

*Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:* Responses: 25,000; Burden Hours: 2,000.

**Abstract:** The information collected will aid in the monitoring of contractors and non-Federal trainers. It will also measure the effectiveness of training offered to financial aid administrators, counselors, fiscal officers, and other administrators participating in student financial aid and other Federal programs.

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**Recognition of Accrediting Agencies, State Agencies for Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational Education, and State Agencies for Approval of Nurse Education**

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Request for Comments on Agencies applying to the Secretary for Initial Recognition or Renewal of Recognition.

**DATES:** Commentors should submit their written comments by August 23, 1996, to the address below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Karen W. Kershenstein, Director, Accreditation and State Liaison Division, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 3915 ROB-3, Washington, DC 20202-5244, telephone: (202) 708-7417.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

**SUBMISSION OF THIRD-PARTY COMMENTS:**

The Secretary of Education recognizes, as reliable authorities as to the quality of education offered by institutions or programs within their scope, accrediting agencies and State approval agencies for public postsecondary vocational education and nurse education that meet certain criteria for recognition. The purpose of this notice is to invite interested third parties to present written comments on the agencies listed in this notice that have applied for initial or continued recognition. All comments received in response to this notice will be reviewed by Department staff as part of its evaluation of the agencies' compliance with the criteria for recognition. In order for Department staff to give full consideration to the comments received, the comments must arrive at the address listed above not later than August 23 1996. Comments must relate to the Secretary's Criteria for

the Recognition of Accrediting Agencies. Comments pertaining to agencies whose Interim Reports will be reviewed must be restricted to the concerns raised in the Secretary's letter for which the report is requested.

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (the "Advisory Committee") advises the Secretary of Education on the recognition of accrediting agencies and State approval agencies. The Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet November 20-22, 1996 in Washington, DC. All written comments received by the Department in response to this notice will be considered by both the Advisory Committee and the Secretary. A subsequent Federal Register notice will announce the meeting and invite individuals and/or groups to submit requests for oral presentation before the Advisory Committee on the agencies being reviewed. That notice, however, does not constitute another call for written comment. This notice is the only call for written comment.

The following agencies will be reviewed during the November 1996 meeting of the Advisory Committee:

Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies and Associations

*Petitions for Renewal of Recognition*

1. Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges (requested scope of recognition: the accreditation of bible colleges and institutes offering undergraduate programs)
2. American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (requested scope of recognition: the accreditation of generic nurse anesthesia educational programs/schools)
3. Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (requested scope of recognition: the accreditation of units within institutions offering professional undergraduate and graduate (master's) degree programs)
4. The American Dietetic Association (requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of coordinated undergraduate programs in dietetics and post-baccalaureate dietetics internships)
5. American Physical Therapy Association (requested scope of recognition: the accreditation of professional programs for the physical therapist and programs for the physical therapy assistant)
6. Distance Education and Training Council (requested scope of recognition: the accreditation of home study schools, including associate, baccalaureate, or master's degree-granting home study schools)

7. Liaison Committee on Medical Education (requested scope of recognition: the accreditation programs leading to the M.D. degree)
8. Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher Education (requested scope of recognition: the accreditation of higher education institutions in Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands)
9. National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (requested scope of recognition: the accreditation of baccalaureate programs in environmental health science and protection)
10. Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of Christian postsecondary institutions that offer certificates, diplomas and associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees)

*Interim Reports* (An interim report is a follow-up report on an accrediting agency's compliance with specific criteria for recognition that was requested by the Secretary when the Secretary granted recognition to the agency)—

1. American Academy for Liberal Education
2. American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
3. American Bar Association, Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar
4. American Optometric Association
5. American Podiatric Medical Association
6. Council on Naturopathic Medical Education
7. Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education
8. National Accreditation Commission for Schools and Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
9. National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences
10. National Association of Schools of Dance
11. National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
12. New York State Board of Regents

State Agencies Recognized for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational Education

*Petition for Renewal of Recognition*

1. Oklahoma State Board of Regents for Higher Education

*Interim Report*

1. New York State Board of Regents (Vocational Education Unit)

## State Agencies Recognized for the Approval of Nurse Education

### Interim Report

#### 1. New York State Board of Regents (Nursing Education Unit)

In accordance with the Federal policy governing the granting of academic degrees by Federal agencies (approved by letter from the Director, Bureau of the Budget, to the Secretary, Health, Education, and Welfare, dated December 23, 1954), the Secretary of Education is required to establish a review committee to advise the Secretary concerning any legislation that may be proposed which would authorize the granting of degrees by a Federal agency. The review committee forwards its recommendation concerning a Federal agency's proposed degree-granting authority to the Secretary, who then forwards the committee's recommendation to the Office of Management and Budget for review and transmittal to the Congress. The Secretary uses the Advisory Committee as the review committee required for this purpose. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee will review the following institution at its November meeting:

