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(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers: 84.063 Federal Pell Grant Program; 84.038 Federal Perkins Loan Program; 84.033 Federal Work-Study Program; 84.007 Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant; 84.032 Federal Family Education Loan Program; and 84.268 William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program)

Dated: December 21, 1999.

Greg Woods,

Chief Operating Officer, Office of Student Financial Assistance.

[FR Doc. 99-33763 Filed 12-28-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Privacy Act of 1974; Computer Matching Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice-Computer Matching between the U.S. Department of Education and the Social Security Administration.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, Pub.L. 100-503, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs, a notice is hereby given of the computer matching program between the U.S. Department of Education (ED) (the recipient agency), and the Social Security Administration (SSA) (the source agency). The following notice represents the approval of a new computer matching agreement by the SSA and ED Data Integrity Boards to implement the matching program on the effective date as indicated below.

In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended by the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 (Pub.L. 100-503), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Final Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs (see 54 FR 25818, June 19, 1989), and OMB Circular A-130, we are providing the following information:

1. Names of Participating Agencies

The U.S. Department of Education and the Social Security Administration.

2. Purpose of Match

ED is one of several Federal agencies to operate benefit programs that have statutory requirements to reduce, suspend, or terminate benefits to those who are incarcerated. Sections 484(a)(5)(20 U.S.C. 1091) and 401(b)(8)(20 U.S.C. 1070a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) provide that an incarcerated student is ineligible for loans under the Title IV student financial assistance programs and that students incarcerated in any Federal or State penal institution are ineligible for Federal Pell Grant assistance. The SSA, with the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Prisons and various State and local entities developed a database of persons who are incarcerated. On April 25, 1998, the White House directed ED to coordinate its efforts to enforce the requirements of sections 484(a)(5)(20 U.S.C. 1091) and 401(b)(8)(20 U.S.C. 1070a) of the HEA with SSA by accessing SSA's prisoner database. This computer matching program will provide an efficient and comprehensive method of identifying incarcerated applicants who are ineligible to receive student financial assistance under the Title IV programs.

3. Legal Authority for Conducting the Matching Program

ED is authorized to participate in the matching program under Title IV section 484(a)(5)(20 U.S.C. 1091) and 401(b)(8)(20 U.S.C. 1071a) of the HEA. SSA is authorized to participate in the matching program under 42 U.S.C. 1382(e)(1)(I)(ii).

4. Categories of Records and Individuals Covered by the Match

ED will submit for verification from its Central Processing System files (Federal Student Aid Application File (18-11-01)) the social security number (SSN) and other identifying information for each applicant for Title IV student financial assistance. This information will be matched against the SSA State Verification and Exchange System, which contains the SSN and other identifying information for all SSN holders.

5. Effective Dates of the Matching Program

The matching program will become effective 40 days after a copy of the agreement, as approved by the Data Integrity Board of each agency, is sent to Congress and OMB (or later if OMB objects to some or all of the agreement),

or 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, whichever date is later. The matching program will continue for 18 months after the effective date and may be extended for an additional 12 months thereafter, if the conditions specified in 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(2)(D) have been met.

6. Address for Receipt of Public Comments or Inquiries

Individuals wishing to comment on this matching program or obtain additional information about the program including a copy of the computer matching agreement between ED and SSA should contact Ms. Edith Bell, Program Specialist, U.S. Department of Education, Room 3053, ROB-3, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-5400. Telephone: (202) 708-8242. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

You may inspect all public comments about this matching program at Regional Office Building 3, 7th and D Streets, SW, Room 3045, Washington, DC, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday of each week except Federal holidays.

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

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Dated: December 21, 1999.

Jeanne VanVlandren,

Acting Chief Operating Officer, Office of Student Financial Assistance.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Agency information collection activities: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments on the proposed three-year extension of existing Form DOE-887, "Department of Energy Customer Surveys."

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 28, 2000. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Herbert T. Miller, Statistics and Methods Group, EI-70, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20585. Alternatively, Mr. Miller may be reached by phone at 202-426-1103, by e-mail at hmiller@eia.doe.gov, or by FAX 202-426-1081.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Herbert Miller at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments

I. Background

The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93-275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. No. 95-91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*), require the Energy Information Administration (EIA) to carry out a centralized, comprehensive, and unified energy information program. This program collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates information on energy resource reserves, production, demand, technology, and related economic and statistical information. This information is used to assess the adequacy of energy resources to meet near and longer term domestic demands.

The EIA, as part of its effort to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), provides the general public and other Federal agencies with opportunities to comment on collections of energy information conducted by or in conjunction with the EIA. Any comments received help the EIA to prepare data requests that maximize the utility of the information collected, and to assess the impact of collection requirements on the public. Also, the EIA will later seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the collections under Section 3507(h) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

On September 11, 1993, the President signed Executive Order No. 12862 aimed at "* * * ensuring the Federal government provides the highest quality service possible to the American people." The voluntary surveys the Department proposes will be used to ascertain customer satisfaction with the Department of Energy in terms of services, products, and information our customers want and expect, as well as their satisfaction with and awareness of existing products, services, and information. Respondents will be businesses, academic institutions, associations, researchers, and other individuals, organizations, or institutions that are the recipients of the Department's services, products, and information. Previous customer surveys have provided useful information to the Department for assessing how well services, products, and information are delivered and for making improvements. The results are used internally and summaries are provided to the Office of Management and Budget on an annual basis, and are used to satisfy the requirements and the spirit of Executive Order No. 12862.

II. Current Actions

The request to OMB will be for a three-year extension of the expiration date of approval for DOE to conduct customer surveys. During the past approval period of about three years, 14 customer surveys have been conducted by telephone, mail, and through the Web site. (Examples of previously conducted customer surveys are available upon request.) Our planned activities in the next three fiscal years reflect our increased emphasis on and expansion of these activities, including an increased use of electronic means for obtaining customer input. Surveys may be conducted by focus groups, reply cards that accompany product distribution, web-based surveys that offer customers the opportunity to

express their levels of satisfaction with DOE products, services, and information, and for on-going dialogue with the Department. DOE will collect this information by electronic means, as well as by mail, fax, telephone, and person-to-person. Steps will be taken to assure anonymity of respondents in each activity covered under this request.

III. Request for Comments

Prospective respondents and other interested parties should comment on the actions discussed in item II. The following guidelines are provided to assist in the preparation of comments.

General Issues

A. Are the proposed collections of information necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency and does the information have practical utility? Practical utility is defined as the actual usefulness of information to or for an agency, taking into account its accuracy, adequacy, reliability, timeliness, and the agency's ability to process the information it collects.

B. What enhancements can be made to the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?

As a potential respondent:

A. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average .25 hours per response (8,333 respondents per year × 15 minutes per response = 2,083 hours annually). The response time varies from two minutes to four hours depending upon the complexity of the information collection. The estimated burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, disclose and provide the information. Please comment on the accuracy of the estimate.

B. The agency estimates that the only costs to the respondents are for the time it will take them to complete the collection of information. Please comment if respondents will incur start-up costs for reporting, or any recurring annual costs for operation, maintenance, and purchase of services associated with this information collection?

C. What additional actions could be taken to minimize the burden of this collection of information? Such actions may involve the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

D. Does any other Federal, State, or local agency collect similar information? If so, specify the agency, the data element(s), and the methods of collection.

As a potential user: