

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 20.*

**Abstract:** This study is intended to assist the Department in making decisions about how to structure future grant competitions; how to support evaluation and performance reporting activities among funded grantees, including technical assistance to improve the quality of evaluations and performance reporting; and how to make the best possible use of grantee evaluation findings.

Dated: August 24, 2012.

**Stephanie Valentine,**

*Acting Director, Information Collection Clearance Division, Privacy, Information and Records Management Services, Office of Management.*

[FR Doc. 2012-21308 Filed 8-28-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Notice of Submission for OMB Review; Federal Student Aid; Electronic Debit Payment Option for Student Loans

**SUMMARY:** The Preauthorized Debit Account (PDA) Application is used to establish electronic debiting for individuals who have requested to have their defaulted federal education debt payments debited from their bank accounts.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before September 28, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be electronically mailed to [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) or mailed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., LBJ, Washington, DC 20202-4537. 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 04879. 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., LBJ, Washington, DC 20202-4537. Requests may also be electronically mailed to [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) or faxed to 202-401-0920. Please specify the complete title of the information collection and OMB Control Number when making your request.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35) requires that Federal agencies provide interested parties an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Director, Information Collection Clearance Division, Privacy, Information and Records Management Services, Office of Management, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection. 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. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* Electronic Debit Payment Option for Student Loans.

*OMB Control Number:* 1845-0025.

*Type of Review:* Revision.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 1,600.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 133.

**Abstract:** An Electronic Debit Account Program gives the borrower the option to repay federally funded student loans via automatic debit deductions from their checking or savings accounts. The PDA payment option allows individuals with defaulted federal education debts (student loans or grant overpayments) held by the U.S. Department of Education's (ED's) Federal Student Aid Default Resolution Group to have their payments automatically debited from their checking or savings accounts and sent to ED. Individuals who choose the use the PDA option to make their payments must authorize ED to debit their bank accounts. The PDA Brochure and Application (PDA Application) explains the PDA payment option and collects the applicant's authorization for electronic debiting of payments and the bank account information needed by ED to debit the applicant's account.

The authority for the PDA option is provided under the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984, Public Law 98-368, and 31 CFR part 202, Depositories and Financial Agents of the Government. Operating rules and regulations approved and published by the National

Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA) and 31 CFR part 210 also govern the use of the PDA Application. Finally, Regulation E, issued and maintained by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, implements Title IX of the Consumer Credit Protection Act, as amended in 15 U.S.C. 1601. This regulation is designed to implement the act, which primarily serves to protect the interests of the individual consumer participating in electronic transfers. ED has used the collection of information on the currently approved PDA Application to establish electronic debiting for individuals who have requested to have their defaulted federal education debt payments debited from their bank accounts.

Dated: August 24, 2012.

**Stephanie Valentine,**

*Acting Director, Information Collection Clearance Division, Privacy, Information and Records Management Services, Office of Management.*

[FR Doc. 2012-21306 Filed 8-28-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests; Institute of Education Sciences; Needs Sensing Survey Under the REL Program: Sample Survey Instrument for School Board Members and District Administrators

**SUMMARY:** The needs assessment consists of an online survey of a sample of school board members, district administrators, principals, and teachers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The purpose of the sample survey is to assess: the importance these populations attach to the four issues identified in advance by REL Midwest as priorities for the region; for each issue, the types of data and analysis supports, and research and evaluation needs which respondents anticipate would be of particular value; and what factors would increase the likelihood respondents and the populations they represent would turn to the REL for data and analysis supports, or research and evaluation needs in the future. The results of the survey will be used to prioritize the assistance that REL Midwest provides to educators in the region for utilizing their longitudinal data systems, conducting high quality research and evaluation; learning about the best education research; and incorporating data into policy and practice.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before October 29, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be electronically mailed to [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) or mailed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., LBJ, Washington, DC 20202-4537. 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 04922. 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., LBJ, Washington, DC 20202-4537. Requests may also be electronically mailed to [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) or faxed to 202-401-0920. Please specify the complete title of the information collection and OMB Control Number when making your request.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35) requires that Federal agencies provide interested parties an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Director, Information Collection Clearance Division, Privacy, Information and Records Management Services, Office of Management, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection. 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. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* Needs Sensing Survey under the REL program: (Sample survey Instrument for School Board Members and District Administrators.

*OMB Control Number:* 1850-NEW.  
*Type of Review:* New.  
*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 2,240.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 983.

*Abstract:* The needs assessment consists of an online survey of a sample of school board members, district administrators, principals, and teachers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The purpose of the sample survey is to assess: the importance these populations attach to the four issues identified in advance by REL Midwest as priorities for the region; for each issue, the types of data and analysis supports, and research and evaluation needs which respondents anticipate would be of particular value; and what factors would increase the likelihood respondents and the populations they represent would turn to the REL for data and analysis supports, or research and evaluation needs in the future. The results of the survey will be used to prioritize the assistance that REL Midwest provides to educators in the region for utilizing their longitudinal data systems, conducting high quality research and evaluation; learning about the best education research; and incorporating data into policy and practice.

Dated: August 24, 2012.

**Stephanie Valentine,**

*Acting Director, Information Collection Clearance Division, Privacy, Information and Records Management Services, Office of Management.*

[FR Doc. 2012-21309 Filed 8-28-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Western Area Power Administration

#### Notice of Cancellation of Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Interconnection of the Buffalo Ridge III Wind Project, Brookings and Deuel Counties, SD (DOE/EIS-0437)

**AGENCY:** Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of Cancellation of Environmental Impact Statement.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Western Area Power Administration (Western) is issuing this notice to advise the public that it is cancelling the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on an

interconnection request by Heartland Wind, LLC (Heartland), a wholly owned subsidiary of Iberdrola Renewables, Inc.

**DATES:** This cancellation is effective on August 29, 2012.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information on the cancellation of this EIS process, contact Matt Marsh, NEPA Document Manager, Upper Great Plains Regional Office, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 35800, Billings, MT 59107-5800, email [MMarsh@wapa.gov](mailto:MMarsh@wapa.gov), telephone (406) 255-2811. For general information on DOE's NEPA review process, contact Carol M. Borgstrom, Director of NEPA Policy and Compliance, GC-54, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585-0119, telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756, facsimile (202) 586-7031.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Heartland proposed to design, construct, operate, and maintain a 170-megawatt Buffalo Ridge III Wind Project (Project) in Brookings and Deuel counties, South Dakota, and interconnect that Project with Western's transmission system. Heartland's interconnection request caused Western to initiate a NEPA review of its proposal to allow the interconnection. Western published a Notice of Intent for the EIS in the **Federal Register** on November 27, 2009 (74 FR 62298), and started the EIS process. A public scoping meeting was held subsequent to the Notice of Intent, but a Draft EIS was not produced because Heartland decided to suspend further action on its proposed Project. Heartland notified Western of its decision, and Western is now terminating the NEPA review process on its interconnection proposal and Heartland's proposed Project. Heartland could decide to reinstate the proposed Project at some future date. In that event Western would issue a new Notice of Intent, and would start a new NEPA process.

The DOE's Acting General Counsel provided a "Restatement of Delegations of Environmental Impact Statement Authorities" to Western's Administrator in a November 16, 2011, memorandum. Under the authority granted by that memorandum, I have terminated the NEPA process for Heartland's proposed Buffalo Ridge III Wind Project with the publication of this notice.

Dated: August 17, 2012.

**Anthony H. Montoya,**  
*Acting Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 2012-21302 Filed 8-28-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**