

Anchorage. Alaska's Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) meet a large percentage of Alaska's beneficiary healthcare needs. The remaining is referred to local civilian providers or to the lower 48 states.

The TRICARE Western Region health services and support contract, which includes Alaska, requires the contractor to underwrite the costs of civilian health care services (also referred to as "purchased care") which is defined as care provided to all Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services eligible beneficiaries residing in the Western Region. The following categories of care/beneficiaries are specifically excluded from the TRICARE Western Region contract: Outpatient retail and mail order pharmacy; active duty supplemental care including TRICARE Prime Remote for Service members only (family members are underwritten by the health services and support contractor); Continued Health Care Benefits Program; Foreign/Outside the Continental United States claims; Medicare dual-eligible TRICARE beneficiaries; and cancer/clinical trials.

The underwriting mechanism of TRICARE Western Region health services and support contract consists of an underwriting fee which may be considered to be an underwriting premium associated with the risk assumed by the contractor. It will be subject to a fee-adjustment formula which allows for increases or decreases inversely related to the actual costs. There is potential of creating a negative fee.

Predicated upon the foregoing mechanism, coupled with the environment in which healthcare services are delivered in Alaska, there is a concern that if health care is underwritten by the Western Region health services and support contractor, the contractor may experience increases in actual costs for healthcare outside the control of the contractor. This has the potential of creating an unwarranted negative fee.

Because of this concern, the purpose of this demonstration is to validate that the Western Region health services and support contractor can avoid the vagaries of Alaska healthcare and the potential negative effect that it may have on the contractor's fee, by not underwriting these healthcare costs for Alaska beneficiaries. Under the demonstration, the costs will be paid by the government from pass through funds.

B. Description of Demonstration Project

Under this demonstration, the Western Region health services and

support contractor will not be responsible for the underwriting fee for healthcare costs for MHS beneficiaries residing in Alaska. The contractor shall provide all the Services required for Alaska as specified in the TRICARE Operations Manual, Chapter 23, but will not be responsible for the underwriting fee associated with providing those Services under that chapter. All other provisions contained in the TRICARE Health Services and Support Contract, TRICARE Operations Manual (6010.51-M), TRICARE Policy Manual (6010.54-M), TRICARE Systems Manual (7950.1-M), and TRICARE Reimbursement Manual (6010.55-M), shall apply in Alaska.

I. Implementation

This demonstration will operate for up to five years after the start of health care delivery for the TRICARE Management Activity Health Services and Support Contract for the Western Region unless extended by separate action. Following program evaluation, the Department of Defense will seek permanent authority to determine program continuation.

II. Exclusion to the Demonstration Project

Participation in this demonstration is limited to healthcare provided in the State of Alaska.

III. Evaluation

An independent evaluation of the demonstration will be conducted under a separate contract.

The evaluation will be designed to use a combination of administrative and survey measures of health care access to provide analyses and comment on the effectiveness of the demonstration in meeting its goal of improving beneficiary access to healthcare by maximizing the potential pool of healthcare providers in Alaska.

TRICARE beneficiaries will be asked to comment on the quality of their experiences getting the health care that they need. It is anticipated that the evaluation will compare the reports of TRICARE user-beneficiaries in Alaska to those from the TRICARE region under the administration of TriWest (West) where TriWest is responsible for provider network development and at risk for health care costs. The evaluation will begin at the time health care services are delivered under TriWest administration in both regions.

All analyses will be adjusted to account for demographic differences between these two geographic domains. It is also anticipated that analyses will develop measures of access from data

developed in quarterly administration of the TRICARE Beneficiary Survey. Additional administrative claims based indicators of access to health care within the two study domains will also be considered.

Dated: May 12, 2004.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 04-11205 Filed 5-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The Defense Science Board Task Force on Global Positioning System will meet in closed session on June 18, 2004, and July 29, 2004, at Strategic Analysis Inc., 3601 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA. The Task Force will review a range of issues dealing with Galileo (or some other future radio navigation satellite system) and provide recommendations to address these issues.

The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At these meetings, the Defense Science Board Task Force will address: Provision of capabilities and services within GPS to ensure its viability in commercial markets; the impact on frequency spectrum use, signal waveforms and power management; access and denial issues throughout the spectrum of conflict; possible alternatives to a global radio navigation system including the development of small compact timing devices and/or navigation units; and vulnerabilities and upgrade strategies for all global radio navigation satellite systems (GRNSS). In addition, the Task Force will assess areas in which DoD should seek strong partnering relationships outside DoD, both within government and industry. It will recommend research and development areas that are uniquely in DoD interest and might not be accomplished by the private sector.

In accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. II), it has been determined

that these Defense Science Board Task Force meetings concern matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) and that, accordingly, these meetings will be closed to the public.

Dated: May, 12, 2004.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 04-11206 Filed 5-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory 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 June 17, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Alice Thaler, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10222, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or faxed to (202) 395-6974.

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 Leader, Regulatory 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.

Dated: May 13, 2004.

Angela C. Arrington,

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

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Grantee Reporting Form.

Frequency: Annually.

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

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 350.

Burden Hours: 400.

Abstract: The Grantee Reporting Form is an information collection form that has been approved and extended with minor modifications by OMB until February 29, 2004. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) currently uses the Grantee Reporting Form to assess grantees' compliance with program requirements and to report to Congress performance and progress in meeting the purpose for training programs as mandated in Title III of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended: to "ensure that skilled personnel are available to provide rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities through vocational, medical, social, and psychological rehabilitation programs * * *" The Grantee Reporting Form will provide specific information in this regard, including the number of RSA scholars entering the public vocational rehabilitation workforce, in what rehabilitation field, and in what type of employment (*e.g.*, State VR agency, nonprofit service provider or practice group).

Requests for copies of the submission for OMB review; comment request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2464. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20202-4700. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-245-6623. 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 Sheila Carey at her

e-mail address Sheila.Carey@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.

[FR Doc. 04-11219 Filed 5-17-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6651-5]

Agency Information Collection Activities

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6.

Notice of Intent: To prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed reissuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permits (GPs) OKG010000 and NMG010000 for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in Oklahoma and New Mexico, and Indian lands in Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Purpose: To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, (NEPA) and evaluate the potential impacts associated with the proposed reissuance of the NPDES GPs.

SUMMARY: The EPA promulgated effluent limitations guidelines (ELGs) and New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for CAFOs on February 14, 1974. In 1993, EPA Region 6 issued NPDES GPs for CAFOs in the states of Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. EPA Region 6 issued an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact on that action, pursuant to NEPA, and thereafter performed supplemental NEPA review on newly proposed CAFOs submitting notices of intent to be covered by the GPs. Some CAFOs did not apply for coverage under the GPs, and others have been constructed since the GPs expired on March 10, 1998.

EPA promulgated revised CAFO ELGs and NSPS on February 12, 2003. Among other things, the new ELGs apply to facilities that were not covered by the 1974 ELGs, and require all CAFOs to apply for permit coverage. EPA Region 6 now proposes to reissue GPs for the states of Oklahoma and New Mexico, and Indian lands in Oklahoma and New Mexico. All CAFOs that were subject to either the 1974 NSPS or the 2003 NSPS when they commenced construction, meet the new source criteria at 40 CFR 129.29 and are new source facilities for purposes of NEPA review. Given the potentially large number of CAFOs