DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[DOcket No.: ED–2013–ICCD–0040]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Survey on the Use of Funds under Title II, Part A: Improving Teacher Quality State Grants—State-Level Activity Funds

AGENCY: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.


DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before June 3, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at http://www.regulations.gov by selecting Docket ID number ED–2013–ICCD–0040 or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. Please note that comments submitted by fax or email and those submitted after the comment period will not be accepted. Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Director of the Information Collection Clearance Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., LBJ, Room 2E115, Washington, DC 20202–4537.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Electronically mail ICDocketMgr@ed.gov. Please do not send comments here.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department’s information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comments 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: Survey on the Use of Funds under Title II, Part A: Improving Teacher Quality State Grants—State-Level Activity Funds.

OMB Control Number: 1810–New.

Type of Review: A new information collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 52.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 260.

Abstract: The reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) places a major emphasis on teacher quality as a significant factor in improving student achievement. Under ESEA, Title II, Part A provides funds to states (SEAs) and school districts (LEAs) to conduct a variety of teacher-related reform activities. ESEA funds can be used for a variety of teacher quality activities in any subject area. Although the majority of funds are provided to LEAs, allowable SEA uses of funds include: Reforming teacher and principal certification (including recertification) and licensure to ensure that teachers have the necessary subject-matter knowledge and teaching skills in the subjects they teach; and providing support to teachers and principals through programs such as teacher mentoring, team teaching, reduced class schedules, intensive professional development, and using standards or assessments to guide beginning teachers; and carrying out programs to establish, expand, or improve alternative routes for state certification for teachers and principals (especially in mathematics and science) that will encourage highly qualified individuals with at least a baccalaureate degree; and developing and implementing effective mechanisms that help LEAs and schools recruit and retain highly qualified teachers, principals, and pupil services personnel; and reforming tenure systems, implementing teacher testing for subject-matter knowledge, and implementing teacher testing for state certification or licensure, consistent with Title II of the Higher Education Act.

Dated: March 29, 2013.

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Energy Savings Performance Contracts


ACTION: Notice of request for information (RFI).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) seeks comments and information regarding improvements to Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs). ESPCs allow Federal agencies to implement energy savings projects where the up-front capital cost is financed by an Energy Services Company (ESCO), who is then repaid from the agency’s energy savings over a period of up to 25 years. The DOE Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) is the lead agency program for providing implementing rules and policies regarding ESPCs. DOE FEMP strives to continuously improve the ESPC processes it has implemented since 1996. DOE is publishing this RFI to obtain ideas and input from ESPC
stakeholders and other interested persons to facilitate further improvements to ESPCs.

DATES: Written comments and information are requested on or before May 3, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons may submit comments by any of the following methods. Your response should be in the form of a Word document, or a compatible format.

1. Email: to femp@go.doe.gov. Include “ESPC Comments” in the subject line of the message.

Mail: Mr. Randy Jones, U.S.
Department of Energy, 1617 Cole Blvd., Golden, CO 80401, Telephone: (720) 356–1667, Email: randy.jones@go.doe.gov. Please submit one signed paper original.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP), within the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), provides services, tools, and expertise to Federal agencies to help them achieve their legislated and executive-ordered energy, greenhouse gas, and water goals. These are delivered through project, technical, and program services. One of FEMP’s major services is to support Federal agencies in identifying, obtaining, and implementing project funding for energy projects through the use of ESPCs.

ESPCs allow Federal agencies to accomplish energy savings projects without up-front capital costs. In an ESPC, a Federal agency contracts with an ESCO, following a comprehensive energy audit conducted by the ESCO of a Federal facility to identify improvements to save energy. In consultation with the Federal agency, the ESCO designs and constructs a project that meets the agency’s needs and arranges the necessary funding. The ESCO guarantees that the improvements will generate energy cost savings sufficient to pay for the project over the term of the contract. After the contract ends, all additional cost savings accrue to the agency. Contract terms up to 25 years are allowed.

Under the ESPC statutes, DOE is required to develop methods and procedures for Federal agencies to implement the use of energy savings performance contracting. On April 10, 1995, DOE established the implementing procedures and regulations for ESPCs at 10 CFR part 436, Subpart B. (See, 60 FR 18334.)

To facilitate and accelerate the use of ESPCs, DOE has issued Indefinite-Delivery, Indefinite-Quantity (IDIQ) contracts designed to make ESPCs as practical and cost-effective as possible for use by Federal agencies. DOE awarded these “umbrella” contracts to ESCOs based on their ability to meet terms and conditions established in IDIQ contracts, and consistent with the ESPC regulations. DOE IDIQ contracts can be used by Federal agencies to achieve energy savings for any Federally-owned facility worldwide, by awarding Task Orders for ESPC projects at their facilities.

Since the inception of DOE’s IDIQ contracts in 1996, numerous Federal agencies have used them to award more than 280 ESPC projects throughout the Federal government. More than $2.71 billion has been invested in Federal energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements. These improvements have resulted in more than 347.5 trillion Btu life-cycle energy savings and more than $7.18 billion of cumulative energy cost savings for the Federal Government.

While FEMP has provided implementing rules and policies regarding ESPCs, its efforts to promote and improve ESPC projects have been primarily through the DOE IDIQ contract vehicle. Over the course of the last 15 years, FEMP has continuously improved the ESPC IDIQ contract in many key areas, including contractor selection procedures, scope definition, Measurement and Verification (M&V), financing procurement, and definition of risk and responsibilities.

More detailed background and specifics of the current FEMP ESPC program can be found at: http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/financing/espcs.html. More detailed information about the IDIQ contracts, FEMP’s primary vehicle for implementation of ESPCs, including a generic version of the current contract, can be found at: http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/financing/espcs_resources.html.

More detailed information about the new FEMP streamlined ESPC ENABLE program for smaller facilities can be found at: http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/financing/espc_enable.html.

Issues on Which DOE Seeks Information:

This request for information is issued to solicit input on further potential improvements to ESPCs, with emphasis on improvements to the FEMP IDIQ contracts. Specifically, FEMP is interested in obtaining ideas and information in the following areas:

Speed to Award

• Decreasing the time from the point an agency decides to go forward (Issues Notice of Opportunity (NOO), Request for Proposals (RFP), etc.) to the time of award.

• Process improvements and simplifications, while maintaining technical and project management integrity.

• Addressing internal agency policies and processes to speed up key reviews, approvals, and decisions.

ESPC IDIQ Contract Improvements

• Opportunities and benefits relating to greater standardization of contract processes, terms and conditions across the Government.

• Comments on current IDIQ processes that allow contractor selection based on ESCO qualifications only, without the submission of a price proposal.

• Comments on structuring an ESPC IDIQ Contract so that new contractors may be added during the life of the contract based on meeting the same qualification criteria as specified in the original solicitation.

• Comments on a potential process where the technical criterion to receive an IDIQ ESPC contract from DOE are based partially or fully on meeting requirements of an impartial, national ESCO certification program.

• Comments on structuring an ESPC IDIQ Contract so that contractors can be removed during the life of the contract based on conditions specified in the IDIQ such as non-performance or lack of participation.

• Improvement of deliverables content and format (Investment Grade Audit, Commissioning Plans and Reports, Measurement and Verification Plans and Reports, etc.).

Increasing the Certainty of Energy Savings Persistence

• Improvements to Measurement and Verification methodologies, to achieve and maintain the greatest assurance of energy savings at the least cost.

Approaches To Encourage Innovative or Underutilized Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technologies

• Approaches to increase confidence in investing in technologies with good potential but little implementation experience.
• Approaches to incentivize ESCOs to propose innovative or underutilized technologies.

Potential Improvements to the FEMP streamlined ENABLE Program for Smaller Facilities

• Improvements to the technical tools and contract templates that support project development and execution.
• Feedback on the process that is required by GSA Schedule 84, Special Identification Number 246–53 and use of the Schedule ordering process in general.

Disclaimer and Important Notes

This is an RFI issued solely for information and program planning purposes; this RFI does not constitute a formal solicitation for proposals or abstracts. Your response to this notice will be treated as information only. DOE will not provide reimbursement for costs incurred in responding to this RFI. Respondents are advised that DOE is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of the information received or provide feedback to respondents with respect to any information submitted under this RFI. Responses to this RFI do not bind DOE to any further actions related to this topic.

Confidential Business Information

In accordance with 10 CFR 1004.11, any person submitting information he or she believes to be confidential and exempt by law from public disclosure should submit via email, postal mail, or hand delivery/courier two well-marked copies: One copy of the document marked confidential including all the information believed to be confidential, and one copy of the document marked non-confidential with the information believed to be confidential deleted. Submit these documents via email or on a CD, if feasible. DOE will make its own determination about the confidential status of the information and treat it according to its determination.

Factors of interest to DOE when evaluating requests to treat submitted information as confidential include: (1) A description of the items; (2) whether and why such items are customarily treated as confidential within the industry; (3) whether the information is generally known by or available from other sources; (4) whether the information has previously been made available to others without obligation concerning its confidentiality; (5) an explanation of the competitive injury to the submitting person which would result from public disclosure; (6) when such information might lose its confidential character due to the passage of time; and (7) why disclosure of the information would be contrary to the public interest.

It is DOE’s policy that all comments may be included in a public docket, without change and as received, including any personal information provided in the comments (except information deemed to be exempt from public disclosure).

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 28, 2013.

Timothy Unruh,
Program Manager, Federal Energy Management Program.

BILLY CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2619–022]

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC; Notice of Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Protests

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:


b. Project No: 2619–022.

c. Date Filed: August 13, 2012 and supplemented January 10 and March 26, 2013.

d. Applicant: Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC.

e. Name of Project: Mission Hydroelectric Project.

f. Location: The Mission Hydroelectric Project is located on the Hiwassee River in Clay and Cherokee Counties, North Carolina.

g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791a–825r.

h. Applicant Contact: Dennis Whitaker, Duke Energy—Lake Services, 526 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC, 28202, (704) 382–1594

i. FERC Contact: Mary Karwoski at (202) 502–6543, or email: mary.karwoski @ferc.gov.

j. Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, and protests: April 29, 2013.

All documents may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission’s Web site at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/eFiling.asp. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlinesSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1–866–208–3676, or for TTY, (202) 502–8659. Although the Commission strongly encourages electronic filing, documents may also be paper-filed. To paper-file, mail an original and seven copies to: Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. Please include the project number (p–2619–022) on any comments, motions, or recommendations filed.

The Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person whose name appears on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

k. Description of Request: As required by article 407 of the July 22, 2011 license, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC requests Commission approval of a proposed shoreline management plan (SMP) for the project. The SMP defines shoreline management classifications for the shorelines within the project boundary, identifies allowable and prohibited uses within the shoreline areas, and describes the shoreline use permitting process.

l. Locations of the Application: A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission’s Public Reference Room, located at 888 First Street NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 502–8371. This filing may also be viewed on the Commission’s Web site at http://www.ferc.gov using the “eLibrary” link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field (P–2619–022) to access the document. You may also register online at http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, call 1–866–208–3676 or email FERCOnlinesSupport@ferc.gov, for TTY, call (202) 502–8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item (h) above. Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant.