

Burden Hours: 26,600

**Abstract:** The Blue Ribbon Schools award is a national school improvement strategy with a threefold purpose: (1) to identify and give public recognition to outstanding public and private schools across the nation; (2) to make available a comprehensive framework of key criteria for school effectiveness that can serve as a basis for participatory self-assessment and planning in schools; and (3) to facilitate communication and sharing of best practices within and among schools based on a common understanding of criteria related to success. The information collected will be used to determine by peer review which schools receive the award and information on their exemplary practices and policies will be made available to other schools.

[FR Doc. 97-32604 Filed 12-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Submission for OMB review; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before January 14, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Dan Chenok, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651.

**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 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of

1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

Dated: December 9, 1997.

**Gloria Parker,**

*Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

*Office of Educational Research and Improvement*

*Type of Review:* Reinstatement.

*Title:* 1998 Field Test for Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS): LEA, Administrator, School, Teacher and Finance.

*Frequency:* One Time.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; Not-for-profit institutions; State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

*Reporting Burden and Recordkeeping:*

Responses: 2,270

Burden Hours: 2,354

**Abstract:** The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) will use the field test to assess data collection procedures and new questions that are planned for the next full-scale SASS in 1999-2000. Policy makers, researchers, and practitioners at the national, state, and local levels use SASS data. Respondents include public and private school principals, teachers, and school and LEA staff persons.

[FR Doc. 97-32605 Filed 12-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board; Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board; Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Educational Research Policy and Priorities 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. This document is intended to notify the public of their opportunity to attend the meeting.

**DATE:** January 15 and 16, 1998.

**TIME:** January 15, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

January 16, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Room 100, 80 F St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208-7564.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thelma Leenhouts, Designated Federal Official, National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board, 80 F St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208-7564. Telephone: (202) 219-2065; fax: (202) 219-1528; e-mail: Thelma\_Leenhouts@ed.gov. The main telephone number for the Board is (202) 208-0692.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board is authorized by Section 921 of the Educational Research, Development, Dissemination, and Improvement Act of 1994. The Board works collaboratively with the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Educational Research and Improvement to forge a national consensus with respect to a long-term agenda for educational research, development, and dissemination, and to provide advice and assistance to the Assistant Secretary in administering the duties of the Office.

The January meeting will be the Board's quarterly meeting, consisting of three sessions led by committee chairs, followed by a business session. On Thursday, January 15, the Board will hear reports from the Peer Review and Standards Committee and from the Program Committee. On Friday, January 16, the Board will hear a report from the Research, Development, and Dissemination Committee. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. A final agenda will be available from the Board's office on January 7. Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the office of the National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board, 80 F St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208-7564.

Dated: December 9, 1997.

**Eve M. Bither,**

*Executive Director.*

[FR Doc. 97-32598 Filed 12-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Energy Research; Energy Research Financial Assistance Program Notice 98-06; Plasma Physics Junior Faculty Development Program

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice inviting grant applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Fusion Energy Sciences (OFES) of the Office of Energy Research (OER), U.S. Department of Energy hereby announces its interest in receiving grant applications for support under its Plasma Physics Junior Faculty Development Program. Applications should be from tenure-track faculty investigators who are currently involved in experimental or theoretical plasma physics research and should be submitted through a U.S. academic institution. The purpose of this program is to support the development of the individual research programs of exceptionally talented scientists and engineers early in their careers.

**DATES:** To permit timely consideration for awards in FY 1998, formal applications in response to this notice should be received on or before March 4, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Completed formal applications referencing Program Notice 98-06 should be forwarded to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Research, Grants and Contracts Division, ER-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290, ATTN: Program Notice 98-06. The above address must also be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express, and commercial mail delivery service or when hand carried by the applicant.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Ronald McKnight, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, Science Division, ER-55, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290. Telephone: (301) 903-4597. E-mail: ron.mcknight@oer.doe.gov

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Plasma Physics Junior Faculty Development Program was started in FY 1997. A principal goal of this program is to identify exceptionally talented plasma faculty members early in their

careers and assist and facilitate the development of their research programs. Eligibility for awards under this notice is, therefore, restricted to tenure-track regular academic faculty investigators who are conducting experimental or theoretical plasma physics research. Emphasis is to be placed on basic plasma science research. For applications to be considered for funding, certification of the status of the applicant as a tenure-track regular academic faculty member by the head of the applicant's academic department or other university/college certifying official will be required before the grant is awarded. Awards made under this program will help to maintain the vitality of university plasma physics research and assure continued excellence in the teaching of plasma physics and related disciplines. Applications from Junior Faculty involved in any areas of plasma physics research, not only magnetic fusion, are welcomed and encouraged.

It is anticipated that annual funding levels up to \$150,000 per award may be made available for grants under this notice during FY 1998, contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Funding for equipment above this level will be considered on a case-by-case basis. DOE may make up to four awards during FY 1998, depending on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds. Multiple year funding of grant awards is expected, with funding provided on an annual basis subject to availability of funds. These grants will not normally be renewed after the project period is completed; grantees may, however, submit new grant applications to continue their research using the usual Departmental grant application process. Applications will be subjected to formal merit review and will be evaluated against the following criteria, which are listed in descending order of importance as set forth in 10 CFR Part 605:

1. Scientific and/or technical merit of the project;
2. Appropriateness of the proposed method or approach;
3. Competency of applicant's personnel and adequacy of proposed resources; and
4. Reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget.

General information about development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluations and selection processes, and other policies and procedures are contained in the Application Guide for the Office of Energy Research Financial Assistance Program and 10 CFR Part 605 which is available on the World Wide

Web at: <http://www.er.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>

(The Catalog Of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program is 81.049, and the solicitation control number is ERFAP 10 CFR Part 605)

Issued in Washington, DC on December 1, 1997.

**John Rodney Clark,**

*Associate Director for Resource Management, Office of Energy Research.*

[FR Doc. 97-32642 Filed 12-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-106-000]

### Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

December 9, 1997.

Take notice that on December 1, 1997, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern), 1111 South 103rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124-1000, filed in Docket No. CP98-106-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.216 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205 and 157.216) for authorization to abandon a small volume measurement station (farm tap) located in Dodge County, Minnesota, under Northern's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-401-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Northern states that it is in the process of replacing its Dodge Center Branchline. Northern states that it has negotiated with the two landowners along the route of the original pipeline regarding service lines to reconnect farm tap facilities. One of the farm tap users elected to reconnect their service line to Northern and will continue to receive service from their local distribution company (LDC). The other farm tap user (City of Dodge Center) elected to disconnect from Northern and has connected their service line directly to the LDC. As a result, Northern is requesting authority to abandon the City of Dodge Center farm tap facility.

Northern states that the proposed activity is not prohibited by its existing tariff and that it has sufficient capacity to accommodate the proposed changes without detriment or disadvantage to Northern's other customers.