

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Navy****Notice of Availability of Final Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the 2006 Supplement to the 2002 Rim of the Pacific Exercises Programmatic Environmental Assessment, Hawaii**

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, the United States Department of the Navy (Navy) gives notice that a Final SPEA has been prepared and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for implementation of the 2006 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercises.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Conrad Erkelens at 808–471–5455 or write to Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (N465), 251 Makalapa Drive, Pearl Harbor, HI 96860.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RIMPAC has been conducted at various locations throughout the State of Hawaii and surrounding ocean areas biennially for the last 32 years. The purpose of RIMPAC is to implement a selected set of exercises that are combined into a multinational, sea control/power projection Fleet training exercise in a multi-threat environment. RIMPAC exercises enhance the abilities of a multinational Fleet force to communicate and operate in simulated hostile scenarios. In 2002, a Programmatic EA (PEA) was prepared in support of the RIMPAC exercises. The PEA identified the proposed action as the set of exercises and locations that would be used for RIMPAC activities for the foreseeable future. It identified the maximum usage of ongoing training assets and exercises that could be conducted within a given RIMPAC event and evaluated the impacts on the environment within those bounds. The FONSI for the RIMPAC PEA, signed June 11, 2002, concluded that as long as future RIMPAC exercises did not exceed the evaluated set of activities, the proposed action could be implemented without supplemental NEPA documentation. Thus, the scope of each future RIMPAC exercise has been evaluated for consistency with the 2002 RIMPAC PEA and its FONSI.

The 2006 SPEA was prepared to evaluate new training event locations and to review all proposed RIMPAC 2006 activities to the analysis in the 2002 RIMPAC PEA and a 2004 SPEA to ensure all proposed activities are addressed. The review included an evaluation of: Training levels (personnel and equipment) and types of equipment; facilities and procedures for implementing RIMPAC at each installation or range; and changes in the affected environment or environmental sensitivities. In addition, the 2006 SPEA also includes a description of the Antisubmarine Warfare (ASW) operations, and the ASW acoustic effects modeling completed for RIMPAC 2006.

The only change being proposed is the location for conducting the Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) and Niihau. No new training events are proposed. The NEO training event locations at PMRF and Niihau, when added to the proposed action assessed in the RIMPAC PEA and 2004 Supplement, form the proposed action for the purpose of the 2006 SPEA.

Accordingly, the analysis conducted in the SPEA focused on the following resources: Terrestrial and marine environments and cultural resources. Specifically, the 2006 SPEA includes analysis related to mid-frequency active sonar based on application of emergent science. Long-term studies of the quantification and effects of exposure of marine mammal species to acoustic emissions are progressing, and Navy, in coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service is incorporating the results into this SPEA. The ASW training events being analyzed are not new and have taken place with no significant changes over the previous 19 RIMPAC exercises. However, new scientific information has led to the ability to quantitatively identify harassment levels, as defined in the Marine Mammal Protection Act, through the use of newly derived threshold criteria metrics. Additionally, scientific advances in effects-analysis modeling of sound on marine mammals have provided Navy the ability to predict cumulative effects on marine species due to a proposed action. Due to these advances in scientific information, the 2006 SPEA provides an effects-analysis on marine mammals that may be affected by the RIMPAC training events that use hull-mounted mid-frequency active sonar.

The Final SPEA and FONSI may be obtained by written request from: Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (N465), 251 Makalapa Drive, Pearl Harbor, HI

96860. For additional information, write to the above address or call Mr. Conrad Erkelens at 808–471–5455. The Final SPEA and FONSI are also available for public review at the project Web site at <http://www.smdcen.us/rimpac06/>. In addition, the documents may be reviewed at the following locations:

Wailuku Public Library, 251 High Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793, (Maui).

Hilo Public Library, 300 Waianaenue Avenue, Hilo, Hawaii 96720, Hawaii).

Hawaii State Library, Hawaii and Pacific Section Document Unit, 478 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813, (Oahu).

Lihue Public Library, 4344 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766, (Kauai).

Dated: May 26, 2006.

M. A. Harvison,

LT, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. E6–8463 Filed 5–31–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810–FF–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Office of Postsecondary Education; Overview Information, Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program (URR); Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006**

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.345A.

DATES: *Applications Available:* June 1, 2006.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 3, 2006.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 1, 2006.

Eligible Applicants: Nonprofit educational organizations that research, display, interpret, and collect artifacts relating to the history of the Underground Railroad.

Estimated Available Funds: \$1,980,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$250,000–\$750,000 total for up to three years.

Estimated Number of Awards: 3.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Full Text of Announcement**I. Funding Opportunity Description**

Purpose of Program: The purpose of this program is to provide grants to

establish a facility to house, display, and interpret artifacts related to the history of the Underground Railroad, and to make the interpretive efforts available to institutions of higher education that award a baccalaureate or graduate degree.

Special Requirements: Each nonprofit educational organization awarded a grant under this program must enter into an agreement with the Department. Each agreement must require the organization:

(1) To demonstrate substantial private support for the facility through the implementation of a public-private partnership between a State or local public entity and a private entity for the support of the facility. The private entity must provide matching funds in an amount equal to *four times* the amount of the contribution of the State or local public entity, except that not more than 20 percent of the matching funds may be provided by the Federal government;

(2) To create an endowment to fund any and all shortfalls in the costs of the on going operations of the facility;

(3) To establish a network of satellite centers throughout the United States to help disseminate information regarding the Underground Railroad throughout the United States. These satellite centers must raise 80 percent of the funds required to establish the satellite centers from non-Federal public and private sources;

(4) To establish the capability to link the facility electronically with other local and regional facilities that have collections and programs that interpret the history of the Underground Railroad; and

(5) To submit, for each fiscal year for which an organization receives funding under this program, a report to the Department that contains:

(a) A description of the programs and activities supported by the funding;

(b) The audited financial statement of the organization for the preceding fiscal year;

(c) A plan for the programs and activities to be supported by the funding, as the Secretary may require; and

(d) An evaluation of the programs and activities supported by the funding, as the Secretary may require.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1153.

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98 and 99.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds:

\$1,980,000.

Estimated Range of Awards:

\$250,000–\$750,000 total for up to three years.

Estimated Number of Awards: 3.

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

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. **Eligible Applicants:** Nonprofit educational organizations that research, display, interpret, and collect artifacts relating to the history of the Underground Railroad.

2. **Cost sharing or matching:** Not more than 20% of the total funds for this project may be provided by the Federal Government. See 20 U.S.C. 1153(b)(2).

IV. Application and Information Submission

1. **Address to Request Application Package:** Jay Donahue, U.S. Department of Education, Room 6164, 1990 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006–8544. Telephone: (202) 502–7507 or by e-mail: jay.donahue@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the program contact person listed in this section.

2. **Content and Form of Application Submission:** Requirements concerning the content of applications, together with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this program.

Page Limit: The program narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit the section of the narrative that addresses the selection criteria to the equivalent of no more than 30 pages, using the following standards:

- A “page” is 8.5” x 11”, on one side only, with 1” margins at the top, bottom, and both sides. Page numbers and a document identifier may be within the 1” margin.

- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, *except* titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, captions and all text in charts, tables, and graphs.

- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial. Applications submitted in any other font (including Times

Roman and Arial Narrow) will be rejected.

- Use not less than 12-point font.

The page limit does not apply to the Application for Federal Education Assistance (SF 424), the Supplemental Information Required for Department of Education Grants, the Budget Information Summary Form (ED Form 524), and the assurances and certifications. The page limit also does not apply to a table of contents. The budget narrative and any attachments or appendices will be counted as part of the program narrative for purposes of the page limit requirement. You must include your complete response to the selection criteria in the program narrative.

We will reject your application if—

- You apply these standards and exceed the page limit; or
- You apply other standards and exceed the equivalent of the page limit.

3. **Submission Dates and Times:** Applications Available: June 1, 2006. Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 3, 2006.

Applications for grants under this competition must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site (Grants.gov). For information (including dates and times) about how to submit your application electronically or by mail or hand delivery if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, please refer to Section IV.6. **Other Submission Requirements.** We do not consider an application that does not comply with the deadline requirements.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 1, 2006.

