

these meetings, the Defense Science Board Task Force will: assess the health of the U.S. space industrial base and determine if there is any adverse impact from export controls, in particular, on the health of lower-tier contractors; anticipate future space requirements and the shape of the space industrial base required to achieve the anticipated capabilities; and recommend improvements to current policies and processes, where applicable, while also identifying policies and processes that can shape the space industrial base to deliver future capabilities.

In accordance with Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. No. 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, the meetings will be closed to the public.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** LCDR Clifton Phillips, USN, Defense Science Board, 3140 Defense Pentagon, Room 3C553, Washington, DC 20301-3140, via e-mail at [clifton.phillips@osd.mil](mailto:clifton.phillips@osd.mil), or via phone at (703) 571-0083.

Due to scheduling and work burden difficulties, there is insufficient time to provide timely notice required by Section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and Subsection 102-3.150(b) of the GSA Final Rule on Federal Advisory Committee Management, 41 CFR Part 102-3.150(b), which further requires publication at least 15 calendar days prior to the meeting.

Dated: October 4, 2006.

**C.R. Choate,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 06-8595 Filed 10-10-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001-06-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.  
**SUMMARY:** The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 11, 2006.

**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 IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, 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.

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 the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: October 4, 2006.

**Angela C. Arrington,**

*IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management.*

### Institute of Education Sciences

*Type of Review:* New.

*Title:* National Study on Alternate Assessments (NSAA).

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Affected Public:* State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

*Responses:* 104.

*Burden Hours:* 232.

*Abstract:* The National Study on Alternate Assessments (NSAA) examines the development and use of alternate assessments in ensuring that schools are accountable for the performance of students with disabilities. The purpose of the National

Study on Alternate Assessment (NSAA) is to evaluate the degree to which states and schools provide grade-level, modified, and alternate achievement standards; access to standards; include them in state accountability; and improve their education and academic performance.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 3209. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20202-4700. Requests may also be electronically mailed to [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@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 electronically mailed to [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@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. E6-16753 Filed 10-10-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Office of Postsecondary Education; Overview Information; Business and International Education Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.153A.*

**DATES:** Applications Available: October 11, 2006.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* November 21, 2006.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* January 22, 2007.

*Eligible Applicants:* Institutions of higher education that enter into agreements with business enterprises, trade organizations or associations that are engaged in international economic activity—or a combination or consortium of these enterprises, organizations, or associations—for the purposes of pursuing the activities authorized under this program.

*Estimated Available Funds:* The Administration has requested \$2,195,000 for new awards for this program for FY 2007. The actual level

of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

*Estimated Range of Awards:*  
\$50,000—\$110,000.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:*  
\$84,000.

*Maximum Award:* We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$110,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. The Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 26.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 24 months.

## Full Text of Announcement

### I. Funding Opportunity Description

*Purpose of Program:* The Business and International Education program provides grants to enhance international business education programs and to expand the capacity of the business community to engage in international economic activities.

*Competitive Preference Priority:* For FY 2007 this priority is a competitive preference priority. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i) and 34 CFR 661.32 we award up to an additional five (5) points to an application, depending on how well the application meets this priority. In accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(ii), this priority is from the regulations for this program (34 CFR 661.32).

This priority is:

Innovation and improvement of international education curricula to serve the needs of the business community, including the development of new programs for nontraditional, mid-career, or part-time students.

*Invitational Priorities:* For FY 2007 these priorities are invitational priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) we do not give an application that meets these invitational priorities a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

These priorities are:

#### *Invitational Priority I:*

Applications from institutions of higher education that propose educational projects that include activities focused on the targeted world areas of the Middle East, East Asia, South Asia, Russia, and Africa. These projects should be integrated into the curricula of the home institution or institutions.

#### *Invitational Priority II:*

Applications that focus on developing, improving and/or disseminating best practices of international business training programs, teaching, and curriculum development to increase American competitiveness.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1130–1130b.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99. (b) The regulations in 34 CFR parts 655 and 661.

**Note:** The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

### II. Award Information

*Type of Award:* Discretionary grants.

*Estimated Available Funds:* The Administration has requested \$2,195,000 for this program for FY 2007. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

*Estimated Range of Awards:* \$50,000—\$110,000.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:*  
\$84,000.

*Maximum Award:* We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$110,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. The Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 26.

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

*Project Period:* Up to 24 months.

### III. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants:* Institutions of higher education that enter into agreements with business enterprises, trade organizations or associations that are engaged in international economic activity—or a combination or consortium of these enterprises, organizations, or associations—for the purposes of pursuing the activities authorized under this program.

2. *Cost Sharing or Matching:* The matching requirement is described in section 613(d) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1130a) (HEA). The HEA provides that the applicant's share of the total cost of carrying out a program supported by a grant under this program must be no less than 50 percent of the total cost of

the project in each fiscal year. The non-Federal share of the cost may be provided either in-kind or in cash.

### IV. Application and Submission Information

1. *Address to Request Application Package:* Ms. Tanyelle Richardson, International Education Programs Service, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., room 6017, Washington, DC 20006–8521. Telephone: (202) 502–7626 or by e-mail: [tanyelle.richardson@ed.gov](mailto:tanyelle.richardson@ed.gov) or visit <http://www.ed.gov/HEP/iegps> to download an application.

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 an application, together with the forms you must submit, are in the application package for this program.

