

Congress submitted pursuant to Section 618(g). Funds provided under Section 618 may be used to fund projects proposed by applicants that are private for-profit agencies only when necessary because of the unique nature of the study.

In accordance with 20 U.S.C. 7452(b)(4), funds provided under the Bilingual Education Research, Evaluation, and Dissemination Program must be administered by individuals with expertise in bilingual education and the needs of limited English proficient students and their families. Funds provided under this program must be used to improve bilingual education and special alternative instruction programs for children and youth of limited English proficiency.

As part of the efforts to improve student assessment, the Department made awards in FY 1995 under the Assessment Development and Evaluation Grants Program, authorized by section 220 of the Goals 2000: Educate America Act. Under this program, the Secretary provides grants to SEAs, LEAs or partnerships of such agencies to help defray the costs of developing, field-testing and evaluating State assessments aligned to State content standards. Applications involving 43 States were received in 1995 and grants were made to support 9 projects. The Secretary expects these projects to develop model strategies for the assessment of student learning that will have a significant impact on State and local level systemic reform efforts.

Depending on the availability of funds in FY 1996 and subsequent years, the Secretary may decide to use funds under the proposed priorities to continue projects initially funded under the Assessment Development and Evaluation Grants program or to fund additional applications considered in the 1995 competition. Alternatively, the Secretary may decide to hold a competition for new awards under the proposed priorities.

The Secretary will announce the final priorities in a notice in the Federal Register. The final priorities will be determined by responses to this notice, available funds, and other considerations of the Department. Funding of particular projects depends on the availability of funds, the nature of the final priorities, and the quality of the applications received. The publication of these proposed priorities does not preclude the Secretary from proposing additional priorities, nor does it limit the Secretary to funding only these priorities, subject to meeting applicable rulemaking requirements.

Note: This notice of proposed priorities does *not* solicit applications. A notice inviting applications under this competition will be published in the Federal Register concurrent with or following publication of the notice of final priorities.

Proposed Absolute Priorities

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), the Secretary proposes to give an absolute preference to projects that meet one or more of the following priorities. The Secretary proposes to fund only projects that meet one or more of these absolute priorities:

Proposed Absolute Priority 1— Projects that develop, field-test, and evaluate assessments that are aligned to State content standards.

Proposed Absolute Priority 2— Projects that modify, field-test, and evaluate assessments to address the needs of children and youth with disabilities or limited English proficiency. Assessments to be modified must be those developed under priority (1) or similar assessments developed for all students and aligned to State content standards.

All projects must—

- (a) Examine the validity and reliability of the assessment for the particular purposes for which the assessment was developed;
- (b) Ensure that the assessment is consistent with relevant, nationally recognized professional and technical standards for assessments;
- (c) Devote special attention to how the assessment treats all students, especially with regard to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, and language proficiency of those students; and
- (d) Be developed by, or under the direction of, an SEA, LEA, or consortia of those agencies.

Selection Criteria

With respect to new awards made with funds from Section 618 of IDEA, the Secretary does not intend to use the selection criteria in 34 CFR 327.31. With respect to any new awards made with funds from the Bilingual Education Research, Evaluation, and Dissemination Program, the Secretary does not intend to use the selection criteria in 34 CFR 75.210. The Secretary intends to use the evaluation criteria in 34 CFR Part 700 to select all new awards under these priorities.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR Part 79. The objective of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on processes

developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with the order, this document is intended to provide early notification of the Department's specific plans and actions for this program.

Invitation To Comment

Interested persons are invited to submit comments and recommendations regarding these proposed priorities.

All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection, during and after the comment period in OERI, Room 510, 555 New Jersey Avenue, Washington, D.C., between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday of each week except Federal holidays.

Applicable Program Regulations

(a) 34 CFR part 327, with the exception of 34 CFR 327.31; and (b) the final regulations for the Standards for the Conduct and Evaluation of Activities Carried Out by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)—Evaluation of applications for Grants and Cooperative Agreements and Proposals for Contracts, published on September 14, 1995 in the Federal Register (60 FR 47808), to be codified as 34 CFR Part 700.

Authority: 20 U.S.C. 8001.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.215L—Fund for the Improvement of Education Program)

Dated: December 5, 1995.

Sharon P. Robinson,
Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

[FR Doc. 95-30167 Filed 12-11-95; 8:45 am]

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[CFDA No. 84.305F, 84.306F, 84.307F, 84.308F and 84.309F]

Office of Educational Research and Improvement: National Institutes' Field-Initiated Studies Grant Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for fiscal year (FY) 1996—Amendment.

On September 14, 1995, the Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement published in the Federal Register (60 FR 47830) a notice inviting applications for new awards for the National Institutes' Field-Initiated Studies Grant Program. This notice amends the original information by adding a paragraph that indicates that the Secretary may fund two cycles of awards from this competition.

In the notice inviting applications for new awards, add the following paragraph to the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

The Department may fund two cycles of awards from these competitions. Applications funded in the first cycle will be awarded in June 1996 from FY 1996 funds. A second cycle of additional applications from this competition may be funded early in FY 1997, pending availability of FY 1997 funds, if the Secretary decides that there are applications of sufficiently high quality to merit funding.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

National Institute on Student Achievement, Curriculum, and Assessment: Clara Lawson-Holmes, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Room 510, Washington, DC 20208-5573. Telephone: (202) 219-2079 or clawson@inet.ed.gov. National Institute on the Education of At-Risk Students: Beth Fine, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Room 610, Washington, DC 20208-5521. Telephone: (202) 219-1323, or bfine@inet.ed.gov. National Institute on Early Childhood Development and Education: Joe Caliguro, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20208-5520. Telephone: (202) 219-1935. National Institute on Educational Governance, Finance, Policy-Making, and Management: Elizabeth DeBra or Edward Fuentes, 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20208-5510. Telephone (202) 219-2021 or -2032. National Institute on Postsecondary Education, Libraries, and Lifelong Learning: Delores Monroe, 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Room 620, Washington, DC 20208-5531. Telephone (202) 219-2229, or fis@inet.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 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of the application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260-9950; or on the Internet Gopher Servers at gopher.ed.gov (under Announcements, Bulletins, and Press Releases). However, the official application notice for a discretionary

grant competition is the notice published in the Federal Register.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 6031(c)(2)(B).

Dated: December 5, 1995.

Sharon P. Robinson,
Assistant Secretary for Educational Research
and Improvement.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL96-15-000, et al.]

Jersey Central Power & Light Company, et al.; Electric Rate and Corporate Regulation Filings

December 4, 1995.

Take notice that the following filings have been made with the Commission:

1. Jersey Central Power & Light
Company

[Docket No. EL96-15-000]

Take notice that on November 13, 1995, Jersey Central Power & Light Company tendered for filing a request for waiver of the Commission's Regulations to allow JCP&L to pass back to its wholesale customers certain refunds, including interest.

Comment date: December 18, 1995, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

2. MidAmerican Energy Company

[Docket No. EL96-18-000]

Take notice that on November 21, 1995, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican), filed an Application for Approval of Depreciation Rates pursuant to Section 302 of the Federal Power Act and Rule 204 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

MidAmerican is the surviving corporation and utility of the July 1, 1995 merger of Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Company with Midwest Power Systems, Inc. and its exempt holding company parent, Midwest Resources, Inc. MidAmerican states that since July 1, 1995, the effective date of the merger, MidAmerican has used the depreciation rates used by its predecessors immediately prior to the merger. This practice has resulted in the application of two different depreciation rates to depreciable property held in the same account. MidAmerican requests authorization to use a single set of electric depreciation rates for

accounting and final reporting purposes effective of January 1, 1996.

Copies of the filing were served on the Iowa Utilities Board, the Illinois Commerce Commission and the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

Comment date: December 19, 1995, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

3. Louisiana Public Service Commission, Mississippi Public Service Commission, State of Mississippi, Arkansas Public Service Commission and the City of New Orleans v. Systems Energy Resources, Inc. and Entergy Services, Inc.

[Docket No. EL96-19-000]

Take notice that on November 22, 1995, the Louisiana Public Service Commission, the Arkansas Public Service Commission, the Mississippi Public Service Commission, the City of New Orleans and the State of Mississippi filed a Complaint under Sections 205 and 206 of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 824d and 824e against System Energy Resources, Inc. and Entergy Services, Inc. The Complaint seeks to lower the allowed return on equity under the Entergy Unit Power Sales Agreement upon allegations under current circumstances, it is unjust and unreasonable. The Complaint contains a motion to consolidate this proceeding with an ongoing FERC proceeding entitled, System Energy Resources, Inc., Docket No. ER95-1042-000.

Comment date: January 3, 1996, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice. Answers to the complain shall be due on or before January 3, 1996.

4. PacifiCorp

[Docket No. ER95-1838-000]

Take notice that on November 8, 1995 and November 14, 1995 Black Hills Power & Light Company tendered for filing amendments in the above-referenced docket.

Comment date: December 14, 1995, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.

5. Appalachian Power Company

[Docket No. ER95-1797-000]

Take notice that on November 14, 1995, the American Electric Power Service Corporation (AEPSC), on behalf of Appalachian Power Company (APCO), tendered for filing an amendment to its filing in the above-referenced docket.

Comment date: December 18, 1995, in accordance with Standard Paragraph E at the end of this notice.