

proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

Dated: March 11, 2003.

John Tressler,

*Leader, Regulatory Information Management,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

Office of Vocational and Adult Education

Type of Review: New Collection.

Title: Applications for Grants under the Community Technology Centers Program.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 1000.

Burden Hours: 66000.

Abstract: The Grant Application Package includes information for grants applicants, including priorities, selection criteria and requirements, along with relevant ED forms and non-regulatory guidance for the CTC.

This information collection is being submitted under the Streamlined Clearance Process for Discretionary Grant Information Collections (1890-0001). Therefore, the 30-day public comment period notice will be the only public comment notice published for this information collection.

Requests for copies of the submission for OMB review; comment request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number. 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 vivan.reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address 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 CAREY at (202) 708-6287. 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. 03-6234 Filed 3-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, 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 April 17, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Lauren Wittenberg, Acting Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the Internet address Lauren_Wittenberg@omb.eop.gov.

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 Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that 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.

Dated: March 11, 2003.

John Tressler,

*Leader, Regulatory Information Management,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Title: Discretionary Grant Application—Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 1200.

Burden Hours: 30000.

Abstract: Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act discretionary grants are authorized to support research and technology, personnel preparation, parent training, and information and technical assistance activities. This grant application provides the forms and information necessary for applicants to submit and application for funding, and information for use by technical reviewers to determine the quality of application.

This information collection is being submitted under the Streamlined Clearance Process for Discretionary Grant Information Collections (1890-0001). Therefore, the 30-day public comment period notice will be the only public comment notice published for this information collection.

Requests for copies of the submission for OMB review; comment request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number. 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 vivan.reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address 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 CAREY at (202) 708-6287. 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. 03-6235 Filed 3-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice DE-FG01-03ER03-22: AmeriFlux Research in Support of North American Carbon Program (NACP)

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces its interest in receiving applications for enhancement of the AmeriFlux Research Program.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of formal applications is 4:30 p.m., e.d.t., May 5, 2003, to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award in Fiscal Year 2003.

ADDRESSES: Formal applications referencing Program Notice DE-FG01-03ER03-22 must be sent electronically by an authorized institutional business official through DOE's Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) at: <http://e-center.doe.gov> (see also <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>). IIPS provides for the posting of solicitations and receipt of applications in a paperless environmental environment via the Internet. In order to submit applications through IIPS your business official will need to register at the IIPS Web site. 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 utilizing no more than four files. 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 application as Color image 1, Color image 2, etc. Questions regarding the operation of IIPS may be E-mailed to the IIPS Help Desk at: HELPPDesk@pr.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 the application through IIPS, please contact the Grants and Contracts Division, Office of Science at: (301) 903-5212, in order to gain assistance for submission through IIPS or to receive special approval and instruction on how to submit printed applications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Roger C. Dahlman, Program Manager, SC-74, OBER/Germantown Bldg, U.S. Dept of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave, SW., Washington, DC 20585-1290 (301) 903-4951, E-mail: roger.dahlman@science.doe.gov, fax: (301) 903-8519. The full text of Program Notice DE-FG01-03ER03-22 is available via the Internet using the following Web site address: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to match their research applications to the terms of scope for this announcement, and therefore preapplications are not required. Brief questions for clarification can be addressed to Dr. Dahlman, by e-mail, roger.dahlman@science.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The North American Carbon Program (NACP) is a

framework for providing scientific information on sources and sinks of CO₂, CH₄ and CO for North America. It is a planned field program of experiments, flux measurements, data analysis, and modeling that will be implemented by various Federal Agencies. The NACP is discussed briefly as an element of Carbon Cycle Chapter of the Climate Change Research Program Strategic Plan posted on the Web site, <http://www.climate-science.gov/Library/stratplan2003/ccspstratplan2003-11nov2002.pdf> (pp 100-111), and reviewed by the December 2002 Workshop in Washington DC. A discussion of NACP is available from the U.S. Global Change research Office (see reference below). The initial phase of NACP will start in the 2003-2006 time frame, and will include measurement and modeling of carbon sources and sinks of North America. The NACP is an important component of U.S. Federal Agencies' research on carbon cycle science.

