Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

Title of Collection: Survey of Postgraduate Outcomes for the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Program.

OMB Control Number: 1840–0840.

Type of Review: Reinstatement with change of a previously approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: Private Sector.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 157.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 40.

Abstract: The purpose of Section 102(b)(6) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (Fulbright-Hays Act) is to promote and develop modern foreign language training and area studies throughout the educational structure of the United States. To help accomplish this objective, fellowships are awarded through U.S. institutions of higher education to American doctoral dissertation fellows enabling them to conduct overseas research and enhance their foreign language proficiency. Under the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) program, individual scholars apply through eligible institutions for an institutional grant to support the research fellowship. These institutions administer the program in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education (US/ED). This information collection is the tool that can gather the information necessary to determine the performance of the fellows and the program. Since this collection is currently in a discontinued status, this collection package is a reinstatement with change.

Dated: December 16, 2021.

Kate Mullan,

PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance, Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

[FR Doc. 2021–27633 Filed 12–20–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED–2021–SCC–0135]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; William D. Ford Direct Loan Program General Forbearance Request

AGENCY: Federal Student Aid (FSA), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing an extension without change of a currently approved collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before January 20, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this information collection request by selecting ''Department of Education'' under ''Currently Under Review,'' then check ''Only Show ICR for Public Comment'' checkbox. Comments may also be sent to *ICDocketmgr@ed.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Beth Grebeldinger, 202–377–4018.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

Title of Collection: William D. Ford Direct Loan Program General Forbearance Request.

OMB Control Number: 1845–0031.

Type of Review: An extension without change of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: Individuals and Households.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 2,188,770.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 175,102.

Abstract: Due to the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic and the suspension of the collection of loans, the Department of Education is requesting an extension without change of the currently approved Direct Loan General Forbearance Request form information collection. The current form includes the Direct Loan, FFEL, and Perkins Loan programs making it easier for borrowers to request this action. There has been no change to the form, the underlying regulations, or anticipated usage.

Dated: December 16, 2021.

Kate Mullan,

PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

[FR Doc. 2021–27578 Filed 12–20–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Draft Environmental Assessment for the Commercial Disposal of Savannah River Site Contaminated Process Equipment

AGENCY: Office of Environmental Management, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of its *Draft Environmental Assessment for the Commercial Disposal of*

Savannah River Site Contaminated Process Equipment (DOE/EA–2154) (Draft Savannah River Site (SRS) Contaminated Process Equipment Environmental Assessment (EA)). The Draft SRS Contaminated Process Equipment EA evaluates the potential impacts from a proposed action to dispose of certain SRS contaminated process equipment at a commercial low-level radioactive waste (LLW) disposal facility outside of South Carolina, licensed by either the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) or an Agreement State pursuant to NRC's regulations for land disposal of radioactive waste. The proposed disposal of the SRS contaminated process equipment is being analyzed consistent with the Department's interpretation of the statutory term ''high-level radioactive waste'' (HLW) as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (AEA), and Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended (NWPA).

DATES: The 45-day public comment period extends from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** through February 4, 2022, in consideration of the end of calendar year 2021 holidays. DOE will hold an informational webinar on January 11, 2022, at 2 p.m. ET. See section V, ''Public Participation,'' for further information on the public comment process and the informational webinar.

ADDRESSES: Please direct written comments or questions on the Draft SRS Contaminated Process Equipment EA using one of the following methods:

Email: SRSequipmentEA@em.doe.gov. Please submit comments in Microsoft™ Word or PDF file format and avoid the use of encryption.

Although DOE has routinely accepted public comment submissions through a variety of mechanisms, including postal mail and hand delivery/courier, the Department has found it necessary to make temporary modifications to the comment submission process in light of the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic. For this EA, DOE is suspending receipt of public comments via postal mail and hand delivery/courier. If a commenter finds that this change poses an undue hardship, please contact James Joyce at (202) 586–5000 to discuss the need for alternative arrangements.

The Draft SRS Contaminated Process Equipment EA is available at: *https://www.energy.gov/em/downloads/draft-environmental-assessment-commercial-disposal-srs-contaminated-process-equipment.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Joyce, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management, at *SRSequipmentEA@em.doe.gov* or (202) 586–5000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

SRS occupies approximately 310 square miles primarily in Aiken and Barnwell counties in South Carolina. Over the years, a primary SRS mission has been the production of special radioactive isotopes to support national defense programs, including reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel and target materials. More recently, the SRS mission has emphasized waste management, environmental restoration, and the decontamination and decommissioning of facilities that are no longer needed for SRS's traditional defense activities. SRS generated large quantities of liquid radioactive waste as a result of reprocessing activities associated with its nuclear materials production mission.

The SRS process equipment has been utilized during the on-site storage and treatment of the reprocessing waste, which results in the equipment's contamination. This Draft SRS Contaminated Process Equipment EA analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the commercial disposal of SRS process equipment contaminated with reprocessing waste. Portions of the Tank 28F salt sampling drill string, glass bubblers, and glass pumps are comprised of hazardous components (*e.g.,* lead) or are contaminated with hazardous constituents. Because there are no permitted facilities at SRS for the disposal of mixed LLW, this contaminated process equipment cannot be disposed of on-site.

The Tank 28F salt sampling drill string was used to collect reprocessing waste samples from the waste storage tank in F-Area. The Tank 28F salt sampling drill string consists of steel piping measuring 2.25 inches in outer diameter by 41 feet long, contaminated with reprocessing waste (supernatant) from Tank 28F. Contaminants include a mixture of radionuclides (*e.g.,* cesium-137 and plutonium-238). The Tank 28F drill string is currently stored in a large container in a high-radiation area south of the H-Area Tank Farm until a disposal path can be established.

The glass bubblers are used to increase the efficiency of the SRS Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) melter operations, where high-activity tank waste is vitrified into glass under high temperature. Each glass bubbler is made up of a ¾-inch Inconel pipe, which is inserted into the DWPF melter and through which an inert gas is introduced to increase melter efficiency. During operations, approximately three feet of the lower portion of the bubbler is submerged in the melt pool and becomes contaminated with various radionuclides (*e.g.,* cesium-137 and plutonium-238). The total length of each complete bubbler assembly is between 8.8 feet and 9.4 feet, as there are four design lengths based on the bubbler location in the melter. SRS currently has approximately 60 contaminated bubblers in storage and is expected to generate four contaminated glass bubblers every six months until DWPF operations are completed in the 2034 timeframe. Based on the glass bubbler replacement rate of eight bubblers annually, DOE projects a need to dispose of approximately 172 bubblers by the forecasted end of DWPF operations. The bubblers are currently stored inside the DWPF canyon building.

The glass pumps were previously used to support melter efficiency but have been replaced by the glass bubblers and therefore are no longer generated at SRS. Each glass pump includes a section of Inconel pipe, measuring approximately 3.625 inches in outer diameter; only the lower portion (two feet) of which was in the melt pool and contains contaminated glass. The overall glass pump is about 11 feet long. There are approximately 10 glass pumps in storage at SRS requiring disposal. Similar to the glass bubblers, the glass pumps are currently stored inside the DWPF canyon building.

This Draft SRS Contaminated Process Equipment EA will be the second National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis proposing to apply the high-level radioactive waste interpretation (HLWI) to a particular waste stream. In August 2020, DOE completed its first NEPA analysis (Commercial Disposal of DWPF Recycle Wastewater Environmental Assessment, DOE/EA–2115) analyzing a proposed application of the HLWI.[1] This was implemented in accordance with the June 10, 2019, *Supplemental Notice Concerning U.S. Department of Energy Interpretation of High-Level Radioactive Waste* (Supplemental Notice), 84 FR 26835, in which DOE provided its interpretation of the statutory term HLW as defined in the AEA [2] and NWPA.[3]

[1] NEPA documents and technical documents for the commercial disposal of DWPF recycle wastewater from SRS under the HLWI can be found at: *https://www.energy.gov/em/program-scope/high-level-radioactive-waste-hlw-interpretation.*

[2] 42 U.S.C. 2011 *et seq.*

[3] 42 U.S.C. 10101 *et seq.*

In early 2021, various stakeholders submitted both supportive and non-supportive letters to the Secretary of Energy regarding the HLWI. The Secretary is committed to implementing the Department's environmental cleanup programs in a manner that is consistent with the law and that makes evidence-based decisions guided by the best available science and data. The Department assessed the HLWI in light of this commitment; please see separate **Federal Register** Notice, *Assessment of Department of Energy's Interpretation of the Definition of High-Level Radioactive Waste,* which is being published in the **Federal Register** concurrently with this notice, documenting the Department's assessment and affirming the Department's interpretation of the statutory term ''high-level radioactive waste'' as defined in the AEA and the NWPA.

II. Purpose and Need for Action

There is no current disposal pathway for the SRS contaminated process equipment. The purpose and need for DOE's action is to identify a disposal pathway for the SRS contaminated process equipment to mitigate on-site storage constraints, improve worker safety, and support accelerated completion of the environmental cleanup mission at SRS.

