

been requested by March 1, 1999. The regular collection will be submitted through the discretionary streamlined process (1890-0001). Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 15, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the emergency review 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, NW, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503. Comments regarding the regular clearance and requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651, or should be electronically mailed to the internet address *Pat Sherrill@ed.gov*, or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196. 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 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 Acting 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 at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

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: February 8, 1999.

William E. Burrow,

Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: New.

Title: Congressional Priorities for Postsecondary Education.

Abstract: To implement Congressional intent that \$9.5 million of the funds appropriated for Title VII, Part B of the Higher Education Act be used to conduct a grant competition limited to specific Congressionally determined priorities.

Additional Information: This is a new program. Fourteen absolute priority areas were identified by Congress. Funding will address these requirements.

Frequency: Annually.

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

Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden:

Responses: 500.

Burden Hours: 10,600.

[FR Doc. 99-3458 Filed 2-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

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 15, 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, NW, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 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, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651, or should be electronically mailed to the internet address *Pat Sherrill@ed.gov*, or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. 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 Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. 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. OMB invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

Dated: February 8, 1999.

William E. Burrow,

Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

Type of Review: New.

Title: Research on Charter School Finances.

Frequency: On occasion.

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

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour

Burden:

Responses: 693.

Burden Hours: 671.

Abstract: This two-year study explores how state and district policies, as well as charter school practices, affect charter schools' cost-effectiveness and quality. Funding equity and adequacy are assessed. This study proposes to inform policymakers at the federal, state, and local level of the precise effects of varied approaches to charter school finance.

[FR Doc. 99-3459 Filed 2-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[Docket No. PP-197]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and To Conduct Public Scoping Meetings and Notice of Floodplain and Wetlands Involvement; Public Service Company of New Mexico

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and to conduct public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) has applied to the Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit to construct two transmission lines originating at the switchyard of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) near Phoenix, Arizona, and extending approximately 160 miles to the south along one of three alternative routes, where they would cross the United States (U.S.) border with Mexico in the vicinity of Nogales, Arizona. South of the border, the lines would extend approximately 60 miles into Mexico and terminate at an existing substation located in the City of Santa Ana, in the Mexican State of Sonora. The proposed transmission lines may be either alternating current (AC) or direct current (DC). DOE has determined that

the issuance of the Presidential permit would constitute a major Federal action that may have a significant impact upon the environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). For this reason, DOE intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to address reasonably foreseeable impacts from the proposed action and reasonable alternatives.

The purpose of this Notice of Intent is to inform the public about the proposed action, announce the plans for six public scoping meetings in the vicinity of the proposed transmission lines, invite public participation in the scoping process, and solicit public comments for consideration in establishing the scope and content of the EIS. Because the proposed project may involve an action in floodplains or wetlands, the EIS will include a floodplains and wetlands assessment and floodplains statement of findings in accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplains and wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR Part 1022).

DATES: DOE invites interested agencies, organizations, and members of the public to submit comments or suggestions to assist in identifying significant environmental issues and in determining the appropriate scope of the EIS. The public scoping period starts with the publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register** and will continue until March 15, 1999. Written and oral comments will be given equal weight, and DOE will consider all comments received or postmarked by March 15, 1999, in defining the scope of this EIS. Comments received or postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Dates for the public scoping meetings are:

1. March 8, 1999, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Nogales, Arizona
2. March 8, 1999, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tucson, Arizona
3. March 9, 1999, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Sells, Arizona
4. March 9, 1999, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Ajo, Arizona
5. March 10, 1999, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Gila Bend, Arizona
6. March 10, 1999, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Casa Grande, Arizona

DOE will publish additional notices of the dates, times, and locations of the scoping meetings in local newspapers in advance of the scheduled meetings. Any necessary changes will be announced in the local media.

Requests to speak at a public scoping meeting(s) should be received by Mrs.

Ellen Russell at the address indicated below on or before March 3, 1999. Requests to speak may also be made at the time of registration for the scoping meeting(s). However, persons who submitted advance requests to speak will be given priority if time should be limited during the meeting.

ADDRESSES: Written comments or suggestions on the scope of the EIS and requests to speak at the scoping meeting(s) should be addressed to: Mrs. Ellen Russell, Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0350; phone 202-586-9624, facsimile: 202-287-5736, or electronic mail at Ellen.Russell@hq.doe.gov.

The locations of the scoping meetings are:

1. Americana Motor Hotel, 639 North Grand Avenue, Nogales, Arizona.
2. Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, 1900 E. Speedway Boulevard, Tucson, Arizona.
3. Council Chambers, Tohono O'odham Nation, Sells, Arizona.
4. Ajo Community Center in the E. S. Bud Walker Park, 290 5th Street, Ajo, Arizona.
5. Gila Bend Unified School District #24, Logan Auditorium, 308 N. Martin, Gila Bend, Arizona.
6. Francisco Grande Resort, 26000 Gila Bend Highway, Casa Grande, Arizona.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the proposed project or to receive a copy of the Draft EIS when it is issued, contact Mrs. Russell at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

For general information on the DOE NEPA review process, contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0119; Phone: 202-586-4600 or leave a message at 800-472-2756; Facsimile: 202-586-7031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Need for Agency Action

Executive Order 10485, as amended by Executive Order 12038, requires that a Presidential permit be issued by DOE before electric transmission facilities may be constructed, connected, operated, or maintained at the U.S. international border. The Executive Order provides that a Presidential permit may be issued after a finding that the proposed project is consistent with the public interest. In determining