

Dated: December 24, 1997.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Assessment Governing Board; Meeting

AGENCY: National Assessment Governing Board; Education.

ACTION: Notice of partially closed meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Assessment Governing Board. This notice also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

DATES: January 21 and 22, 1998.

Time: January 21, Executive committee, 5:00-6:00 p.m., (open), 6:00-7:00 p.m., (closed); Full Board, 7:00-8:30 p.m., (open). January 22, Full Board, 8:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m., (open); 10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m., (closed); 11:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m., (open).

Location: Capital Hilton Hotel, 1001 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Ann Wilmer, Operations Officer, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20002-4233, Telephone: (202) 357-6938.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Assessment Governing Board is established under section 412 of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994 (Title IV of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994), (Pub. L. 103-382).

The Board is established to formulate policy guidelines for the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The Board is responsible for selecting subject areas to be assessed, developing assessment objectives, identifying appropriate achievement goals for each grade and subject tested, and establishing standards and procedures for interstate and national comparisons. Under P.L. 105-78, the National Assessment Governing Board is also granted exclusive authority over developing Voluntary National Tests pursuant to contract number RJ97153001 and is required to review within 90 days (i.e., by February 11, 1998) and modify the contract to the extent the Board determines necessary,

if the contract cannot be modified to the extent the Board determines necessary, the contract shall be terminated, and a new contract negotiated.

On January 21, in open session, 5:00-6:00 p.m., the Executive Committee will hear a proposal to use the NAEP 12th grade sample in future longitudinal studies related to student educational patterns beyond high school. Then, the Executive Committee will meet in closed session from 6:00-7:00 p.m., to discuss cost estimates for the FY 1998 NAEP contract and cost estimates for the Request for Proposals for the 2000-2002 NAEP contract. Public disclosure of this information would likely have an adverse financial affect on the NAEP program. The discussion of this information would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action if conducted in open session. Such matters are protected by exemption (9)(B) of Section 552b(c) of Title 5 U.S.C.

Also, on January 21, from 7:00-8:30 p.m., the full Board will hear a presentation on the TIMSS project and view a video on the same subject.

On January 22, the full Board will convene. In open session, 8:00 to 10:15 a.m., the Board will approve the agenda, hear the Executive Director's report, and receive a report from the Special Committee to Review the Voluntary National Tests Contract. From 10:15 to 11:15 a.m., the Board will meet in closed session to discuss the Special Committee's recommendations concerning cost estimates for development of the Voluntary National Tests, and proposed staffing patterns for implementation of the requirements of the Voluntary National Tests contract. This information relates to the source selection criteria by which government contracts may be modified or awarded. Not only would the disclosure of such data implicate proscriptions set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulations, but also such disclosure would significantly frustrate a proposed agency action. Specifically, disclosure of the Board's discussion prematurely, including contract specifications and government cost estimates, could affect private decisions made by the contractor which might damage the financial interests of the government as a whole, by, for example, increasing the costs to the government, and might make it impossible for the two sides to reach agreement. Such matters are protected by exemption 9B of Section 552b(c) of Title 5 U.S.C.

Beginning at 11:15 a.m., until adjournment, approximately 4:30 p.m., the Board will convene in open session. Agenda items for this open portion

include Board discussion and action on other Special Committee recommendations. Also, the Board will hear an update on the reviews of the reading and math Voluntary National Tests specifications that were conducted by Subject Area Committees #1 and #2.

Summaries of the activities of the closed sessions and related matters, which are informative to the public and consistent with the policy of Section 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), will be available to the public within 14 days of the meeting.

Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the U.S. Department of Education, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, DC, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Dated: December 30, 1997.

Roy Truby,

Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board.

[FR Doc. 98-137 Filed 1-2-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Environment, Safety and Health; Continuation of Solicitation for Epidemiology and Other Health Studies Financial Assistance Program (Notice 98-01)

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Annual notice of continuation of potential availability of grants and cooperative agreements.

SUMMARY: The Office of Health Studies within the Office of Environment, Safety and Health of the Department of Energy (DOE) announces its continuing interest in receiving applications or pre-applications for grants and cooperative agreements for occupational and environmental health studies of DOE employees and DOE contractors, as well as related DOE international health programs, concerning nuclear weapons research, development, production, use, storage, and dismantling.

DATES: Deadlines for applications or pre-applications will be contained in separate notices of Availability to be published at a later time in the **Federal Register** that will address specific program areas to be funded by the Office of Health Studies in fiscal year 1998. All applications accepted under these subsequent notices must be received by the Office of Health Studies on or before September 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: After the issuance of a Notice of Availability, applicants may obtain additional information from Dr.

