

Secretary publishes in the **Federal Register** a synopsis of each arbitration panel decision affecting the administration of vending facilities on Federal and other property.

Background

Rutherford Beard (Complainant) alleged that the Michigan Commission for the Blind, the State licensing agency (SLA), violated the Act and implementing regulations in 34 CFR part 395. Specifically, Complainant alleged that the SLA violated the Act and its implementing regulations and State rules and regulations governing the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Program with respect to the closing of his vending facility at the Lewis Cass Building for renovation and plumbing repairs, resulting in loss of income for the Complainant's cafeteria.

Complainant further alleged that the Lewis Cass Building Cafeteria was not a suitable location because the SLA was aware of a history of plumbing problems in the building. Consequently, when the cafeteria was closed for renovation and plumbing repairs, Complainant alleged that this was proof of the lack of suitability for a cafeteria at the Lewis Cass Building. Thus, the Complainant requested reimbursement from the SLA for loss of income during the renovation period.

The SLA argued that the Lewis Cass Building Cafeteria was a suitable vending location and opportunity for a blind vendor. The SLA acknowledged that, while it was aware that the building had previous plumbing problems, it was not aware of the severity of the plumbing issue. Also, the SLA alleged that it had no responsibility to repair the plumbing in the Lewis Cass Building because the building was under the jurisdiction of the State's Department of Management and Budget. The SLA further alleged that Complainant, as a small business operator, had the responsibility for his own profitability. Moreover, the SLA alleged that Complainant was unable to provide evidence showing the amount of lost income during the renovation period.

Complainant filed a request with the SLA for lost income. The SLA denied Complainant's request. Subsequently, Complainant appealed this decision with the SLA by filing a request for a State fair hearing. A hearing was held and the administrative law judge (ALJ) recommended that Complainant's claim be denied. The SLA adopted the ALJ's recommendation as a final administrative agency action and Complainant's grievance was denied.

Complainant then filed a request for Federal arbitration with the Department. A hearing on this matter was held on March 16, 2011. The central issue, as determined by the arbitration panel, was whether the SLA's failure to compensate Complainant for loss of income during the renovation period of the Lewis Cass Building Cafeteria violated the Act and its implementing regulations, and State rules and regulations governing the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Program.

Synopsis of the Arbitration Panel Decision

After reviewing all of the testimony and evidence, the majority of the panel found that the Lewis Cass Building Cafeteria was a suitable opportunity for Complainant and as such, Complainant was responsible for routine building maintenance. The panel majority concluded that, although the SLA was aware of the previous building plumbing problems, the SLA had no authority to repair the plumbing problems. Additionally, the panel majority found that Complainant did not provide competent evidence to support his allegation of lost income. Although Complainant had anticipated larger profits from operating a cafeteria at this location, this grievance was not substantiated by the evidence provided to the panel. Thus, the panel majority found that Complainant's estimate of \$70,000 for lost profits was speculative and that it had no basis to rule that Complainant actually lost income or, if so, how much income Complainant lost.

One panel member concurred in part and dissented in part. This panel member concurred with the panel majority's finding that there was no evidence presented by Complainant to support reimbursement by the SLA for his alleged loss of income during the renovation period of the cafeteria. At the same time, this panel member dissented from the panel majority's findings, suggesting that it was not reasonable to place the entire burden of property-related losses or damages on operators and suggested that the SLA undertake rulemaking to clarify such situations, should they occur in the future.

The views and opinions expressed by the panel do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Department.

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Dated: March 1, 2012.

Alexa Posny,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

[FR Doc. 2012-5411 Filed 3-5-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation

AGENCY: National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

ACTION: The purpose of this notice is to announce the upcoming meeting of the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA). Parts of this meeting will be open to the public, and the public is invited to attend those portions.

Meeting Date and Place: The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. until approximately 5 p.m., at the U.S. Department of Education, Eighth Floor Conference Center, Office of Postsecondary Education, 1990 K St. NW., Washington, DC 20006.

Function: The NCFMEA was established by the Secretary of Education under Section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. The NCFMEA's responsibilities are to:

- Upon request of a foreign country, evaluate the standards of accreditation applied to medical schools in that country; and,
- Determine the comparability of those standards to standards for accreditation applied to United States medical schools.

Comparability of the applicable accreditation standards is an eligibility requirement for foreign medical schools to participate in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Student Loan Program, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1087a et seq.

Meeting Agenda: The NCFMEA will review the standards of accreditation applied to medical schools by several foreign countries to determine whether those standards are comparable to the standards of accreditation applied to medical schools in the United States and/or reports previously requested of countries by the NCFMEA. Discussion of the standards of accreditation will be held in sessions open to the public. Discussions resulting in specific determinations of comparability are closed to the public in order that each country may be properly notified of the decision.

The countries scheduled to be discussed at the meeting include Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Nevis, and Saba. The meeting agenda, as well as the staff analyses pertaining to the meeting will be posted on the Department of Education's web site prior to the meeting at the following address: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/ncfmea.html>.

Reasonable Accommodations: The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you will need an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the meeting (e.g., interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format), notify the contact person listed in this notice by March 23, 2012, although we will attempt to meet a request received after that date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carol Griffiths, Acting Executive Director for the NCFMEA, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street NW., Room 8073, Washington, DC 20006-8129, telephone: 202 219-7035; fax: 202 502-7874, or email: Carol.Griffiths@ed.gov.

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your search to documents published by the Department.

Eduardo M. Ochoa,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 2012-5377 Filed 3-5-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Agency Information Collection Extension

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE), pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, intends to reinstate and extend for three years, an information collection request with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The information collection request, Historic Preservation for Energy Efficiency Programs, was initially approved on December 1, 2010 under OMB Control No. 1910-5155 and expired on June 30, 2011. The reinstatement and extension will allow DOE to continue data collection on the status of Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), State Energy Program (SEP) and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program activities to ensure that recipients are compliant with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the extended collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (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 through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before May 7, 2012. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be sent to Christine Platt Patrick, EE-2K, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000

Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20585, *Email:* Christine.Platt@ee.doe.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christine Platt Patrick, EE-2K, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20585, *Email:*

Christine.Platt@ee.doe.gov.

Additional information and reporting guidance concerning the Historic Preservation reporting requirement for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), State Energy Program (SEP) and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program are available for review at the following Web site: http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/historic_preservation.html.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This information collection request contains: (1) OMB No. 1910-5155; (2) Information Collection Request Title: Historic Preservation for Energy Efficiency Programs; (3) Type of Review: Reinstatement; (4) Purpose: To collect data on the status of Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), State Energy Program (SEP), and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program activities to ensure compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA; (5) Annual Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,473; (6) Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses: 2,473; (7) Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours: 5,264; (8) Annual Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden: 0.

Statutory Authority: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Pub. L. 89-665 106) establishes that WAP, SEP and EECBG recipients must retain sufficient documentation to demonstrate that the recipient (or subrecipient) has received required approval(s) prior to the expenditure of project funds to alter any historic structure or site.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 27, 2012.

Henry Kelly,

Acting Assistance Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

U.S. Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Extension

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