

impacted in the Yazoo Backwater Area. Impacts and environmental consequences of the alternatives on the affected environment will be evaluated and compared for the future with project and future without project conditions.

5. *Scoping.* The USACE invites all affected Federal agencies, Tribal Nations, State and local agencies, community members with environmental justice concerns implicated by the project, other interested parties, and the general public to participate in the NEPA scoping process during development of the EIS. The purpose of the public scoping process is to provide information to the public, narrow the scope of analysis to significant environmental issues, serve as a mechanism to solicit agency and public input on potential alternatives and issues of concern, and ensure full and open participation in scoping for the EIS. As previously described, the USACE has already provided a number of public opportunities for input that helped inform the development of the USACE Preferred Alternative including robust early engagement and pre-scoping meetings and a written comment period. The engagement process continues in the scoping process described in this NOI. The USACE requests input from interested parties regarding any potential mitigation alternatives and information and analyses relevant to impacts associated with the alternatives, including the USACE Preferred Alternative. Project information can be found on the USACE project website.<sup>2</sup> Comments can be submitted via the methods in the **ADDRESSES** section above. All personally identifiable information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by a commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

6. *Potentially Significant Issues.* The EIS will provide data and analyses on, but is not limited to, the following resources: bottomland hardwood wetlands and other wetland resources, endangered species, waterfowl, fisheries, water quality, downstream effects, cultural resources, environmental justice, recreation, and where appropriate consideration of ongoing and projected effects of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. Wetlands, downstream effects, aquatics,

and environmental justice are discussed briefly below.

*Wetlands:* The USACE Preferred Alternative will be designed to avoid and minimize wetland impacts. Aside from the minimal unavoidable wetland losses associated with construction of an expanded footprint of the pump station facility, the USACE's Preferred Alternative is designed to result in no conversion of wetlands to non-wetlands. Some wetland functional loss is anticipated to occur during the crop season water management period. The USACE will collaborate with EPA and USFWS to estimate wetland impacts and identify compensatory mitigation methods to offset unavoidable impacts.

*Downstream Effects:* Recent studies have shown the additional water from 25,000 cfs pumps, operating at full capacity, is approximately 1% of the Mississippi River highwater flow, representing a nearly immeasurable contribution to the outflow at the Vicksburg Gage. The additional flow would minimally increase the water surface stage, which would have no appreciable effect to downstream flooding. Water quality impacts are anticipated to be insignificant because the total load of nutrients and organic carbon that will be exported downstream would not be altered because of pump operation. The overall contribution of nutrients downstream, resultant from pump operation, will only affect the timing of nutrient delivery, but not the overall appreciable loading downstream in the Mississippi River.

*Aquatics:* The USACE Preferred Alternative is anticipated to result in some loss of spawning and rearing habitat, primarily during the crop season. The USACE will collaborate with EPA and USFWS to estimate impacts to fish and other aquatic species and identify compensatory mitigation methods to offset any impacts. Current data shows hypoxia occurs during major backwater flood events and this hypoxia negatively affects certain fish species and other aquatic organisms. Flood-induced hypoxia during the spring and early summer likely impacts successful spawning and rearing regardless of the amount of aquatic habitat available. The EIS will analyze environmental and adaptive management plans to reduce the spatial extent and duration of hypoxia.

*Environmental Justice:* Backwater flooding events cause severe economic damages to all populations in the Yazoo Backwater Area by destroying homes, farmland, wildlife resources, community infrastructure, and access routes used by residences and the

public safety system. The majority of the Yazoo Backwater Area is home to low-income or minority communities which meet the threshold criteria of at least 20 percent or more of households having incomes below poverty levels or an area having a majority of residents identifying as a minority. The Yazoo Backwater Area is also designated as disadvantaged by the Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.<sup>3</sup> Backwater flooding events create disproportionately high adverse human health and environmental effects to these minority, low-income, and underserved communities. Meaningful outreach to communities with environmental justice concerns will be conducted and the EIS will compare the current backwater flood conditions with the future flood conditions across the alternatives and analyze the impacts to each of the communities with environmental justice concerns.<sup>4</sup>

7. *Anticipated NEPA Schedule.* The current schedule anticipates the release of the draft EIS by the USACE for public review and comment in December 2023. After it is published, the USACE will hold a public meeting(s) to present the results of the analysis, to receive comments, and to address questions concerning the Preferred Alternative.

Approved by:

**Michael L. Connor,**

*Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works).*

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**BILLING CODE 3720-58-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2023-SCC-0117]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Application for the International Research and Studies (IRS) Program (1894-0001)

**AGENCY:** Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing a revision of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).

<sup>3</sup> <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en> (last accessed June 25, 2023).

<sup>4</sup> The EIS will also consider Executive Order 14096, Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice For All, issued on April 26, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Programs-and-Project-Management/Yazoo-Backwater/> (last accessed on June 29, 2023).

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 7, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be submitted within 30 days of publication of this notice. Click on this link [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain) to access the site. Find this information collection request (ICR) by selecting "Department of Education" under "Currently Under Review," then check the "Only Show ICR for Public Comment" checkbox. Reginfo.gov provides two links to view documents related to this information collection request. Information collection forms and instructions may be found by clicking on the "View Information Collection (IC) List" link. Supporting statements and other supporting documentation may be found by clicking on the "View Supporting Statement and Other Documents" link.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Cheryl Gibbs, 202-453-5690.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department 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:* Application for the International Research and Studies (IRS) Program (1894-0001).

*OMB Control Number:* 1840-0795.

*Type of Review:* A revision of a currently approved ICR.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Private Sector.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 50.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 3,333.

*Abstract:* This information collection (OMB 1840-0795) includes application instructions and forms for the International Research and Studies (IRS) Program (CFDA Number 84.017), authorized under title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1125). The program provides grants to institutions, public and private

agencies, organizations, and individuals to conduct research and studies to improve and strengthen instruction in modern foreign languages, area studies, and other international fields.

The type of collection is a revision of the previously approved information collection (application). A revision of the application instructions and forms is necessary for IFLE to conduct the future competitions and complete the Department's required grant-making activities.

This collection is being submitted under the Streamlined Clearance Process for Discretionary Grant Information Collections (1894-0001). Therefore, the 30-day public comment period notice will be the only public comment notice published for this information collection.

Dated: June 29, 2023.

**Kun 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. 2023-14203 Filed 7-5-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2023-SCC-0122]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Educational Opportunity Centers Program (EOC) Annual Performance Report

**AGENCY:** Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing a revision of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before September 5, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED-2023-SCC-0122. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) site is not available to the public for any reason,

the Department will temporarily accept comments at [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov). Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. Please note that comments submitted after the comment period will not be accepted. Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Manager of the Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave SW, LBJ, Room 6W203, Washington, DC 20202-8240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Marie Julienne, (202) 987-1054.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department, 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. The Department is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department 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:* Educational Opportunity Centers Program (EOC) Annual Performance Report.

*OMB Control Number:* 1840-0830.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved ICR.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* State, local, and Tribal governments; private sector.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 183.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 1,464.