

societies, and institutions of higher education that award baccalaureate degrees, that:

(A) Provide a needed service to a group of minority institutions; or

(B) Provide in-service training for project directors, scientists, and engineers from minority institutions; or

(4) Consortia of organizations, that provide needed services to 1 or more minority institutions, the membership of which may include:

(A) Institutions of higher education which have a curriculum in science and engineering;

(B) Institutions of higher education that have a graduate or professional program in science or engineering;

(C) Research laboratories of, or under contract with, the Department of Energy;

(D) Private organizations that have science or engineering facilities; or

(E) Quasi-governmental entities that have a significant scientific or engineering mission.

Section 365(4) was also amended to include behavioral sciences in the definition of science programs that can be supported.

*Deadline for Application Transmittal:* March 5, 1999.

*Applications Available:* January 5, 1999.

*Eligible Applicants:* (a) For institutional, design, and special projects described in 34 CFR 637.14 (a), (b), and (c)—public and nonprofit private minority institutions as defined in section 361 (1) and (2) of the HEA.

(b) For special projects described in 34 CFR 637.14 (b) and (c)—non-profit organizations, institutions, and consortia as defined in section 361 (3) and (4) of the HEA.

(c) For cooperative projects described in 34 CFR 637.15—groups of nonprofit accredited colleges and universities whose primary fiscal agent is an eligible minority institution as defined in 34 CFR 637.4(b).

**Note:** A minority institution is defined in 34 CFR 637.4(b) as an accredited college or university whose enrollment of a single minority group or combination of minority groups, as defined in 34 CFR 637.4(b), exceeds 50 percent of the total enrollment.

*Estimated Range and Average Size of Awards:* The amounts referenced below are advisory and represent the Department's best estimates at this time. The average size of an award is the estimate for a single-year project or for the first budget period of a multi-year project.

#### *Institutional*

Estimated Range of Awards:  
\$100,000–\$200,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards:  
\$120,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 22.

#### *Design*

Estimated Range of Awards: \$15,000–\$20,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards:  
\$18,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 4.

#### *Special*

Estimated Range of Awards: \$20,000–\$150,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards:  
\$25,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 11.

#### *Cooperative*

Estimated Range of Awards: \$20,000–\$500,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards:  
\$280,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 4.

#### *Applicable Regulations*

Regulations applicable to this program are (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 83, 85, and 86; and (b) The regulations in 34 CFR part 637, except for 34 CFR 637.2 which has been superseded by section 361 of the HEA, as amended.

**Note:** The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

*Project Period:* Up to 36 months.

*For Application or Information*

*Contact:* Mr. Kenneth Waters or Ms. Deborah Newkirk, Institutional Development and Undergraduate Service, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Maryland Avenue, SW (Portals CY-80), Washington, DC 20202-5335. Telephone: 202/708-9926 or by Internet to [deborah\\_newkirk@ed.gov](mailto:deborah_newkirk@ed.gov). The government encourages applicants to FAX requests for applications to 202/401-7532.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800/877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternate format the standard forms included in the application package.

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<http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg/htm>  
<http://www.ed.gov/news.html>

To use the pdf you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader Program with Search, which is available free at either of the previous sites. If you have questions about using the pdf, call the U.S. Government Printing Office toll free at 1-888/293-6498.

#### **Program Authority**

Sections 301 (a), (b), and 307 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, Public Law 105-244, 112 Stat. 1581.

Dated: December 22, 1998.

**David A. Longanecker,**

*Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.*

[FR Doc. 98-34332 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

(CFDA Nos.: 84.297A and 84.209A)

#### **Native Hawaiian Curriculum Development, Teacher Training and Recruitment Program and Native Hawaiian Family-Based Education Centers Program**

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed funding priorities for fiscal year (FY) 1999.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Education proposes to establish absolute priorities for the FY 1999 grant competitions under the Native Hawaiian Curriculum Development, Teacher Training and Recruitment Program and the Native Hawaiian Family-Based Education Centers Program. Under the priorities, funds under the Native Hawaiian Curriculum Development, Teacher Training and Recruitment Program would be used to support activities in the areas of (1) computer literacy and technology education, (2) agriculture education partnerships, (3) astronomy, (4) indigenous health, (5) waste management, and (6) prisoner education. Funds under the Native Hawaiian Family-Based Education Centers Program would be used to support preschool education.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before January 28, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to Madeline Baggett, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 3E228, Washington, D.C. 20202-6410,

