to arrange it.

Dates, Times, and Locations of Regional Meetings

1. October 18, 2000, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Office of Postsecondary Education Conference Center, 1990 K Street, NW., 8th floor, Washington, DC 20006. Rooms available for October 17 at Embassy Square, 2000 N Street, NW., Washington, DC, 20036. Call (202) 659-9000 for reservations. Sleeping room rate \$118.00 plus taxes. Reservations must be made by October 1. Identify yourself as a participant in the Department of Education regional meeting.

2. November 1, 2000, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Albuquerque, New Mexico prior to the annual meeting of the Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications. Hyatt Regency Hotel, 330 Tijeras NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102, 800-233-1234 or reserve online: <http://www.hyatt.com/albuq/gwich/index.html> Reference Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications in making reservation. Sleeping room rates, single \$118 plus taxes; double \$128 plus taxes. Reservations must be made by September 30.

3. November 9, 2000, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Chicago, Illinois, Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605, 800-635-1666, (312) 427-3800. Sleeping room rate, \$130 plus taxes. Reservations must be made by October 8, 2000. Identify yourself as a participant in the Department of Education regional meeting.

4. November 29, 2000, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Seattle, Washington, Claremont Hotel, 2000 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121, 877-448-8601, (206) 448-8600. Sleeping room rate \$104 plus taxes. Reservations must be made by November 13. Identify yourself as a participant in the Department of Education regional meeting.

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1093.

A. Lee Fritschler,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 00-24341 Filed 9-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.305T]

Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI); Field-Initiated Studies (FIS) Education Research Grant Program; Notice of Application Review Procedures for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2001

SUMMARY: On July 14, 2000 we published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 43957) a notice inviting applications for new awards for FY 2001 for the FIS Education Research Grant Program. The procedures governing the review of applications are contained in 34 CFR part 700. This notice explains modifications to those procedures that OERI will use to review applications for this competition.

Application Review Procedure

OERI will use a one-tier review process for the FIS program competition for FY 2001. Applications will be assigned to review panels where the expertise of the panel matches the topic of the application. Within each panel, each application will be reviewed by at least three reviewers. Three selection criteria were included in the application package—National Significance, Quality of the Project Design, and Quality and Potential Contributions of Personnel. Reviewers will weigh the three selection criteria equally to rate each application as either—

(1) Exceptionally high quality,

- (2) High quality,
- (3) Moderate quality, or
- (4) Low quality.

To construct the funding slate, an average numerical score will be determined for each application through the following procedure. For each application, a numerical value of 3 will be assigned for each rating of exceptionally high quality that the application receives, a numerical value of 2 will be assigned for each rating of high quality that the application receives, a numerical value of 1 will be assigned for each rating of moderate quality that the application receives, and a numerical value of 0 will be assigned for each rating of low quality that the application receives. Then, for each application, the total of the numeric scores the application receives will be divided by the number of reviewers who rated that application to determine the average score for that application.

For this competition, potential applicants were invited to submit letters of intent. In the letter of intent, applicants identified the panel they thought was best suited to review their application. Applicants are hereby notified that the data in the letters of intent were collected for administrative purposes only. OERI reserves the right to assign any application to any panel where the agency believes the reviewers are best qualified to review that application.

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking

In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553), it is the practice of the Secretary to offer interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations. However, because this notice merely establishes procedural requirements for review of applications and does not create substantive policy, proposed rulemaking is not required under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Payer, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW., room 502e, Washington, DC 20208-5645. Telephone: (202) 219-1310 or via Internet: Elizabeth_Payer@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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

listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

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Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 6031(c)(2)(B).

Dated: September 19, 2000.

C. Kent McGuire,

Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

[FR Doc. 00-24391 Filed 9-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Nevada

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Nevada Test Site. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Wednesday, October 4, 2000, 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Conference Center, 1750 South Pahrump Valley Blvd., Pahrump, Nevada.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin Rohrer, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management, P.O. Box 98518, Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8513, phone: 702-295-0197, fax: 702-295-5300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Advisory Board is to make

recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

Tentative Agenda:

1. Stewardship.
2. Groundwater.

Copies of the final agenda will be available at the meeting.

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Committee either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Kevin Rohrer, at the telephone number listed above. Requests must be received 5 days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. This notice is being published less than 15 days before the date of the meeting due to programmatic issues that needed to be resolved.

Minutes: The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585 between 9:00 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to Kevin Rohrer at the address listed above.

Issued at Washington, DC on September 19, 2000.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-24398 Filed 9-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Oak Ridge Reservation

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) Oak Ridge. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Wednesday, October 11, 2000, 6 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Garden Plaza Hotel, 215 S. Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Adler, Federal Coordinator,