III. Proposed Action and Alternatives

Under the proposed action, DOE would dispose of the SRS contaminated process equipment (Tank 28F salt sampling drill string, glass bubblers, and glass pumps) at a commercial LLW disposal facility outside of South Carolina licensed by either the NRC or an Agreement State under 10 CFR part 61. Prior to a disposal decision, DOE would characterize the contaminated process equipment to verify with the licensed offsite commercial LLW disposal facility whether the waste meets DOE's HLWI Criterion 1 for disposal as non-HLW, in accordance with DOE Manual 435.1–1, *Radioactive Waste Management Manual.* DOE would demonstrate compliance with the waste acceptance criteria and all other requirements of the disposal facility, including any applicable regulatory requirements for management of the waste prior to disposal and applicable U.S. Department of Transportation and NRC requirements for packaging and transportation from SRS to the commercial disposal facility. DOE has identified two reasonable action alternatives for the proposed action:

- *Alternative 1*—If determined to be Class B or Class C LLW,[4] DOE would stabilize and package the waste at SRS and ship the waste packages to Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS) in Andrews County, Texas, for disposal.[5] Implementation would be dependent upon the waste meeting the facility's waste acceptance criteria, among other requirements.
- *Alternative 2*—If determined to be Class A LLW, DOE would stabilize and package the waste at SRS and ship the waste packages to either Energy*Solutions*[6] in Clive, Utah, or WCS in Andrews County, Texas, for disposal. Implementation would be dependent upon the waste meeting the facility's waste acceptance criteria, among other requirements.

The EA also evaluates a No-Action Alternative under which the contaminated process equipment would remain in storage at SRS until another disposal path was identified.

IV. NEPA Process

Comments on the Draft SRS Contaminated Process Equipment EA received during the public comment period will be considered during preparation of the Final SRS Contaminated Process Equipment EA. Following the public comment period—and based on the Final SRS Contaminated Process Equipment EA and consideration of all comments received—DOE will either issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or announce its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS). If DOE determines that a FONSI is appropriate, both the Final EA and FONSI will be made available to the public. If DOE determines that an EIS is needed, either during preparation of the Final SRS Contaminated Process Equipment EA or after completing the EA, DOE would issue in the **Federal Register** a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS.

Consultations with other agencies (*e.g.,* State Historic Preservation Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) were not required or undertaken in connection with the Draft SRS Contaminated Process Equipment EA because the Proposed Action would not impact cultural resources, historic properties, or threatened or endangered species. The following regulatory agencies were notified of the preparation of this Draft SRS Contaminated Process Equipment EA: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; NRC; Idaho Department of Environmental Quality; Nevada Division of Environmental Protection; New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; Utah Department of Environmental Quality; and Washington State Department of Ecology.

V. Public Participation

Submission of Public Comments: DOE will accept comments on the Draft SRS Contaminated Process Equipment EA no later than the date provided in the **DATES** section at the beginning of this notice. Interested parties may submit comments using any of the methods described in the **ADDRESSES** section at the beginning of this notice. Because your comments will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comments do not include any Confidential Business Information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted.

Confidential Business Information. Pursuant to 10 CFR 1004.11, any person submitting information that he or she believes to be confidential and exempt by law from public disclosure should submit via email two well-marked copies: One copy of the document marked confidential including all the information believed to be confidential, and one copy of the document marked non-confidential with the information believed to be confidential deleted. It is DOE's policy that all comments will be included in the public docket, without change and as received, including any personal information provided in the comments (except information deemed to be exempt from public disclosure).

Informational Webinar: The time and date of the webinar are listed in the **DATES** section at the beginning of this notice. This webinar, which will provide an overview of the Draft SRS Contaminated Process Equipment EA, can be accessed at: *https://doe.webex.com/doe/j.php?MTID=m60ab8e647f04ce33ab25e3cf7e5b60ea.*

No registration is required. Participants are responsible for ensuring their systems are compatible with the webinar software.

[4] In its 10 CFR part 61 regulations, NRC has identified classes of LLW—Class A, B, or C—for which near-surface disposal is safe for public health and the environment. This waste classification regime is based on the concentration levels of a combination of specified short-lived and long-lived radionuclides in a waste stream, with Class C LLW having the highest concentration levels.

[5] Because the SRS contaminated process equipment would most likely result in Class B or Class C LLW, this has been identified as the first alternative.

[6] Energy*Solutions* is currently licensed to only dispose of Class A LLW and mixed LLW; WCS is licensed to dispose of Class A, Class B, and Class C LLW and mixed LLW.

Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on December 15, 2021, by John A. Mullis II, Acting Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regulatory and Policy Affairs, Office of Environmental Management, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. This document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed at Washington, DC, on December 16, 2021.