Telephone: (202) 260-2502, FAX: (202) 205-0302. Comments may also be sent through the Internet: at [madeline\\_baggett@ed.gov](mailto:madeline_baggett@ed.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Madeline Baggett, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 3E228, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 260-2502. 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.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** There is available for distribution to eligible grantees under the Native Hawaiian Curriculum Development, Teacher Training and Recruitment Program (20 U.S.C. 7909) a total of \$4,800,000 of FY 1999 funds. Congress has encouraged the U.S. Department of Education to use funds appropriated for this program to support curriculum development and teacher training activities in the areas of (1) computer literacy and technology education, (2) agriculture education partnerships, (3) astronomy, (4) indigenous health, (5) waste management, and (6) prisoner education. The Secretary believes that limiting newly funded projects in this way will help address the needs of Native Hawaiian students in these significant areas of Native Hawaiian culture and traditions. Therefore, the Secretary is proposing absolute funding priorities and intends to use \$1,500,000 of the FY 1999 funds available under the program for a competition to fund one or two projects in each of the six categories. In funding these activities, the Secretary intends to allocate approximately \$250,000 among each of the six categories and estimates that the average size of the FY 1999 awards for these new projects will range from \$125,000 to \$250,000. The Secretary will use the remaining \$3,300,000 of FY 1999 funds for continuation awards for previously funded projects in the areas of waste management innovation, Native Hawaiian language revitalization curricula and teacher training and recruitment activities, and prisoner education.

There is available for distribution under the Native Hawaiian Family-Based Education Centers Program (20 U.S.C. 7905) a total of \$7,200,000 of FY 1999 funds. Congress has encouraged

the Department to use funds under the program to support activities in preschool education, and the Secretary is proposing an absolute priority to accomplish this objective. The Secretary intends to use a total of \$2,000,000 of the FY 1999 funds available under the program for a competition to fund one or two projects in preschool education. It is estimated that these projects will range from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000. The Secretary will use the remaining \$5,200,000 to fund continuation awards for previously funded family-based education centers projects.

The Secretary will announce final priorities for these competitions in a notice in the **Federal Register**. The final priorities will be determined by responses to this notice, available funds, and other considerations of the Department. Funding of a particular project depends on the final priority, the availability of funds, and the quality of the applications received. The publication of these proposed priorities does not preclude the Secretary from proposing additional priorities, nor does it limit the Secretary to funding only these priorities, subject to meeting applicable rulemaking requirements.

**Note:** This notice of proposed priorities does not solicit applications. A notice inviting applications under the competitions will be published in the **Federal Register** concurrent with or following the notice of final priorities.

**Proposed Absolute Priorities:** Under the Native Hawaiian Curriculum Development, Teacher Training and Recruitment Program, the Secretary proposes to give an absolute preference to applications that focus entirely on activities in one of the following areas:

(1) Computer literacy and technology education—to support K-12 curricula development, teacher training and model programs designed to increase computer literacy and access for Native Hawaiian students;

(2) Agriculture education partnerships—to support the integration of agricultural and businesses practices into high school curriculum through the expansion of partnerships between community-based agricultural businesses and high schools with high concentrations of Native Hawaiian students;

(3) Astronomy—to support the development of educational programs to encourage Native Hawaiians to enter the field of astronomy, with emphasis on astronomy as a profession, operation of astronomical and observatory equipment, or scientific and cultural expertise in astronomy;

(4) Indigenous health—to support teacher training, curriculum

development, and instruction activities that will foster a better understanding and knowledge of Native Hawaiian traditional medicine among Native Hawaiian elementary and secondary students;

(5) Waste management—to study and document traditional Hawaiian practices of sustainable waste management and to prepare teaching materials for educational purposes and for demonstration of the use of native Hawaiian plants and animals for waste treatment and environmental remediation; and

(6) Prisoner education—to support programs that target juvenile offenders and/or youth at risk of becoming juvenile offenders and that involve comprehensive and culturally sensitive strategies that include family counseling, basic education/jobs skills training, and the involvement of community elders as mentors.

Under the Native Hawaiian Family-Based Education Centers Program, the Secretary proposes to give an absolute preference to applications that focus entirely on preschool education. The programs must provide coordinated and integrated services to preschool children, especially children from birth through age three, and may involve consortia that include educational entities and health care organizations.

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Anyone may also view these documents in text copy on an electronic bulletin board of the Department. Telephone: (202) 219-1511 or, toll free 1-800-222-4922. The documents are located under Option G—Files/Announcements, Bulletins and Press Releases.

**Note:** The official version of a document is the document published in the **Federal Register**.

**Invitation to Comment:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments

and recommendations regarding these proposed priorities. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection during and after the comment period, in Room 3E228, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday of each week except Federal holidays.

*Program Authority:* Sections 9205 and 9209 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 7905 and 7909).

Dated: December 22, 1998.

**Gerald N. Tirozzi,**

*Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.*

[FR Doc. 98-34331 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Closure of High-Level Waste Tanks at the Savannah River Site, Aiken, South Carolina

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposed closing of high-level waste tanks at the Savannah River Site (SRS) near Aiken, South Carolina. DOE proposes to close the tanks to protect human health and the environment and to promote safety. DOE's preferred alternative is to remove the residual waste from the tanks to the extent technically and economically feasible, and then to fill them with a reducing grout to bind up residual waste and a structural material to prevent collapse of the tanks. DOE proposes to close these tanks and their associated waste handling equipment in accordance with the Industrial Wastewater Closure Plan for F- and H-Area High-Level Waste Tank Systems, prepared by DOE and approved by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). In closing the tanks, DOE will comply not only with the Closure Plan, which is required by Industrial Wastewater Permits that SCDHEC issued to DOE, but also with the applicable requirements of DOE Orders, including DOE 5820.2A (Radioactive Waste Management). DOE invites comments on the scope of the EIS.

**DATES:** The public scoping period begins with the publication of this Notice and concludes February 12, 1998. DOE

invites Federal agencies, Native American tribes, State and local governments, and the public to comment on the scope of this EIS. DOE will consider fully all comments received by the close of the scoping period, and will consider comments received after that date to the extent practicable.

Two public scoping workshops will be held during the scoping period:

January 14, 1999

2:00–4:00 pm and 6:00–8:00 pm,  
North Augusta Community Center,  
101 Brookside Drive, North  
Augusta, South Carolina, and,

January 19, 1999

2:00–4:00 pm and 6:00–8:00 pm,  
Holiday Inn Coliseum, 630  
Assembly Street, Columbia, South  
Carolina.

These scoping workshops will provide information about the high-level waste tank closure process and alternatives for closure of high-level waste tanks at SRS. The workshops will provide opportunities to comment orally or in writing on the EIS scope, including the alternatives and issues that the Department should consider in the EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on the scope of the EIS may also be mailed to the address below or sent by fax, voice mail, or electronic mail. Written comments on the scope of this EIS should be sent to: Andrew Grainger, NEPA Compliance Officer, Savannah River Operations Office, U. S. Department of Energy, Building 742A, Room 183, Aiken, South Carolina 29802, Attention: Tank Closure EIS.

Toll-free 24-hour fax and voice mail (local and nationwide): 800-881-7292; E-mail: nepa@srs.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request information about this EIS and the public scoping workshops, or to be placed on the EIS distribution list, use any of the methods listed in **ADDRESSES** above. For general information about the DOE NEPA process, contact: Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH-42), U. S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585-0119, Phone: 202-586-4600, Voice mail: 800-472-2756, Fax: 202-586-7031.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background and Purpose and Need for Agency Action

At its inception in the 1950s, the primary mission of the SRS was to produce special nuclear materials to support the defense, research, and medical programs of the United States.

This mission largely ended and production of nuclear materials ceased following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Before the cessation of production, however, chemical separation of irradiated fuel at SRS had resulted in product streams (that is, special nuclear materials) and waste streams consisting of acidic liquids bearing radioactive fission products and small amounts of transuranic elements. This waste was chemically converted to an alkaline solution and stored as insoluble sludges, salts, and liquid supernate in 51 large underground tanks constructed between 1952 and 1981 at the SRS F- and H-Area Tank Farms. Two tanks, both in the F-Area Tank Farm, were closed in 1997 and no longer store high-level waste. Approximately 129 million liters (34 million gallons) of high-level radioactive waste are now stored in 49 tanks. SRS still operates facilities to stabilize nuclear materials that were in various stages of processing when strategic nuclear materials production ceased; this activity generates additional small amounts of high-level radioactive waste.

DOE proposes to close the tanks and their associated waste handling equipment to protect human health and the environment and to promote safety, in accordance with (1) the Industrial Wastewater Closure Plan for F- and H-Area High-Level Waste Tank Systems, prepared by DOE and approved by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), (2) South Carolina Regulation R.61-82, "Proper Closeout of Wastewater Treatment Facilities," and (3) applicable requirements of DOE Orders, including DOE 5820.2A (Radioactive Waste Management).

Removal, treatment, storage, and disposal of bulk waste from the tanks will be in accordance with previous decisions, and are not within the scope of this environmental impact statement. High-level waste will be removed and treated to separate the high-activity fraction from the low-activity fraction. The high-activity fraction will be transferred to the Defense Waste Processing Facility and mixed into borosilicate glass to immobilize the radioactive constituents. Stainless steel canisters containing the borosilicate glass will be stored in Glass Waste Storage Buildings at the SRS pending a decision on disposal in a geologic repository. The low-activity fraction will be transferred to the Saltstone Facility and mixed with grout to make saltstone, a concrete-like material disposed of onsite in concrete vaults. The environmental impacts of these processes and facilities were evaluated