#### *Proposed Bachelor's Degree-Granting Authority*

#### 1. Joint Military Intelligence College, Bolling Air Force Base (for Bachelor of Science in Intelligence)

#### Public Inspection of Petitions and Third-Party Comments

All petitions and interim reports, and those third-party comments received in advance of this meeting, will be available for public inspection and copying at the U.S. Department of Education, ROB-3, Room 3915, 7th and D Streets, SW., Washington, DC 20202-5244, telephone (202) 708-7417 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is preferred that an appointment be made in advance of such inspection or copying.

Dated: July 2, 1996.

David A. Longanecker,  
Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 96-17348 Filed 7-8-96; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment on the Proposed Sale of Surplus Natural and Low-Enriched Uranium

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the sale of natural uranium and low-enriched uranium located at the gaseous diffusion plants in Portsmouth, Ohio, and Paducah, Kentucky. DOE will prepare the EA pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations, and the Department's NEPA regulations. The EA will describe: (1) the purpose and need for action by the Department; (2) the Department's proposed action; (3) alternatives (including a no-action alternative) to the proposed action; and (4) the potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be addressed to: Mr. John Kotek, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, NE-1, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20585. Requests to receive copies of the draft EA, when available for review, should also be directed to Mr. Kotek. Mr. Kotek may be contacted by telephone at (202) 586-6823, or by facsimile at (202) 586-0698.

**DATES:** DOE anticipates that it will issue a draft EA by July 30, 1996, which it will forward for review by affected states, Indian tribes, and other parties who have expressed an interest in the proposed action or requested a copy of the draft for review. The Department will accept comments on the EA for 30 days following issuance of the draft EA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general information on DOE's NEPA process, contact Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20585. Ms. Borgstrom may be contacted by leaving a message at (800) 472-2756 or by calling (202) 586-4600.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

DOE owns substantial amounts of natural uranium and low-enriched uranium (LEU) in excess of the Department's current needs. The Department has declared about 21.5

million pounds of these materials to be surplus. About 20.3 million pounds of these materials contain the uranium isotope U-235 in concentrations (0.711 percent) equivalent to natural uranium; about 1.2 million pounds contain U-235 concentration of 4.5 percent, and are therefore classified as LEU. The LEU is stored at the gaseous diffusion plant in Portsmouth, Ohio; the 20.3 million pounds of natural uranium are stored at Paducah, Kentucky. In addition to these 21.5 million pounds, the Department will receive title to another 14.2 million pounds of natural uranium associated with the United States/Russia Highly Enriched Uranium Purchase Agreement (Russian HEU Agreement).<sup>1</sup> These 14.2 million pounds are located at the Paducah gaseous diffusion plant and will remain under the control and ownership of the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) until ownership is transferred to DOE before the end of 1996.

Congress has imposed a number of requirements on the sale and use of these materials. Section 3112(b)(1) of the United States Enrichment Corporation Privatization Act of 1996 (USEC Privatization Act, Public Law 104-134) requires that DOE sell within seven years the 14.2 million pounds of natural uranium associated with the U.S./Russia HEU Agreement. Under section 3112(b)(2), DOE may sell this natural uranium: (1) for overfeeding of enrichment operations in the United States at any time; (2) for end use outside of the United States at any time; (3) to the Russian Executive Agent in 1995 and 1996 for use in matched sales pursuant to the Suspension Agreement;<sup>2</sup> or (4) in 2001 for end use in the United States beginning in 2002 in amounts not to exceed 3 million pounds annually.

As to the 21.5 million pounds of natural uranium and low-enriched uranium DOE already has in its inventory, Congress did not mandate

<sup>1</sup> In the U.S./Russia HEU Agreement, the United States and Russia agreed that USEC, as the United States' Executive Agent, would purchase low-enriched uranium derived from 500 metric tons of highly enriched uranium extracted from nuclear weapons dismantled in Russia.

<sup>2</sup> The Suspension Agreement, also referred to as the "Agreement to Suspend Investigation on Uranium from the Russia Federation, as amended," settled an investigation into whether Russia was dumping uranium into the United States market. It established a mechanism known as "matched sales arrangements" in which imports of Russian uranium are linked with sales of uranium newly produced in the United States. In a matched sale, one-half of the uranium sold is Russian and the other one-half is new domestic production. There are annual quotas on the amount of matched sales through 2004, when the Suspension Agreement expires.