Treena V. Garrett,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.

[FR Doc. 2021–27558 Filed 12–20–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Assessment of Department of Energy's Interpretation of the Definition of High-Level Radioactive Waste

AGENCY: Office of Environmental Management, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) affirms its interpretation of the statutory term ''high-level radioactive waste'' (HLW) as defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (AEA), and the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended (NWPA). The HLW interpretation (HLWI) is consistent with the law, the best available science and data, and the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. In developing the HLWI, the views of members of the public and the scientific community were considered.

ADDRESSES: This Federal Register Notice (FRN) and other documents relevant to DOE's HLWI are available on the Department's website at: *https://www.energy.gov/em/program-scope/high-level-radioactive-waste-hlw-interpretation*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Joyce at *james.joyce@em.doe.gov* or (202) 586–5000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of Energy is committed to implementing the Department's environmental cleanup programs in a manner that is consistent with the law and that makes evidence-based decisions guided by the best available science and data. In early 2021, various stakeholders submitted both supportive and non-supportive letters to the Secretary of Energy regarding the HLWI. The Department assessed the HLWI in light of this commitment. This FRN documents the results of that assessment.

As explained in this FRN, DOE affirms its interpretation of the statutory term ''high-level radioactive waste'' (HLW) as defined in the AEA [1] and NWPA.[2] As DOE stated in the *Supplemental Notice Concerning U.S. Department of Energy Interpretation of High-Level Radioactive Waste,* 84 FR 26835 (June 10, 2019, FRN) (Supplemental Notice), and the *High-Level Radioactive Waste Interpretation Limited Change to DOE Manual 435.1–1, Radioactive Waste Management Manual and Administrative Change to DOE Order 435.1, Radioactive Waste Management,* 86 FR 5173 (January 19, 2021, FRN), DOE interprets the statutory term ''high-level radioactive waste'' to mean that not all wastes from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel (reprocessing wastes) are HLW. DOE interprets the statutory term such that some reprocessing wastes may be classified as not HLW (non-HLW) and may be safely disposed of in accordance with its radiological characteristics. DOE confirms that the HLWI is consistent with the law, the best available science and data, and the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. DOE further affirms that the views of the public and the scientific community were considered in developing the HLWI.

I. Background

Building on the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future issued in 2012,[3] the development of the HLWI began in 2016 at the direction of then Secretary Moniz. The HLWI was finalized in 2019, and was successfully implemented on a single waste stream in 2020.

The Department sought public comments on its HLWI through its *Request for Public Comment on the U.S. Department of Energy Interpretation of High-Level Radioactive Waste,* 83 FR 50909 (October 10, 2018, FRN). The 90-day public comment period, including a 30-day extension to submit comments, invited public input in order to better understand stakeholder perspectives, and sought to increase transparency and enhance public understanding of DOE's views of its legal authority. DOE received a total of 5,555 comments, roughly 360 of which were distinct comments, from a variety of stakeholders: Members of the public; tribal nations; members of Congress; numerous state and local governments; and one federal agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). All input was important to the process and all comments were carefully and fully considered by DOE.

In June 2019, after careful consideration of all comments received on the October 2018 FRN, DOE issued the Supplemental Notice. The Supplemental Notice provided additional explanation of DOE's interpretation as informed by public review and comment and further consideration by DOE following the October 2018 FRN. The Supplemental Notice also provided responses to significant and recurring comments received through the public comment process. In its Supplemental Notice, DOE explained its interpretation of the term HLW, as defined in the AEA and NWPA.[4] DOE has the long-standing authority and responsibility under the AEA to ensure that all DOE radioactive waste—including reprocessing waste—is managed and disposed of in a safe manner. The AEA and NWPA define HLW as:

(A) The highly radioactive material resulting from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel, including liquid waste produced directly in reprocessing and any solid material derived from such liquid waste that contains fission products in sufficient concentrations; and

(B) Other highly radioactive material that the [NRC], consistent with existing law, determines by rule requires permanent isolation.

42 U.S.C. 10101(12); see 42 U.S.C. 2014(dd). In Paragraph A of 42 U.S.C. 10101(12), Congress limited the designation of HLW to those materials that are ''highly radioactive.'' This

[1] 42 U.S.C. 2011 *et seq.*

[2] 42 U.S.C. 10101 *et seq.*

[3] This commission was formed in 2010 by then-Secretary of Energy Chu at the request of President Obama to conduct a comprehensive review of policies for managing the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle and recommend a new strategy. *https://www.energy.gov/ne/downloads/blue-ribbon-commission-americas-nuclear-future-report-secretary-energy.*

[4] The AEA and NWPA include the same definition of HLW.