

*Affected Public:* Individuals or household; Federal Government; State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:* Responses: 5,000,000. Burden Hours: 200,000.

*Abstract:* Federal Student Aid (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Education seeks to establish a registration system within the 'Students Portal', an Internet Portal Website (hereafter 'the Website'). The Website will make the college application process more efficient, faster, and accurate by making it an automated, electronic process that targets financial aid and college applications. The Website uses some personal contact information criteria to automatically fill out the forms and surveys initiated by the user. The Website will also provide a database of demographic information that will help FSA target the distribution of financial aid materials to specific groups of students and/or parents. For example, studies have shown that providing student financial assistance information to middle school (or elementary school) students and/or their parents dramatically increases the likelihood that those students will attend college. The demographic information from the Website will help us to identify potential customers in the middle school age range and is information that was previously unavailable to us.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2172. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address [vivian\\_reese@ed.gov](mailto:vivian_reese@ed.gov). Requests may also be electronically mailed to the e-mail address [OCIO\\_RIMG@ed.gov](mailto:OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov) or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at his e-mail address [Joe.Schubart@ed.gov](mailto:Joe.Schubart@ed.gov). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 02-26448 Filed 10-16-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Intent To Compromise Claim Against the State of Louisiana State Department of Education

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to compromise claim with request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Department of Education (Department) intends to compromise a claim against the Louisiana State Department of Education (LSDE) now pending before the Office of Administrative Law Judges (OALJ), Docket No. 01-24-R. Before compromising a claim, the Department must publish its intent to do so in the **Federal Register** and provide the public an opportunity to comment on that action (20 U.S.C. 1234a(j)).

**DATES:** We must receive your comments on the proposed action on or before December 2, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Address all comments concerning the proposed action to Jeffrey C. Morhardt, Esq., Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 6E312, Washington, DC 20202-2110.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeffrey C. Morhardt, Esq. Telephone: (202) 401-6700. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Invitation to Comment

We invite you to submit comments regarding this proposed action. During and after the comment period, you may inspect all public comments in room 6E312, FB-6, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., 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.

#### Assistance to Individuals With Disabilities in Reviewing Comments

On request, we will supply an appropriate aid, such as a reader or print magnifier, to an individual with a disability who needs assistance to review the comments. If you want to schedule an appointment for this type of aid, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

## Background

The claim in question arose when the Chief of the Department's Indirect Cost Group, Office of the Chief Financial Officer (Chief) issued a program determination letter (PDL) on June 28, 2001. The PDL demanded a refund of \$3,171,296 of funds provided to the LSDE for fiscal years 1992-98 under various Department programs. Specifically, the Chief found that the LSDE had failed to carry out its administrative responsibilities to ensure that the New Orleans Parish School Board (NOPS) complied with applicable Federal statutes and regulations regarding proper accounting for Federal education funds. More specifically, the Chief found that NOPS charged Federal funds for unemployment compensation insurance premiums disproportionately and therefore overcharged Federal funds in relation to the benefits received. Accordingly, the Chief disallowed the percent of the total premium costs for 1992-98 in excess of the amount that should have been paid using Federal funds based upon the percentage of Federal funds and State and local funds.

During settlement discussions, the LSDE submitted substantial documentation to demonstrate that the actual amount of excess unemployment compensation premiums that NOPS charged to Federal programs during fiscal years 1997 and 1998 was \$664,990.67, rather than \$906,084, as stated in the PDL. The LSDE also submitted documentation to demonstrate that \$2,650,010.13 in disallowed costs for fiscal years 1992-96 and part of fiscal year 1997 were barred from recovery by the statute of limitations of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA). 20 U.S.C. 1234a(k). After conducting a thorough review of this documentation, the Chief has decided to accept the LSDE's documentation, thereby reducing the claim to \$280,192.54 for the remainder of fiscal years 1997 and 1998.

The Department proposes to compromise this remaining claim to \$250,192.54. Based on litigation risks and the costs of proceeding through the administrative and, possibly, court process for this appeal, the Department has determined that it would not be practical or in the public interest to continue this proceeding. In addition, in light of NOPS' corrective action performed in 1998, there is little or no likelihood of a recurrence of this problem. As a result, under the authority in 20 U.S.C. 1234a(j), the Department has determined that compromise of this claim for \$250,192.54 is appropriate. The public

is invited to comment on the Department's intent to compromise this claim. Additional information may be obtained by calling or writing to Jeffrey C. Morhardt, Esq. at the telephone number and address listed at the beginning of this notice.

#### Electronic Access to This Document

You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister>

To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

**Note:** The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1234a(j).  
Dated: October 10, 2002.

**Jack Martin,**

*Chief Financial Officer.*

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-U

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Continuation of Solicitation for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program—Notice 03-01

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Annual Notice of Continuation of Availability of Grants and Cooperative Agreements.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Science (SC) of the Department of Energy (DOE) hereby announces its continuing interest in receiving grant applications for support of work in the following program areas: Basic Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, Nuclear Physics, Advanced Scientific Computing, Fusion Energy Sciences, Biological and Environmental Research, and Energy Research Analyses. On September 3, 1992, DOE published in the **Federal Register** the Office of Energy Research Financial Assistance Program (now called the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program), 10 CFR part 605, Final Rule, which contained a solicitation for this program. Information about submission of applications, eligibility, limitations,

evaluation and selection processes and other policies and procedures are specified in 10 CFR part 605.

**DATES:** Applications may be submitted until September 30, 2003, in response to this Notice of Availability.

**ADDRESSES:** Formal applications in response to this solicitation are to be electronically submitted by an authorized institutional business official through DOE's Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) at: <http://e-center.doe.gov/>. IIPS provides for the posting of solicitations and receipt of applications in a paperless environment via the Internet. In order to submit applications through IIPS your business official will need to register at the IIPS website. The Office of Science will include attachments as part of this notice that provide the appropriate forms in PDF fillable format that are to be submitted through IIPS. Color images should be submitted in IIPS as a separate file in PDF format and identified as such. These images should be kept to a minimum due to the limitations of reproducing them. They should be numbered and referred to in the body of the technical scientific proposal as Color image 1, Color image 2, etc. Questions regarding the operation of IIPS may be e-mailed to the IIPS Help Desk at: [HelpDesk@e-center.doe.gov](mailto:HelpDesk@e-center.doe.gov) or you may call the help desk at: (800) 683-0751. Further information on the use of IIPS by the Office of Science is available at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

If you are unable to submit an application through IIPS please contact the Office of the Director, Grants and Contracts Division, Office of Science, DOE at 301-903-5212 in order to gain assistance for submission through IIPS or to receive special approval and instructions on how to submit printed applications.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This Notice is published annually and remains in effect until it is succeeded by another issuance by the Office of Science, usually published after the beginning of the fiscal year. This annual Notice 03-01 succeeds Notice 02-01, which was published December 20, 2001.

It is anticipated that approximately \$400 million will be available for grant and cooperative agreement awards in Fiscal Year 2003. The DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of an 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.

The following program descriptions are offered to provide more in-depth information on scientific and technical areas of interest to the Office of Science:

#### 1. Basic Energy Sciences

The Basic Energy Sciences (BES) program supports fundamental research in the natural sciences and engineering leading to new and improved energy technologies and to understanding and mitigating the environmental impacts of energy technologies. The science areas and their objectives are as follows:

##### (a) Materials Sciences and Engineering

The objective of this program is to increase the fundamental understanding of phenomena, properties, and behavior important to materials that will contribute to improving current energy technologies and developing new energy technologies. This program is comprised of the subfields materials physics, condensed matter physics, materials chemistry, engineering physics, and related disciplines where the emphasis is on the science of materials. Program Contact: (301) 903-3427.

##### (b) Chemical Sciences

The objective of this program is to expand, through support of basic research, knowledge of various areas of chemistry, chemical engineering and atomic molecular and optical physics with a goal of contributing to new or improved processes for developing and using domestic energy resources in an efficient and environmentally sound manner. Disciplinary areas where research is supported include atomic molecular and optical physics; physical, inorganic and organic chemistry; chemical physics; photochemistry; radiation chemistry; analytical chemistry; separations science; actinide chemistry; and chemical engineering sciences. Program Contact: (301) 903-5804.

##### (c) Geosciences

The goal of this program is to develop a quantitative and predictive understanding of geologic processes related to energy and environmental quality. The program emphasizes cross-cutting basic research that will improve understanding of reactive geochemical transport and other subsurface processes and properties and how to image them using techniques ranging from electrons, x-rays or neutrons to electromagnetic and seismic waves. Applications of this fundamental understanding might include transport of contaminant fluids, hydrocarbons, sequestered CO<sub>2</sub> or performance prediction for repository