Carbon dioxide flux measurement is one key approach for estimating net carbon gain or loss by terrestrial ecosystems of North America. Such measurements are currently carried out at a network of AmeriFlux sites that are partially representative of different ecosystems of North America. As described in the NACP Report (2002), AmeriFlux measurements are expected to contribute significantly to the goals of NACP, and a "high priority enabling development" calls for the "transformation of the AmeriFlux network into an integrated, near-real time network" that will support goals of the NACP. With upgraded instrumentation and advanced measurement technology, it is anticipated that atmospheric CO₂ concentration can also be determined at an accuracy and precision that can augment real-time and flask sampling networks. Augmented measurement capability offers the potential of substantially increasing knowledge of terrestrial carbon budgets and atmospheric CO₂ concentration for important regions of North America.

The intent of this solicitation therefore is to augment the AmeriFlux network and enhance CO₂ and carbon measurement capabilities in support of the NACP. This solicitation requests applications that will address the following technical requirements.

(1) *Creation of selected new AmeriFlux sites for obtaining micrometeorological data on the exchanges of CO₂ and energy using the eddy covariance technique, where it is determined that new sites would*

provide essential and critical support for initial field program(s) of NACP. New AmeriFlux sites must be compatible with observation and intensive field programs of NACP, which are designed to measure and understand sources and sinks of CO₂ and CH₄ in North America. Expanded AmeriFlux research will also support development and testing of intensive field program methodologies, and will participate in different approaches for estimating CO₂ and fluxes and carbon sinks. An initial phase of NACP intensive research is planned for the upper Midwest region of the USA, which is approximately bounded by Minnesota/Wisconsin on the north, Missouri/Oklahoma on the south, Indiana on the east and Nebraska on the west. It is possible that NACP field programs may be restricted to only a portion of this region. This solicitation is requesting applications for new AmeriFlux research in the Midwest region.

The NACP envisions a number of intensive field studies possibly at other geographical locations in the south east, north east, and western United States, and ultimately decisions on location and phasing of future intensives will guide the selection of new AmeriFlux sites. Strong consideration in the selection of new sites will be based on potential contributions to NACP priorities, particularly those that fill geographical or biogeographical gaps within the region of the first intensive field program, and with critical biomes and/or climatic zones that currently lack coverage. Pending availability of funds, applications for creating new sites at other geographical locations of the U.S. may be supported in Fiscal Year 2004 or later.

New-site applications must, of course, be based on representative vegetation, and demonstrate that sites possess appropriate physical attributes amenable to producing high-quality net ecosystem exchange (NEE) or CO₂ data. Diversity of regional ecosystem types, and the inclusion of types that theoretically represent terrestrial carbon sinks are important considerations for new site selection. New-site selections that involve agricultural ecosystems will be coordinated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) because a companion Agriflux intramural program has been proposed by USDA as another component of NACP. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the current extent and properties of AmeriFlux sites, and proposed new sites responsive to these criteria. Information about current research strategy of the AmeriFlux

network can be obtained from the Web site, <http://public.ornl.gov/ameriflux/Participants/Sites/Map/index.cfm>.

(2) *Upgrading micrometeorological and biological measurements at existing AmeriFlux sites within the upper Midwest region that are currently co-located with planned field program(s) of NACP, as noted in item (1) above.*

Upgrades that will be considered include: Instrumentation for better quantifying CO₂ fluxes; precise measurements of atmospheric CO₂; enhanced measurement capacity to deliver the full suite of core measurements recommended in the AmeriFlux science plan, <http://public.ornl.gov/ameriflux/About/scif.cfm>; improved availability, calibration, quality control and documentation of site data; redundancy of equipment to minimize data gaps; and systemic corresponding biological measurements for independent estimation of net ecosystem productivity (NEP). Priority will be given to requests that improve cohesion of network measurements. With improved precision and accuracy of atmospheric CO₂ concentration measurements, emphasis will be placed on sites that will augment initial phases of NACP intensive field programs and observing networks. In addition, since the overall value of the AmeriFlux network and its contribution to NACP depend on data sharing and data inter-comparison, only those existing AmeriFlux sites that have made NEE, biological and NEP data available to the science community through the AmeriFlux network data system (Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center) will be eligible for upgrade awards.

For both items (1) and (2) applicants are strongly encouraged to review NACP goals and major elements (NACP, 2002), and explain and justify how proposed research will likely contribute to the overall NACP research strategy, and specifically how the research will improve measurements of carbon flux measurements and estimates of carbon budgets and sinks. Importantly, the proposed research must demonstrate a capability to produce high-quality measurements and provide seasonal and annual estimates of net ecosystem exchange of CO₂. Additionally, best efforts of the proposed research are expected to produce core AmeriFlux measurements (e.g., NEE, carbon budgets and fluxes of ecosystem components, including uncertainty estimates) in quantities and format that would be compatible with related NACP land-based carbon inventories and with atmospheric CO₂ concentration and profiling data. For item (1) upgraded

capacity might include investments in instrumentation, reference gases, more systematic measurement protocols, for example.

(3) *Support of selected Science Team AmeriFlux activities that would contribute most effectively to science goals in NACP.* This could include, for example, participation in priority field programs that require synthesis and integration using measurements and modeling of AmeriFlux results as part of intensive campaigns and NACP biological inventories. For reference, applicants may wish to review current AmeriFlux activities (<http://public.ornl.gov/ameriflux/Participants/Sites/Map/index.cfm>). Applications addressing this technical requirement must identify how proposed augmentation of current research and analysis would contribute to the NACP.

NACP Reference: The North American Carbon Program (NACP), A Report of the NACP Committee of the U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Steering Group, Steven C. Wofsy and Robert C. Harriss, Co-chairs, 2002. Available from the USGCRP Office, 1717 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Suite 250, Washington, DC 2006.

Program Funding

It is anticipated that approximately \$2.0 million will be available for grant awards in Fiscal Year 2003, contingent upon availability of appropriated funds. Previous awards for the creation and operation of a new site have ranged from \$100,000 up to \$300,000 per year, with most not exceeding \$200,000. Each site application must provide a "facility" budget and an "operational" budget. Applications to create a new AmeriFlux site may be eligible for a multi-year award, where the first-year budget would include costs of site development and instrumentation, and successive-year budgets would include nominal operational costs. Applications to upgrade measurement capacity at an existing AmeriFlux site would be limited to a one-year award because most of the investment is expected to be for equipment. Sustaining operational budgets would be reflected in existing grants or renewal applications. Multi-year applications may not exceed 3 years in duration. Most awards are expected to meet these criteria; however, applications with exceptional budgeting circumstances should discuss them with the Program Manager for this solicitation. Funding of multiple year grant awards is contingent upon availability of appropriated funds.

Merit Review

Applications will be subjected to scientific merit review (peer review) and

will be evaluated against the following evaluation criteria listed in descending order of importance as codified at 10 CFR 605.10(d):

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.
4. Reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget.

The evaluation process will include program policy factors such as the relevance of the proposed research to the terms of the announcement and agency's programmatic needs. Note that external peer reviewers are selected with regard to both their scientific expertise and the absence of conflict-of-interest issues. Non-Federal reviewers may be used, and submission of an application constitutes agreement that this is acceptable to the investigator(s) and the submitting institution.

Submission Information

Information about the development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluation, selection process, and other policies and procedures may be found in 10 CFR part 605, and in the Application Guide for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program. Electronic access to the Guide and required forms is made available via the World Wide Web at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>. DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of applications if an award is not made.

The research project description must be 15 pages or less, exclusive of attachments and must contain an abstract or summary of the proposed research. On the SC grant face page, form DOE F 4650.2, in block 15, also provide the PI's phone number, fax number and e-mail address.

Attachments include curriculum vitae, a listing of all current and pending federal support, and letters of intent when collaborations are part of the proposed research. Curriculum vitae should be submitted in a form similar to that of NIH or NSF (two to three pages).