Paul Seligman, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Health Studies (EH-6), U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290; facsimile: 301-903-3445; telephone: 301-903-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The policies and procedures governing the purpose and scope, program areas, eligibility, application requirements, evaluation criteria, and selection procedures for the Office of Health Studies Financial Assistance Program, were published in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 5838) on January 31, 1995, and codified at 10 CFR part 602. Proposed research applications and pre-applications must comply with the requirements set forth in part 602.

The three offices within the Office of Health Studies (the Office of International Health Programs, the Office of Occupational Medicine and Medical Surveillance, and the Office of Epidemiologic Studies) promote studies to identify and assess the health risks associated with occupational or environmental exposures to ionizing radiation or toxic chemicals in the following populations: employees of DOE and DOE contractors (particularly those at high risk for exposure to ionizing radiation or toxic chemicals), residents of communities near DOE facilities, and populations throughout the world at high risk for exposure to ionizing radiation or toxic chemicals resulting from accidental exposures or proximity to nuclear or other energy-related facilities. Access to and use of information for conducting studies under this notice will comply with the Privacy Act of 1974 and DOE policies 60 FR 33510 regarding existing systems of records published June 28, 1995.

For fiscal year 1998, the Office of Health Studies estimates that approximately \$500,000 will be available for grants or cooperative agreements from the Office of International Health Programs. The number of awards made will depend on the number of applications received for which the results of competitive merit review are favorable.

The Office of Occupational Medicine and Medical Surveillance and the Office of Epidemiologic Studies do not anticipate having funds available to support either cooperative agreements or grants during fiscal year 1998 for epidemiologic studies of the DOE workforce or communities near DOE facilities.

Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between DOE and the Department of Health and Human Services, published March 7, 1991 (56

FR 9701) and extended through fiscal year 2000, additional funds for occupational health studies may be available through the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). See 62 FR 24657, published May 6, 1997, or contact Mr. Larry Elliott, Chief, Health-Related Energy Research Branch, NIOSH, Mail Stop R-44, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226; telephone: 513-841-4400; fax: 513-841-4470; or e-mail: lje1@cdc.gov; or Dr. Roy M. Fleming, Associate Director for Grants, CDC, NIOSH, 1600 Clifton Road, N.E., Building 1, Room 3053, Mail Stop: D-30, Atlanta, Georgia 30333; telephone: 404-639-3343; fax: 404-639-2196; or e-mail: rmf2@cdc.gov. Information on NIOSH grants is also available through the Internet. The NIOSH homepage address is: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html>. Once on the homepage, take the following steps to find information on grant funding opportunities: (1) Scroll down to, and click on, Funding Opportunities/Extramural Programs; (2) click again on Current Funding Opportunities; (3) click on Research Grants; (4) scroll down to Past Funding Opportunities; and (5) click on Announcement No. 740. This is a general announcement that is reissued annually.

The National Center for Environmental Health of CDC funds radiation-related research in the community setting, including dose reconstruction studies, and anticipates making available additional funding in fiscal year 1998 for research grants. For current information, contact Mr. Paul Renard, Radiation Studies Branch, NCEH, 4770 Buford Highway, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30341; telephone: 404-488-7040.

DOE is under no obligation to pay for any cost associated with the preparation or submission of any application. DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this notice. Results of studies carried out as grants or cooperative agreements with the Office of Health Studies will be made available to DOE workers, to the public, and to managers responsible for protecting worker health and safety. Data will be made available through DOE's Comprehensive Epidemiologic Data Resource.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 22, 1997.

Paul J. Seligman,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Studies.

[FR Doc. 98-107 Filed 1-2-98; 8:45am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Research and Office of Environmental Management

Energy Research Financial Assistance Program Notice 98-08; Environmental Management Science Program: Research Related to High Level Radioactive Waste

AGENCY: Office of Energy Research and Office of Environmental Management. U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Offices of Energy Research (ER) and Environmental Management (EM), U.S. Department of Energy, hereby announce their interest in receiving grant applications for performance of innovative, fundamental research to support specific activities for high level radioactive waste; which include, but are not limited to, characterization and safety, retrieval of tank waste and tank closure, pretreatment, and waste immobilization and disposal.

DATES: Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a brief preapplication. All preapplications, referencing Program Notice 98-08, should be received by DOE by 4:30 P.M. E.S.T., January 27, 1998. A response encouraging or discouraging a formal application generally will be communicated to the applicant within three weeks of receipt. The deadline for receipt of formal applications is 4:30 P.M., E.D.T., April 16, 1998, in order to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award in Fiscal Year 1998.

ADDRESSES: All preapplications, referencing Program Notice 98-08, should be sent to Dr. Roland F. Hirsch, ER-73, Mail Stop F-240, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290.

Preapplications will be accepted if submitted by U. S. Postal Service, including Express Mail, commercial mail delivery service, or hand delivery, but will not be accepted by fax, electronic mail, or other means.

After receiving notification from DOE concerning successful preapplications,