

20036–4505 or online through the OSC Web site—<http://www.osc.gov>.

### Retaliation for Engaging in Protected Activity

A Federal agency cannot retaliate against an employee or applicant because that individual exercises his or her rights under any of the Federal antidiscrimination or whistleblower protection laws listed above. If you believe that you are the victim of retaliation for engaging in protected activity, you must follow, as appropriate, the procedures described in the Antidiscrimination Laws and Whistleblower Protection Laws sections or, if applicable, the administrative or negotiated grievance procedures in order to pursue any legal remedy.

### Disciplinary Actions

Under the existing laws, each agency retains the right, where appropriate, to discipline a Federal employee for conduct that is inconsistent with Federal Antidiscrimination and Whistleblower Protection Laws up to and including removal. If OSC has initiated an investigation under 5 U.S.C. 1214, however, according to 5 U.S.C. 1214(f), agencies must seek approval from the Special Counsel to discipline employees for, among other activities, engaging in prohibited retaliation. Nothing in the No FEAR Act alters existing laws or permits an agency to take unfounded disciplinary action against a Federal employee or to violate the procedural rights of a Federal employee who has been accused of discrimination.

### Additional Information

For further information regarding the No FEAR Act regulations, refer to 5 CFR part 724, as well as the appropriate offices within the Tennessee Valley Authority (e.g., Equal Opportunity Compliance, Human Resources, the Office of the Inspector General, and TVA's Ombudsman). Additional information regarding Federal antidiscrimination, whistleblower protection and retaliation laws can be found at the EEOC Web site—<http://www.eeoc.gov> and the OSC Web site—<http://www.osc.gov>.

### Existing Rights Unchanged

Pursuant to section 205 of the No FEAR Act, neither the Act nor this notice creates, expands or reduces any rights otherwise available to any employee, former employee or applicant under the laws of the United States.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Linda J. Sales-Long, 865–632–2515.

Dated: October 26, 2006.

**Linda J. Sales-Long,**

*Director, Equal Opportunity Compliance.*

[FR Doc. E6–18457 Filed 11–1–06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8120–08–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Office of the Secretary

[Docket OST–2006–26230]

### Disadvantaged Business Enterprise

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended) this notice announces the Department of Transportation's (DOT) intention to request extension for a currently approved information collection.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by January 2, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** To ensure that you do not duplicate your docket submissions, please submit them by only one of the following means to Docket OST–2006–26230:

(1) By mail to the Docket Management Facility (SVC–124), U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL–401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001. [It is important to note that because of current security procedures affecting the U.S. Mail, other means (e.g., FedEx, UPS) may be faster];

(2) By delivery to room PL–401 on the Plaza Level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202–366–9329.

(3) By fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202–493–2251; or

(4) By electronic means through the Web site for the Docket Management System at: <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this rulemaking. Comments to the docket will be available for inspection or copying at room PL–401 on the Plaza Level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The public may also review docketed comments electronically at: <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Robert C. Ashby, Office of the Secretary, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Regulation and Enforcement,

Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh St., SW., Washington, DC 20590 (202)366–9310 (voice) 202–366–9313 (fax) or at [bob.ashby@ost.dot.gov](mailto:bob.ashby@ost.dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title: Report of DBE Awards and Commitments.

*OMB Control Number:* 2105–0510.

*Type of Request:* Extension to a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* 49 CFR part 26 establishes requirements for the Department of Transportation (DOT) so as to comply with the mandate by statute including 1101 (b) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users (Pub. L. 109–59 and 49 U.S.C. 47113, Pub. L. 105–178. The key part of the collection is a requirement that state and local governments subject to the DBE program report to the Secretary of Transportation on DBE participation, as well as maintain a directory of DBE firms and report to the Secretary concerning the composition of the directory. If these reporting requirements were not available, firms controlled by minorities would not achieve the appropriate participation in DOT programs, and the Department would not be able to identify its recipients and evaluate the extent to which financial assistance recipients have been awarded a reasonable amount of contracting dollars to DBEs.

In order to minimize the burden on DOT recipients the Department has limited its informational request and reporting frequency to that necessary to meet its program and administrative monitoring requirements. The information request consists of 17 data items on one page and one attachment, to be completed on a semi-annual basis (for FHWA and FTA programs) or an annual basis (for FAA programs).