4. **Intergovernmental Review:** This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. Information about Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs under Executive Order 12372 is in the application package for this program.

5. **Funding Restrictions:** We reference regulations outlining funding restrictions in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

6. **Other Submission Requirements:** Applications for grants under the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program—CFDA Number 84.345A must be submitted electronically using the Grants.gov Apply site at: <http://www.grants.gov>. Through this site, you will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit your application. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

We will reject your application if you submit it in paper format unless, as described elsewhere in this section, you qualify for one of the exceptions to the electronic submission requirement *and* submit, no later than two weeks before the application deadline date, a written statement to the Department that you qualify for one of these exceptions. Further information regarding calculation of the date that is two weeks before the application deadline date is provided later in this section under *Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement*.

You may access the electronic grant application for the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program at: <http://www.grants.gov>. You must search for the downloadable application package for this program by the CFDA number. Do not include the CFDA number's alpha suffix in your search.

Please note the following:

- When you enter the Grants.gov site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site, as well as the hours of operation.
- Applications received by Grants.gov are time and date stamped. Your application must be fully uploaded and submitted, and must be date/time stamped by the Grants.gov system no later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. Except as otherwise noted in this section, we will not consider your application if it is date/time stamped by the Grants.gov system later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. When we retrieve your application from Grants.gov, we will notify you if we are rejecting your application because it was date/time stamped by the Grants.gov system after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date.
- The amount of time it can take to upload an application will vary depending on a variety of factors including the size of the application and the speed of your Internet connection. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the application deadline date to begin the submission process through Grants.gov.
- You should review and follow the Education Submission Procedures for submitting an application through Grants.gov that are included in the application package for this competition to ensure that you submit your application in a timely manner to the Grants.gov system. You can also find the Education Submission Procedures pertaining to Grants.gov at [\[Grants.ed.gov/help/GrantsgovSubmissionProcedures.pdf\]\(http://Grants.ed.gov/help/GrantsgovSubmissionProcedures.pdf\).](http://e-

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• To submit your application via Grants.gov, you must complete all of the steps in the Grants.gov registration process (see <http://www.Grants.gov/GetStarted>). These steps include (1) registering your organization, (2) registering yourself as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR), and (3) getting authorized as an AOR by your organization. Details on these steps are outlined in the Grants.gov 3-Step Registration Guide (see <http://www.grants.gov/assets/GrantsgovCoBrandBrochure8X11.pdf>). You also must provide on your application the same D-U-N-S Number used with this registration. Please note that the registration process may take five or more business days to complete, and you must have completed all registration steps to allow you to successfully submit an application via Grants.gov.

- You will not receive additional point value because you submit your application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, as described elsewhere in this section, and submit your application in paper format.
- You must submit all documents electronically, including all information typically included on the Application for Federal Education Assistance (SF 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications. You must attach any narrative sections of your application as files in a .DOC (document), .RTF (rich text), or .PDF (Portable Document) format. If you upload a file type other than the three file types specified above or submit a password protected file, we will not review that material.
- Your electronic application must comply with any page limit requirements described in this notice.
- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgement from Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. The Department will retrieve your application from Grants.gov and send you a second confirmation by e-mail that will include a PR/Award number (an ED-specified identifying number unique to your application).
- We may request that you provide us original signatures on forms at a later date.

Application Deadline Date Extension in Case of Technical Issues with the Grants.gov System: If you are prevented from electronically submitting your

application on the application deadline date because of technical problems with the Grants.gov system, we will grant you an extension until 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, the following business day to enable you to transmit your application electronically, or by hand delivery. You also may mail your application by following the mailing instructions as described elsewhere in this notice. If you submit an application after 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the deadline date, please contact the person listed elsewhere in this notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, and provide an explanation of the technical problem you experienced with Grants.gov, along with the Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number (if available). We will accept your application if we can confirm that a technical problem occurred with the Grants.gov system and that the problem affected your ability to submit your application by 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the application deadline date. The Department will contact you after a determination is made on whether your application will be accepted.

Note: Extensions referred to in this section apply only to the unavailability of or technical problems with the Grants.gov system. We will not grant you an extension if you failed to fully register to submit your application to Grants.gov before the deadline date and time, or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the Grants.gov system.

Exception to Electronic Submission Requirement: You qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, and may submit your application in paper format, if you are unable to submit an application through the Grants.gov system because—

- You do not have access to the Internet; or
- You do not have the capacity to upload large documents to the Grants.gov system; *and*
- No later than two weeks before the application deadline date (14 calendar days or, if the fourteenth calendar day before the application deadline date falls on a Federal holiday, the next business day following the Federal holiday), you mail or fax a written statement to the Department, explaining which of the two grounds for an exception prevent you from using the Internet to submit your application. If you mail your written statement to the Department, it must be postmarked no later than two weeks before the application deadline date. If you fax your written statement to the Department, we must receive the faxed

statement no later than two weeks before the application deadline date.

Address and mail or fax your statement to: Jay Donahue, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., Room 6164, Washington, DC 20006-8544. Fax: (202) 502-7877.

Your paper application must be submitted in accordance with the mail or hand delivery instructions described in this notice.

Submission of Paper Applications by Mail

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you may mail (through the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial carrier) your application to the Department. You must mail the original and two copies of your application, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the applicable following address:

By mail through the U.S. Postal Service: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.345A), 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202-4260; or

By mail through a commercial carrier: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center—Stop 4260, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.345A), 7100 Old Landover Road, Landover, MD 20785-1506.

Regardless of which address you use, you must show proof of mailing consisting of one of the following:

- (1) A legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark,
- (2) A legible mail receipt with the date of mailing stamped by the U.S. Postal Service,
- (3) A dated shipping label, invoice, or receipt from a commercial carrier, or
- (4) Any other proof of mailing acceptable to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

If you mail your application through the U.S. Postal Service, we do not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

- (1) A private metered postmark, or
- (2) A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

If your application is postmarked after the application deadline date, we will not consider your application.

Note: The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, you should check with your local post office.

Submission of Paper Applications by Hand Delivery

If you qualify for an exception to the electronic submission requirement, you

(or a courier service) may deliver your paper application to the Department by hand. You must deliver the original and two copies of your application by hand, on or before the application deadline date, to the Department at the following address: U.S. Department of Education, Application Control Center, Attention: (CFDA Number 84.345A), 550 12th Street, SW., Room 7041, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-4260.

The Application Control Center accepts hand deliveries daily between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, except Saturdays, Sundays and Federal holidays.

Note for Mail or Hand Delivery of Paper Applications: If you mail or hand deliver your application to the Department:

(1) You must indicate on the envelope and—if not provided by the Department—in Item 4 of the Application for Federal Education Assistance (SF 424) the CFDA number—and suffix letter, if any—of the competition under which you are submitting your application.

(2) The Application Control Center will mail a grant application receipt acknowledgment to you. If you do not receive the grant application receipt acknowledgment within 15 business days from the application deadline date, you should call the U.S. Department of Education Application Control Center at (202) 245-6288.

V. Application Review Information

Selection Criteria: The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210 of EDGAR and are listed in the application package.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. *Award Notices:* If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN). We may also notify you informally.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

2. *Administrative and National Policy Requirements:* We identify administrative and national policy requirements in the application package and reference these and other requirements in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

We reference the regulations outlining the terms and conditions of an award in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice and include these and other specific conditions in the GAN. The GAN also incorporates your approved application as part of your binding commitments under the grant.

3. *Reporting:* At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multi-year award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as specified by the Secretary in 34 CFR 75.118.

4. *Performance Measure:* The success of this program depends upon the manner in which projects are being institutionalized and continued after funding. This performance measure constitutes the indicator of the success of the program. If funded, you will be asked to collect and report data from your project on steps taken toward achieving this goal. Consequently, applicants are advised to include this outcome in conceptualizing the design, implementation, and evaluation of their proposed projects.

VII. Agency Contact

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay Donahue, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., Room 6164, Washington, DC 20006-8544. Telephone: (202) 502-7507.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed in this section.

VIII. Other Information

Electronic Access to This Document: You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Dated: May 24, 2006.

James F. Manning,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. E6-8266 Filed 5-31-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of an upcoming open meeting of The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Advisory Committee. The notice also describes the functions of the Committee. Notice of this meeting is required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and is intended to notify the public of their opportunity to attend. This notice is appearing in the **Federal Register** less than 15 days before the date of the meeting due to scheduling issues.

DATES: Tuesday, June 13, 2006.

Time: 8 a.m.–12 noon.

ADDRESSES: The Committee will meet in Washington, DC, at The Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C Street, SW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Phyllis Scattergood, Designated Federal Officer: The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Advisory Committee, Room 3E212, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC telephone: (202) 260-0504, e-mail: phyllis.scattergood@ed.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee was established to provide advice to the Secretary on Federal, state and local programs designated to create safe and drug-free schools, and on issues related to crisis planning. The agenda will also include a discussion focused on the strategies to strengthen and improve the state formula program in order to ensure that schools and communities are implementing the best strategies and interventions, and are prepared to meet current and future needs of students. Further, the Committee will address strategies for accomplishing their mission as stated in their charter.

Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the meeting (*e.g.*, interpreting services, assistive listening devices, or materials in alternative format) should notify Phyllis Scattergood at (202) 260-

0504, or by e-mail at Phyllis.scattergood@ed.gov, no later than June 2, 2006. We will attempt to meet requests for accommodations after this date but cannot guarantee their availability. The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Individuals interested in attending the meeting must register in advance because of limited space issues. Please contact Phyllis Scattergood at (202) 260-0504 or by e-mail at Phyllis.scattergood@ed.gov.

Opportunities for public comment are available on June 13 from 9:30–10:30 a.m. on a first come, first served basis. Comments presented at the meeting must be limited to 5 minutes in length or can be submitted in writing by 5 p.m., June 11, 2006 by mail or e-mail to Phyllis Scattergood. Records are kept of all Committee proceedings and are available for public inspection at the staff office for the Committee from the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dated: May 25, 2006.

Ray Simon,

Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education.

[FR Doc. 06-4994 Filed 5-31-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Agency information collection activities: Proposed collection; Comment request.

SUMMARY: The EIA is soliciting comments on the proposed reinstatement of the Form EIA-846(A)(B)(C), "Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey."

DATES: Comments must be filed by July 31, 2006. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Tom Lorenz. To ensure receipt of the comments by the due date, submission by FAX (202-586-0018) or e-mail (Thomas.Lorenz@eia.doe.gov) is recommended. The mailing address is Office of Energy Markets and End Use, Energy Consumption Division, EI-63, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of

Energy, Washington, DC 20585. Alternatively, Mr. Lorenz may be contacted by telephone at 202-586-3442.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of Internet or paper forms and instructions should be directed to Tom Lorenz at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments

I. Background

The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93-275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the DOE Organization Act (Pub. L. No. 95-91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*) require the EIA to carry out a centralized, comprehensive, and unified energy information program. This program collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates information on energy resource reserves, production, demand, technology, and related economic and statistical information. This information is used to assess the adequacy of energy resources to meet near and longer term domestic demands.

The EIA, as part of its effort to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), provides the general public and other Federal agencies with opportunities to comment on collections of energy information conducted by or in conjunction with the EIA. Any comments received help the EIA to prepare data requests that maximize the utility of the information collected, and to assess the impact of collection requirements on the public. Also, the EIA will later seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under section 3507(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey (MECS) is a self-administered sample survey designed to collect energy consumption and expenditures data from establishments in the manufacturing sector; *i.e.*, North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes 31-33. There are three MECS data collection forms and their use depends on an establishment's primary business activity classification under NAICS. Form EIA-846A collects information for all the manufacturing industries contained within NAICS 31-33 except for NAICS 321, 322, 324, 325, and 331111. Form EIA-846B is for establishments operating primarily in the petroleum refining industry (NAICS 324110). Form EIA-846C is for