The applicants are asked to submit an electronic copy of the abstract in ASCII format to karen.carlson@science.doe.gov. The abstract should include the following information: PI and co-PI's, their institutions, brief summary of research, including identification of principal subcontractor/collaborators even if no funds are requested for their support.

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 March 7, 2003.

John Rodney Clark,

Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 03-6281 Filed 3-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Secretary of Energy Advisory Board

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces an open meeting of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770), requires that agencies publish these notices in the **Federal Register** to allow for public participation.

DATES: Tuesday, April 1, 2003, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Hyatt Sainte Claire Hotel, Ballroom, 302 S. Market Street, San Jose, California 95113.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Craig R. Reed, Executive Director, Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (AB-1), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-7092 or (202) 586-6279 (fax).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (The Board) is to provide the Secretary of Energy with essential independent advice and recommendations on issues of national importance. The Board and its subcommittees provide timely, balanced, and authoritative advice to the Secretary of Energy on the Department's management reforms, research, development and technology activities, energy and national security responsibilities, environmental cleanup activities, and other issues relating to the Department's missions.

Tentative Agenda: The April 1st meeting will include a series of briefings and discussions on issues and challenges facing the Department of Energy. The Board will review and discuss the following two reports submitted for their approval by the Laboratory Operations Board, a subcommittee of the SEAB:

- Recommendations Regarding Industry Partnering/Technology Transfer Within the Department of Energy: A Report of the External

Members The Laboratory Operations Board Industry Partnering/Technology Transfer Working Group, dated December 31, 2002.

- Recommendations Regarding the Application of "Other Transactions Authority" Within the Department of Energy: A Report of the External Members of the Laboratory Operations Board, dated September 24, 2002.

Copies of the two draft reports submitted by the Laboratory Operations Board may be obtained from the Board's internet address <http://www.seab.energy.gov/>

under the heading "What's New" or by contacting the Office of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board at (202) 586-7092. Members of the public are invited to comment on the two reports during the scheduled public comment period or by submitting written comments to the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board by March 27, 2003. The Board will also receive status reports from the SEAB Subcommittee on Energy Technologies and the American Economy and from the SEAB Subcommittee on the Future of Science Programs at the Department of Energy. In addition, the Board will be briefed on activities for the coming year, including plans for the formation of a "Blue Ribbon Commission" on the use of competitive procedures for DOE laboratory management and operations contracts.

Members of the public wishing to comment on issues before the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board will have an opportunity to address the Board during the public comment period. The final agenda will be posted on the Board's web site when available, and will be provided at the meeting.

Public Participation: In keeping with procedures, members of the public are welcome to observe the business of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board and submit written comments or comment during the scheduled public comment period. The Chairman of the Board is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will, in the Chairman's judgment, facilitate the orderly conduct of business. During its meeting in San Jose, California, the Board welcomes public comment. Members of the public will be heard in the order in which they sign up at the beginning of the meeting. The Board will make every effort to hear the views of all interested parties. You may submit written comments to Dr. Craig R. Reed, Executive Director, Secretary of Energy Advisory Board, AB-1, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585.

Minutes: A copy of the minutes and a transcript of the meeting will be made

available for public review and copying approximately 30 days following the meeting at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190 Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays. Further information on the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board and its subcommittees may be found at the Board's Web site, located at <http://www.seab.energy.gov/>.

Issued at Washington, DC on March 12, 2003.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-6279 Filed 3-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces an open meeting of the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee under the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that agencies publish these notices in the **Federal Register** to allow for public participation. This notice announces the meeting of the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee.

DATES: April 10, 2003—8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Hilton Crystal City Hotel at National Airport, Farragut Room, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Ferrell, Designated Federal Officer for the Committee, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585; (202) 586-7766.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and guidance that promotes research and development leading to the production of biobased industrial products.

Tentative Agenda: Agenda will include discussions on the following:

- Development of recommendations to the Biomass R&D Board on the future direction for federal biomass research