*Respondents:* DOT financially-assisted state and local transportation agencies.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,057.

*Estimated Total Burden on Respondents:* 1,311,000.

The information collection is available for inspection in the DOT Dockets Management System (DMS), 400 Seventh St., Washington, DC 20590 (202)366–9310.

*Comments are Invited on:* (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection;

(c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 27, 2006.

**Robert C. Ashby,**

*Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulation and Enforcement.*

[FR Doc. E6-18475 Filed 11-1-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-9X-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activity Seeking OMB Approval

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The FAA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) revision of a current information collection. The **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on June 28, 2006, vol. 71, no. 124, page 36869. The FAA Aviation Research and Development Grants Program establishes uniform policies and procedures for the award and administration of research grants to colleges, universities, and not for profit organizations.

**DATES:** Please submit comments by December 4, 2006.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carla Mauney at [Carla.Mauney@faa.gov](mailto:Carla.Mauney@faa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)**  
*Title:* FAA Research and Development Grants.

*Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*OMB Control Number:* 2120-0559.

*Form(s):* 9550-5, SF-424, SF-3881, SF-269, SF-270, SF-272.

*Affected Public:* An estimated 100 Respondents.

*Frequency:* This information is collected on occasion.

*Estimated Average Burden per Response:* Approximately 9.25 hours per response.

*Estimated Annual Burden Hours:* An estimated 925 hours annually.

**Abstract:** The FAA Aviation Research and Development Grants Program establishes uniform policies and procedures for the award and administration of research grants to colleges, universities, and not for profit organizations. This program implements OMB Circular A-110, Pub. L. 101-508 Section 9205 and 9208.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed information collection to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget. Comments should be addressed to Nathan Lesser, Desk Officer, Department of Transportation/FAA, and sent via electronic mail to [oir\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oir_submission@omb.eop.gov) or faxed to (202) 395-694.

Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimates of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 26, 2006.

**Carla Mauney,**

*FAA Information Collection Clearance Officer, Information Systems and Technology Services Staff, ABA-20.*

[FR Doc. 06-9024 Filed 11-1-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[USCG-2005-22611]

#### Neptune L.L.C., Liquefied Natural Gas Deepwater Port License Application; Final Application Public Hearings and Final Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; notice of public hearings; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) announce the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Neptune LNG LLC, Liquefied Natural Gas Deepwater Port license application. Also, public hearings will be held on matters relevant to the approval or denial of the license application. The application

describes a project that would be located in Federal waters of Massachusetts Bay, in Block 125, approximately 8 miles southeast of Gloucester, MA and 22 miles northeast of Boston, MA. The Coast Guard and MARAD request public comments on the FEIS and application. Publication of this notice begins a 30 day comment period and provides information on how to participate in the process.

As a point of clarification, there is another deepwater port application by Northeast Gateway Energy Bridge, L.L.C. in the same vicinity. These applications are being processed and reviewed independently. The Northeast Gateway Energy Bridge, L.L.C. FEIS was noticed on an earlier date and is available on the Docket at USCG-2005-22219.

**DATES:** Public hearings will be held in Gloucester, MA on November 14, 2006 and in Salem, MA on November 15, 2006. Both hearings will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and will be preceded by an informational open house from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. The public hearings may end later than the stated time, depending on the number of persons wishing to speak.

Material submitted in response to the request for comments on the FEIS and application must reach the Docket Management Facility by December 2, 2006 ending the 30 day public comment period.

Federal and State agencies must submit comments, recommended conditions for licensing, or letters of no objection by January 2, 2007 (45 days after the final public hearings). Also by January 2, 2007, the Governor of Massachusetts (the adjacent coastal state) may approve, disapprove, or notify MARAD of inconsistencies with State programs relating to environmental protection, land and water use, and coastal zone management for which MARAD may condition the license to make consistent.

MARAD must issue a record of decision (ROD) to approve, approve with conditions, or deny the DWP license application by February 13, 2007 (90 days after the public hearings).

For dates required by the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) schedule, please see that section at the end of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** The public hearing in Gloucester will be held at the Gloucester High School Auditorium, 32 Leslie O. Johnson Road, Gloucester, MA, telephone: 617-635-4100. The public hearing in Salem will be at the Salem State College Library, Charlotte Forten Hall, 360 Lafayette Street, Salem, MA, telephone: 978-542-7192.