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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1087, *et seq.*

Richard Cordray,

Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Annual Notice of Interest Rates for Variable-Rate Federal Student Loans Made Under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program

AGENCY: Federal Student Aid, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Chief Operating Officer for Federal Student Aid announces the interest rates for Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loans (Direct Subsidized Loans), Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Loans (Direct Unsubsidized Loans), and Federal Direct PLUS Loans (Direct PLUS Loan), Assistance Listing Number 84.268, with first disbursement dates before July 1, 2006, and for Federal Direct Consolidation Loans (Direct Consolidation Loans) for which the application was received before February 1, 1999. The rates announced in this notice are in effect for the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Travis Sturlaugson, U.S. Department of Education, 830 First Street NE, 11th floor, Washington, DC 20202.

Telephone: (202) 377-4174 or by email: travis.sturlaugson@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Direct PLUS Loans, and Direct Consolidation Loans (collectively referred to as “Direct Loans”) may have either fixed or variable interest rates, depending on when the loan was first disbursed or, in the case of a Direct Consolidation Loan, when the application for the loan was received. Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, and Direct PLUS Loans first disbursed before July 1, 2006, and Direct Consolidation Loans for which the application was received before February 1, 1999, have variable interest rates. For these loans, a new rate is determined annually and is in effect during the period from July 1 of one year through June 30 of the following year.

Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, and Direct PLUS Loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2006, and Direct Consolidation Loans for which the application was received on or after February 1, 1999, have fixed interest rates that apply for the life of the loan.

This notice announces the interest rates for variable-rate Direct Loans that will apply during the period from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. Interest rate information for fixed-rate Direct Loans is announced in a separate notice published in the **Federal Register**.

Interest rates for variable-rate Direct Loans are determined in accordance with formulas specified in section 455(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) (20 U.S.C. 1087e(b)). The formulas vary depending on loan type and when the loan was first disbursed or, for certain Direct Consolidation Loans, when the application for the loan was received. The HEA specifies a maximum interest rate for these loan types. If the interest rate formula results in a rate that exceeds the statutory maximum rate, the rate is the statutory maximum rate.

Variable-Rate Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, and Direct PLUS Loans

For Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans with first

disbursement dates before July 1, 2006, and for Direct PLUS Loans with first disbursement dates on or after July 1, 1998, and before July 1, 2006, the interest rate is equal to the lesser of—

(1) The bond equivalent rate of 91-day Treasury bills auctioned at the final auction held before the June 1 immediately preceding the 12-month period to which the interest rate applies, plus a statutory add-on percentage; or

(2) 8.25 percent (for Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans) or 9.00 percent (for Direct PLUS Loans).

For Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans with first disbursement dates on or after July 1, 1995, and before July 1, 2006, the statutory add-on percentage varies depending on whether the loan is in an in-school, grace, or deferment status, or in any other status. For all other loans, the statutory add-on percentage is the same during any status.

The bond equivalent rate of 91-day Treasury bills auctioned on May 24, 2021, is 0.015 percent, rounded to 0.02 percent.

For Direct PLUS Loans with first disbursement dates before July 1, 1998, the interest rate is equal to the lesser of—

(1) The weekly average 1-year constant maturity Treasury yield, as published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, for the last calendar week ending on or before the June 26 preceding the 12-month period to which the interest rate applies, plus a statutory add-on percentage; or

(2) 9.00 percent.

The weekly average of the one-year constant maturity Treasury yield, as published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, for the last calendar week ending on or before June 26, 2021, is 0.09 percent.

Variable-Rate Direct Consolidation Loans

A Direct Consolidation Loan may have up to three components, depending on the types of loans that were repaid by the consolidation loan and when the application for the consolidation loan was received. The three components are called Direct Subsidized Consolidation Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Consolidation Loans, and (only for Direct Consolidation Loans made based on applications received before July 1, 2006) Direct PLUS Consolidation Loans. In most cases the interest rates for variable-rate Direct Subsidized Consolidation Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Consolidation Loans, and Direct PLUS Consolidation Loans are determined in accordance with the same formulas that apply to Direct Subsidized

Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, and Direct PLUS Loans, respectively.

Interest Rate Charts

Charts 1 and 2 show the interest rate formulas used to determine the interest

rates for all variable-rate Direct Loans and the rates that are in effect during the 12-month period from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

Chart 1 shows the interest rates for loans with rates based on the 91-day

Treasury bill rate. Chart 2 shows the interest rates for loans with rates based on the weekly average of the one-year constant maturity Treasury yield.

CHART 1—DIRECT SUBSIDIZED LOANS, DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED LOANS, DIRECT SUBSIDIZED CONSOLIDATION LOANS, DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED CONSOLIDATION LOANS, DIRECT PLUS LOANS, AND DIRECT PLUS CONSOLIDATION LOANS

[Interest rates based on 91-day Treasury bill]

Loan type	Cohort	91-day T-bill rate 05/24/21 (%)	Add-on (%)		Maximum rate (%)	Interest rate 07/01/21 through 06/30/22 (%)	
Subsidized, Unsubsidized.	First disbursed on/after 07/01/98 and before 07/01/06.	0.02	1.70 (in-school, grace, deferment).	2.30 (any other status).	8.25	1.72 (in-school, grace, deferment).	2.32 (any other status)
Subsidized Consolidation, Unsubsidized Consolidation.	First disbursed on/after 07/01/98 and before 10/01/98; or Application received before 10/01/98 and first disbursed on/after 10/01/98.
PLUS	First disbursed on/after 07/01/98 and before 07/01/06.	0.02	3.10		9.00	3.12	
PLUS Consolidation.	First disbursed on/after 07/01/1998 and before 10/01/1998; or Application received before 10/01/98 and first disbursed on/after 10/01/98.						
Subsidized, Unsubsidized, Subsidized Consolidation, Unsubsidized Consolidation.	First disbursed on/after 07/01/95 and before 07/01/98.	0.02	2.50 (in-school, grace, deferment).	3.10 (any other status).	8.25	2.52 (in-school, grace, deferment).	3.12 (any other status)
Subsidized, Unsubsidized, Subsidized Consolidation, Unsubsidized Consolidation.	First disbursed before 07/01/95.	0.02	3.10		8.25	3.12	
Subsidized Consolidation, Unsubsidized Consolidation, PLUS Consolidation.	Application received on/after 10/01/98 and before 02/01/99.	0.02	2.30		8.25	2.32	

CHART 2—DIRECT PLUS LOANS AND DIRECT PLUS CONSOLIDATION LOANS INTEREST RATES BASED ON WEEKLY AVERAGE OF ONE-YEAR CONSTANT MATURITY TREASURY YIELD

Loan type	Cohort	Weekly average of 1-year constant maturity treasury yield for last calendar week ending on or before 06/26/21 (%)	Add-on (%)	Maximum rate (%)	Interest rate 07/01/21 through 06/30/22 (%)
PLUS, PLUS Consolidation	First disbursed before 07/01/98	0.09	3.10	9.00	3.19

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1087 et seq.

Richard Cordray,

Chief Operating Officer Federal Student Aid.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Request for Information Regarding Establishment of the Department of Energy Uranium Reserve Program

AGENCY: National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Request for information (RFI).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) is issuing this RFI to invite public comment on topics related to

establishment of the DOE's Uranium Reserve program.

DATES: Written comments and information are requested on or before September 10, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons may submit comments by any of the following methods:

Email: rfi-uranium@hq.doe.gov. Submit electronic comments in Microsoft Word or PDF file format and avoid the use of special characters or any form of encryption. Please include "Response to Uranium Reserve RFI" in the subject line.

Postal Mail: Response to Uranium Reserve RFI, c/o Mr. Kyle Fowler, U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Mailstop NA-10, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121.

Online: Responses will be accepted online at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name for this request for information. No facsimiles (faxes) will be accepted.

Note: The Government has posted a parallel RFI to SAM.gov in order invite industry comment on topics related to establishment of the DOE's Uranium Reserve program. To avoid duplicate submissions, interested parties are encouraged to only respond to one of the notices.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for further information should be sent to: rfi-uranium@hq.doe.gov or Mr. Kyle Fowler, (202) 586-1963. If responding by email, please include "Question on Uranium Reserve RFI" in the subject line.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In the United States (U.S.), nuclear energy provides more than 55 percent of our clean energy and supports about half a million American jobs. However, the U.S. nuclear industry and the nuclear fuel supply chain face significant challenges that have left domestic nuclear fuel suppliers in a weakened position on the domestic and global stage. Revitalizing the U.S. nuclear fuel supply infrastructure

would support the Administration's goals described in the American Jobs Plan,¹ including addressing the climate crisis, creating American jobs, positioning the U.S. to compete with economic rivals, and supporting national security. It would support environmental justice initiatives, prioritize addressing long-standing and persistent racial injustice by targeting 40 percent of the benefits of climate and clean infrastructure investments to disadvantaged communities, consider rural communities and communities impacted by the market-based transition to clean energy, and include meaningful stakeholder engagement.

In December 2020, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. 116-260) that makes \$75,000,000 available to the Department for the Uranium Reserve Program. The Department is considering options to acquire natural uranium and convert this uranium into uranium hexafluoride that would be stored at commercial facilities in the United States.

In considering options, the Department will focus on reinvigorating domestic nuclear fuel supply chain capabilities, utilizing existing facilities, and minimizing negative disruption of market mechanisms. The Department expects the acquisition of natural uranium to result in new uranium production at existing domestic sites. The Department does not intend such new production to initiate or expand mining on Tribal lands, expand the Office of Legacy Management's (LM) Uranium Leasing Program, or expand access to additional uranium deposits located on other Federal lands. Additionally, the Department does not intend to acquire uranium or uranium hexafluoride produced from enricher underfeeding, the re-enrichment of tails, or other sources that do not support the reinvigoration of uranium production and conversion capabilities. Likewise, the Department expects to use existing domestic commercial conversion

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/31/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan/>