*Page Limit:* The application 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 40 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.
- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions. However, you may single space all text in charts, tables, figures and graphs.
- Use a font that is either 12-point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch). However, you may use a 10-point font in charts, tables, figures, 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, Arial Narrow) will not be accepted.

The page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; the one-page abstract; or the appendices. However, you must include your complete response to the selection criteria in the application 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:* October 11, 2006.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* November 21, 2006.

Applications for grants under this program 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* in this notice.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* January 22, 2007.

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 this program must be submitted electronically unless you qualify for an exception to this requirement in accordance with the instructions in this section.

a. *Electronic Submission of Applications.* Applications for grants under the Business and International Education program 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 Business and International Education program at: <http://www.grants.gov/>. You must search for the downloadable application package for this competition 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 program 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: <http://e-Grants.ed.gov/help/GrantsgovSubmissionProcedures.pdf>.

• To submit your application via Grants.gov, you must complete all the steps in the Grants.gov registration process (see [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp)). 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/section910/Grants.govRegistrationBrochure.pdf>). You must also 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.

• 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 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 that 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: Ms. Tanyelle Richardson, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20006-8521. FAX: (202) 502-7691.

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

**b. 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: 84.153A, 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: 84.153A, 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.

**c. 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: 84.153A, 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 11 of the Application for Federal 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 program are in 34 CFR 661.31 and are as follows: (a) Need for the project (25 points); (b) plan of operation (20 points); (c) qualifications of the key personnel (10 points); (d) budget and cost effectiveness (15 points); (e) evaluation plan (25 points); and (f) adequacy of resources (5 points).

## 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. The applicant is required to use the electronic data instrument Evaluation of Exchange, Language, International and

Areas Studies (EELIAS) system to complete the final report.

4. *Performance Measures:* Under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), the objective for the BIE program is to meet the nation's security and economic needs through the development of a national capacity in foreign languages, and area and international studies.

The Department will use the following measures to evaluate its success in meeting this objective.

BIE Performance Measures: (1) The number of outreach activities that are adopted or further disseminated within a year, divided by the total number of BIE outreach activities conducted in the current year. (2) Percentage of projects judged to be successful by the program officer, based on a review of information provided in annual performance reports.

If funded, information from your final performance report submitted via the electronic Evaluation of Exchange, Language, International, and Area Studies system will be used to record and evaluate the performance of your project.

#### VII. Agency Contact

*For Further Information Contact:* Ms. Tanyelle Richardson, International Education Programs Service, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., room 6017, Washington, DC 20006-8521. Telephone: (202) 502-7626 or by e-mail: [tanyelle.richardson@ed.gov](mailto:tanyelle.richardson@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 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: October 5, 2006.

**James F. Manning,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.*

[FR Doc. E6-16827 Filed 10-10-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

### ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

#### Sunshine Act Notice; Meeting

**AGENCY:** United States Election Assistance Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of Public Meeting and Hearing Agenda.

**DATE AND TIME:** Thursday, October 26, 2006, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), 1225 New York Ave., NW., Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005. (Metro Stop: Metro Center)

**AGENDA:** The Commission will conduct a public meeting and hearing on EAC's post-election voting system testing and certification program. The Commission will receive presentations by representatives of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), representatives of testing laboratories, equipment manufacturers, election officials, community interest groups and Commission staff members. The Commission will also meet to consider other administrative matters.

EAC will provide a public comment period to receive comments regarding the voting system testing and certification program. Members of the public who wish to speak must contact and register with EAC by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24, 2006. Speakers may contact EAC via e-mail at [testimony@ec.gov](mailto:testimony@ec.gov), or via mail addressed to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 1225 New York Ave., NW., Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005, or by fax at 202/566-3127. Comments will be strictly limited to 3 minutes per person or organization to ensure the fullest participation possible. All speakers will be contacted prior to the hearing. EAC also encourages members of the public to submit written testimony via e-mail, mail or fax. All public comments will be taken in writing via e-mail at [testimony@eac.gov](mailto:testimony@eac.gov), or via mail addressed to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 1225 New York Ave., NW., Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005, or by fax at 202/566-3127.

This meeting and hearing will be open to the public.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bryan Whitener, Telephone: (202) 566-3100.

**Thomas R. Wilkey,**

*Executive Director, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.*

[FR Doc. 06-8645 Filed 10-6-06; 4:01 pm]

**BILLING CODE 6820-KF-M**

### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

#### The No FEAR Act Notice

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** DOE is providing notice to all of its employees, former employees, and applicants for employment about the rights and remedies that are available to them under the Federal antidiscrimination laws and whistleblower protection laws. This notice fulfills DOE's notification obligations under the Notification and Federal Employees Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act (No FEAR Act), as implemented by Office of Personnel Management (OPM) regulations.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Neil Schuldenfrei, Attorney-Advisor, Office of Civil Rights and Diversity, U.S. Department of Energy, Room 5B-168, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20585, telephone (202) 586-5687 (this is not a toll-free number). Hearing-impaired or speech-impaired individuals may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 15, 2002, Congress enacted the "Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002," which is now known as the No FEAR Act. One purpose of the Act is to "require that Federal agencies be accountable for violations of antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws." Public Law 107-174, Summary. In support of this purpose, Congress found that "agencies cannot be run effectively if those agencies practice or tolerate discrimination." Public Law 107-174, Title I, General Provisions, section 101(1).

The Act also requires this agency to provide this notice to Federal employees, former Federal employees and applicants for Federal employment to inform you of the rights and protections available to you under Federal antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws.