

more effectively elicit program-specific information to be used for program monitoring and Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) reporting purposes. The Annual Performance Report will be the cornerstone of a new Performance Measurement System tailored to strengthen the Department of Education's program monitoring efforts, streamline our processes, and enhance our customer service.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, or should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651. 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 Joe Schubart at (202) 708-9266 or via his internet address 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.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection requests.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: An emergency review has been requested in accordance with the Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3507 (j)), since public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed. Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by January 2, 2002. A regular clearance process is also beginning. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before February 19, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Karen Lee, 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 KFLee@omb.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Office of Management and Budget (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, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection. 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. ED invites public comment. 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 respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: December 17, 2001.

John Tressler, Leader,
Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Type of Review: New.

Title: Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants.

Abstract: To ensure equal opportunity for all applicants including small community-based, faith-based and religious groups, it is essential to collect information that allows Federal agencies

to determine the level of participation of such organizations in Federal grant programs while ensuring that such information is not used in grant-making decisions.

Additional Information: The Department requests emergency processing for the "Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants" which tracks the participation level of faith-based and community organizations in grant programs. The ability to utilize this form immediately is critical to the implementation of President's Bush's Faith-based and Community Initiative established by an Executive Order dated January 29, 2001 and to carry out the mandate of Section 3(b) of that order. As Congress may enact authorizing and appropriating legislation for the U.S. Department of Education in mid December 2001, it will be necessary to roll out grant application materials as soon as possible to expeditiously fund much needed social programs in Fiscal Year 2002. Since this form must be included in grant application packages, delay in the approval of this form could delay the funding of grant programs. Since this unanticipated event, the Department has consulted with the Office of Management and Budget, the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives as well as the four Centers for Faith-based and Community Initiatives at the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Labor, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Justice. The Department requests approval by January 2, 2002.

Frequency: Annually.

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

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 17,000,
Burden Hours: 1,360.

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Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements, contact Kathy Axt at (540) 776-7742 or via her internet address Kathy.Axt@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.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 02–11: Ocean Carbon Sequestration Research Program

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 research on Carbon Sequestration in the Oceans.

DATES: Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a brief preapplication for programmatic review no later than January 18, 2002.

The deadline for receipt of formal applications is 4:30 p.m., E.S.T., March 26, 2002, to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award in Fiscal Year 2002 and early Fiscal Year 2003.

ADDRESSES: Preapplications should be sent via E-mail to Dr. Anna Palmisano at: anna.palmisano@science.doe.gov.

Formal applications, referencing Program Notice 02–11, should be sent to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Grants and Contracts Division, SC–64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874–1290, ATTN: Program Notice 02–11. This address must also be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or any other commercial overnight delivery service, or when hand-carried by the applicant.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Anna Palmisano, Environmental Sciences Division, SC–74, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, Office of Science, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874–1290, telephone: (301) 903–9963, E-mail: anna.palmisano@science.doe.gov, fax: (301) 903–8519. The full text of Program Notice 02–11 is available via the Internet using the following web site address: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Predictions of global energy use in the next century suggest a continued increase in carbon emissions and rising concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere unless major changes

are made in the way we produce and use energy—in particular, how we manage carbon.

One way to manage carbon is to use energy more efficiently to reduce our need for a major energy and carbon source—fossil fuel combustion. A second way is to increase our use of low-carbon and carbon-free fuels and technologies, such as nuclear power and renewable sources such as solar energy, wind power, and biomass fuels.

A third way to manage is by “carbon sequestration”: The capture and long term storage of carbon either from the global energy system or directly from the atmosphere in oceanic or terrestrial ecosystems. Although many options exist to capture and sequester carbon dioxide, the focus of this solicitation is on fundamental research that would enable: (a) The enhancement of the absorption and retention of atmospheric carbon by ocean biota; and (b) the use of the deep ocean to store carbon dioxide that has been already separated, captured, and transported.

Any viable system for sequestering carbon must have a number of characteristics. It must be effective and cost-competitive with alternative means, such as renewable energy. Unintended environmental consequences must be benign compared to alternative solutions, including no action. A carbon sequestration system must be able to be monitored quantitatively and verified, because contributions to carbon sequestration almost certainly need to be measured. Research sponsored by this program could contribute to any of these goals.

This solicitation invites applications for basic research projects on carbon sequestration in the oceans. The proposed research should be fundamental in nature. Applications that test demonstrations of engineered technologies are not relevant to this solicitation.

Technical Areas of Interest

The ocean represents a large current sink for the sequestration of anthropogenic CO₂ emissions as well as a large potential for further enhancement. Two strategies for enhancing carbon sequestration in the ocean are the focus of the DOE Ocean Carbon Sequestration Research Program. One strategy is the enhancement of the net oceanic uptake from the atmosphere by fertilization of phytoplankton with micronutrients, such as iron. A second strategy is the direct injection of a relatively pure CO₂ stream to ocean depths greater than 1000 m. Sources of CO₂ for direct injection might include power plants, industries or other

sources. This solicitation seeks applications that specifically address the long term effectiveness and potential environmental consequences of ocean sequestration by these two strategies. Research projects currently being funded under the DOE Ocean Carbon Sequestration Research Program may be accessed at: <http://cdiac2.esd.ornl.gov/ocean.html>. The program currently funds projects in a wide range of scientific disciplines including marine biology and ecology; biological, physical, and chemical oceanography; computational science and modeling; and physical chemistry and engineering.

Iron Fertilization

Much has been learned about the important role of iron in photosynthesis over the past 15 years through both laboratory and field iron enrichment experiments. Iron deficiency has been shown to limit the efficiency of photosystem II in phytoplankton. Evidence from paleoceanographic samples also links iron supply with marine primary production and carbon flux. However, critical questions remain: How does iron enrichment accelerate carbon flux in high nutrient, low chlorophyll (HNLC), low nutrient, low chlorophyll (LNLC), sub-mixed layer and coastal ecosystems? What are the time scales of remineralization? What are the long term ecological and biogeochemical consequences of fertilization on surface and midwater processes? Basic research is needed on the biogeochemistry of iron and carbon in the ocean. The accurate measure of carbon flux following iron fertilization is critical to the objective evaluation of this strategy for carbon sequestration. We need to understand the regulation of carbon fluxes and the role of mineral ballast in export of organic carbon from the surface to the deep ocean. Our understanding of the concentrations, sources, sinks and ligands of iron in marine systems is also very limited. The complexity of marine ecosystems necessitates careful research on potential environmental consequences of iron fertilization. These consequences may include the potential to impact key oceanic biogeochemical cycles as well as on populations of marine organisms and their trophodynamic interactions.

Examples of relevant research areas for enhancement of the biological pump through iron fertilization include:

1. Environmental consequences of long term ocean fertilization. Research might focus on:

- Examining changes in structure and function of marine ecosystems including community structure of phytoplankton and zooplankton, ocean