

to be addressed will include, but are not limited to, the following resource areas: Wildlife including threatened and endangered species and marine mammals, fisheries including an analysis of water quality, air quality, commercial fishing, commercial shipping, recreation, and socioeconomics. The evaluation will include an evaluation of the direct, indirect, short-term, and cumulative impacts. No decision will be made to conduct a shock trial until the NEPA process is completed.

The Navy is initiating the scoping process to identify community concerns and local issues that should be addressed in the EIS/OEIS. Federal, state, local agencies, and interested persons are encouraged to provide oral and/or written comments to the Navy to identify specific issues or topics of environmental concern for consideration in the EIS/OEIS. The Navy will consider these comments in determining the scope of the EIS/OEIS.

Written comments on the scope of the EIS/OEIS should be submitted by May 20, 2004, and should be mailed to: LPD 17 Program Manager, C/O Booz Allen Hamilton, 1725 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Suite 1100, Arlington, VA 22202, Attn: LPD 17 EIS.

Dated: March 8, 2004.

S.A. Hughes,

Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-5633 Filed 3-11-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Shock Test of a VIRGINIA (SSN 774) Class Submarine

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy (Navy) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with conducting a shock test on a VIRGINIA (SSN 774) Class submarine, at a site located off the East Coast of the United States. Pursuant to

40 CFR 1501.6, the Navy has requested that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) act as a Cooperating Agency.

A "shock test" is necessary to evaluate the effect of shock waves, resulting from a series of underwater explosions simulating conditions encountered in combat. The congressionally mandated (10 U.S.C. 2366) Live Fire Test and Evaluation (LFT&E) Program requires realistic survivability testing on each new Class of Navy submarines. A "shock test" is a component of the Navy's LFT&E program to ensure survivability. The test results provide important information that is applied to follow-on submarines, and is used to validate/improve the initial submarine design and enhance the effectiveness and overall survivability of the submarine and crew.

DATES: Public scoping meetings will be held in Norfolk, VA and Jacksonville/Atlantic Beach, FL, to receive oral and/or written comments on environmental concerns that should be addressed in the EIS/OEIS. The public meeting dates are:

1. Tuesday, April 20, 2004, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., in Norfolk, VA.
2. Wednesday, April 21, 2004, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., in Jacksonville/Atlantic Beach, FL.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting locations are:

1. Norfolk, VA: Lafayette Branch Public Library, 1610 Cromwell Drive, Norfolk, VA 23509.
2. Jacksonville/Atlantic Beach, FL: Mayport Elementary School Media Center, 2753 Shangri-La Drive, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-2999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Naval Sea Systems Command, Attn: 09A12 (Mr. David Cartwright, SEA07TE), 614 Sicard Street SE., Washington Navy Yard, DC 20376-7031; telephone (703) 412-7521.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action (shock test) would subject a VIRGINIA (SSN 774) Class submarine to no more than five explosive charges, approximately 10,000 pounds each, while monitoring the effects on the submarine. The EIS/OEIS will thoroughly address reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, the existing environments of the proposed test areas, and the impact to the environment at those areas. An initial evaluation identified areas at the 400-foot depth curve and within 100 nm of Kings Bay, GA/Mayport, FL; and Norfolk, VA, as potential shock test locations, because they effectively meet the operational criteria necessary to conduct a shock test on a submarine.

The proposed shock test is scheduled to occur between May 1, 2006, and September 30, 2006, with a maximum of one test event per week.

The EIS/OEIS will evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the test locations. Issues to be addressed will include, but are not limited to, the following resource areas: wildlife, including threatened and endangered species and marine mammals, fisheries, including an analysis of water quality, air quality, commercial fishing, commercial shipping, recreation, and socioeconomics. The EIS/OEIS will include an evaluation of the direct, indirect, short-term, and cumulative impacts. No decision will be made to conduct a shock test until the NEPA process is completed.

The Navy is initiating the scoping process to identify community concerns and local issues that should be addressed in the EIS/OEIS. Federal, State, local agencies, and interested persons are encouraged to provide oral and/or written comments to the Navy to identify specific issues or topics of environmental concern for consideration in the EIS/OEIS. The Navy will consider these comments in determining the scope of the EIS/OEIS.

Written comments on the scope of the EIS/OEIS should be submitted by May 21, 2004, and should be mailed to: VIRGINIA (SSN 774) Class Program, C/O Booz Allen Hamilton, 1725 Jefferson Davis HWY, Suite 1100, Arlington, VA 22202, Attn: VIRGINIA (SSN 774) Class EIS.

Dated: March 8, 2004.

S.A. Hughes,

Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-5632 Filed 3-11-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education requests comments on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that the Secretary proposes to use for the 2005-2006 award year. The FAFSA is completed by students and their families and the information submitted on the form is used to determine the students' eligibility and financial need for financial aid under the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of

the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, (Title IV, HEA Programs). The Secretary also requests comments on changes under consideration for the 2005–2006 award year FAFSA.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 11, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Joseph Schubart, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202–4651.

In addition, interested persons can access this document on the Internet:

- (1) Go to IFAP at <http://ifap.ed.gov>;
- (2) Scroll down to “Publications”;
- (3) Click on “FAFSAs and Renewal FAFSAs”;
- (4) Click on “By 2005–2006 Award Year”;
- (5) Click on “Draft FAFSA Form/Instructions”.

Please note that the free Adobe Acrobat Reader software, version 4.0 or greater, is necessary to view this file. This software can be downloaded for free from Adobe's Web site: <http://www.adobe.com>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph Schubart (202) 708–9266. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), requires the Secretary, “in cooperation with agencies and organizations involved in providing student financial assistance,” to “produce, distribute and process free of charge a common financial reporting form to be used to determine the need and eligibility of a student under” the Title IV, HEA Programs. This form is the FAFSA. In addition, section 483 authorizes the Secretary to include non-financial data items that assist States in awarding State student financial assistance.

The draft 2005–2006 FAFSA (posted to the IFAP Web site) incorporates four new data elements in preparation for a potential match with IRS data. These new data elements are on page 3 of the form, questions 18–21. To allow room for these new data elements we are recommending the number of schools an applicant lists on the FAFSA be reduced from six to four. This recommendation is based on comments received during the previous clearance

cycle. Other suggestions to fit these additional questions included removing some of the instructions on the form. The Secretary requests comments on ways to further simplify the application for students, parents, and schools, as well as suggestions for incorporating these new data elements.

The Secretary is publishing this request for comment under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* Under that Act, ED must obtain the review and approval of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before it may use a form to collect information. However, under procedure for obtaining approval from OMB, ED must first obtain public comment of the proposed form, and to obtain that comment, ED must publish this notice in the **Federal Register**.

In addition to comments requested above, to accommodate the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Secretary is interested in receiving comments with regard to the following matters: (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.

Dated: March 8, 2004.

Angela C. Arrington,
Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Federal Student Aid

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Individuals or household.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 14,762,847.

Burden Hours: 7,624,153.

Abstract: The FAFSA collects identifying and financial information about a student applying for Title IV, HEA program funds. This information is used to calculate the student's expected family contribution, which is used to determine a student's financial need. The information is also used for determining a student's eligibility for State and institutional financial aid programs.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be

accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the “Browse Pending Collections” link and by clicking on link number 2465. 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 Vivian.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.

[FR Doc. 04–5586 Filed 3–11–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4001–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Overview Information; Demonstration and Training Programs—Braille Training Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

Catalog of Federal Domestic

Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.235E

Dates: Applications Available: March 12, 2004.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 26, 2004.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: June 25, 2004.

Eligible Applicants: State agencies and other public or nonprofit agencies and organizations, including institutions of higher education.

Estimated Available Funds: \$200,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$75,000–\$100,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards:

\$100,000 per 12-month period.

Estimated Number of Awards: 2.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: This program offers financial assistance to establish projects that will provide training in the use of braille for personnel providing vocational rehabilitation services or educational services to youth and adults who are blind.

Priority: In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(iv), this priority is from section 303(d)(2) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Act), 29 U.S.C. 773(d)(2).