DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 10, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, N.W., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address DWERFEL@OMB.EOP.GOV. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202-4651, or should be electronically mailed to the internet address Pat_Sherrell@ed.gov, or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196. Individuals who use telecommunications devices 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.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Federal Student Financial Assistance Programs—Distance Education Demonstration Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of regional meetings to provide advice and technical assistance to institutions of higher education (institutions), systems of institutions, and consortia of institutions that are (1) interested in applying to participate in the Distance Education Demonstration Program authorized under section 486 of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, or (2) interested in providing Federal financial aid to students enrolled in distance education programs without being subject to certain statutory and regulatory provisions, which the Secretary may waive, upon their request. As described in section 486(a) of the HEA, the purpose of the program is to—

1. Allow demonstration programs that are strictly monitored by the Department of Education to test the quality and viability of expanded distance education programs currently restricted under this Act;

2. Provide for increased student access to higher education through distance education programs; and

3. Help determine the—

(A) Most effective means of delivering quality education via distance education course offerings;

(B) Most effective means of delivering quality education via distance education course offerings.

BACKGROUND

On October 7, 1998, President Clinton signed into law Pub. L. 105-244, the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, amending the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). This legislation established the Distance Education Demonstration Program. Under this program, up to a total of 15 institutions, systems of institutions, or consortia of institutions may offer Title IV, HEA financial assistance to students enrolled in distance education programs without being subject to certain statutory and regulatory provisions, which the Secretary may waive, upon their request. As described in section 486(a) of the HEA, the purpose of the program is to—

1. Allow demonstration programs that are strictly monitored by the Department of Education to test the quality and viability of expanded distance education programs currently restricted under this Act;

2. Provide for increased student access to higher education through distance education programs; and

3. Help determine the—

(A) Most effective means of delivering quality education via distance education course offerings;
Regional Hearings

Interested parties are invited to attend three regional meetings that will provide advice and technical assistance about applying to participate in the Distance Education Demonstration Program and providing Federal financial aid to students enrolled in distance education programs. The regional meetings will begin with a brief description of eligibility requirements for the Distance Education Demonstration Program and the application and selection processes for this program. Then, individuals will be provided an opportunity to ask questions regarding the application process and other matters relating to the Distance Education Demonstration Program. Department of Education staff with expertise on various issues relating to the Distance Education Demonstration Program will be available to answer these questions.

Questions regarding eligibility and administration of Title IV, HEA student financial assistance programs may be relevant to institutions’ interest in applying for the Distance Education Demonstration Program. Accordingly, during the course of the meeting, staff will also address questions that relate generally to the administration of aid in distance education programs.

The Department of Education has reserved a limited number of hotel rooms at each of the following hotels at special government per diem room rates. To reserve these rates, be certain to inform the hotel that you are attending the regional hearings with the Department of Education.

The hearing sites are accessible to individuals with disabilities. The Department of Education will provide a sign language interpreter at each of the scheduled hearings. An individual with a disability who will need an auxiliary aid or service other than an interpreter to participate in the meeting (e.g., assistive listening device, or materials in an alternative format) should notify the contact person listed in this notice at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although the Department will attempt to meet a request received after that date, the requested auxiliary aid or service may not be available because of insufficient time to arrange it.


David A. Longanecker,
Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99–160–000]

ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

February 2, 1999.

Take notice that on January 21, 1999, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR, 500 Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan 48243; filed pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.211 of the Commission’s Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.211) for authorization to construct and operate an interconnection between ANR and Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AECI) in Nodaway County, Missouri, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Specifically, ANR would construct and operate two 10-inch tap valve assemblies and isolating flanges, one each on ANR’s 24-inch mainline and loopline; one 4-inch and one 6-inch turbine meter; a 2-inch positive displacement meter; an electronic measurement system; regulation and heater equipment; and approximately 400 feet of 10-inch pipe at an estimated cost of $659,000. ANR proposes to tie the proposed interconnection in with a 0.5-mile 10-inch line that AECI’s would construct to connect to its power plant. ANR contends that the interconnection would provide a maximum daily volume of 57 Mmcf (through firm and interruptible service) to AECI’s proposed power plant in Nodaway County. ANR indicates that these deliveries would be within the certificated entitlements of the customer.

Any person or the Commission’s staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission’s Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for