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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent Deployment and Minuteman III Decommissioning and Disposal

AGENCY: Department of the Air Force, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The United States Air Force (Air Force) is issuing this Notice of Intent (NOI) to advise the public of its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate potential impacts on the human and natural environments of deploying the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) system and decommissioning and disposing of the Minuteman III ICBM system. The Air Force invites public participation in the scoping process to determine the scope and significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the EIS and eliminate issues which are not significant.

DATES: A public scoping period of 45 days will take place starting from the date of this NOI publication in the Federal Register. Comments will be accepted at any time during the environmental impact analysis process; however, to ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public scoping comments during preparation of the Draft EIS, please submit comments within the 45 days scoping period. Major milestone dates for the GBSD EIS are as follows:

- Draft EIS and Notice of Availability (NOA) Publication, Spring 2022
- Draft EIS Public Comment Period and Hearing, Spring 2022
- Final EIS and NOA Publication, Spring 2023
- Final ROD signature, Spring 2023

Given the complexity and the scope of this proposal, the Air Force anticipates the environmental analysis to extend past two years for completion and has received senior agency official approval.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

ADDRESSES: For GBSD deployment EIS inquiries or requests for printed or digital copies of the scoping materials, please contact Capt Christina Camp, phone: (318) 456–6519, or request materials by email: AFSC.GBSD.ImpactStudy@us.af.mil. The public and interested parties can submit their comments through the project website at www.gbsdeis.com; or mail comments to AFCEC/CZM, Attn: GBSD Project EIS, 2261 Hughes Avenue, Suite 155, JBLS Lackland TX 78236–9853; FedEx and UPS deliveries to AFCEC/CZM, Attn: GBSD Project EIS; 3515 S General McMullen, San Antonio, TX 78226–9853.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the proposed action is to replace all ground based Minuteman III weapons systems within the continental United States with the GBSD system. The proposed action is needed to meet national security requirements and to comply with the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Pub. L. 115–232 § 1663, 132 Stat. 2153), which directs the Air Force to develop and implement a strategy “to accelerate the development, procurement, and fielding of the ground-based strategic deterrent program.” The scope of the deployment activities would include replacing all ground based Minuteman III ICBMs in the United States, including motors, interstages, and missile guidance sets, with the GBSD weapon system, a technologically advanced ICBM system. All launch facilities, communication systems, infrastructure, and technologies would be modernized and replaced as necessary to support the GBSD system.

The Secretary of the Air Force announced that the GBSD deployment will take place at three sequenced Operational Locations 1–3 (“Ops 1–3”), with the scope of each Ops location occurring both on-base and in the associated missile fields. The Ops locations are the alternatives being consider in the EIS. Each location is the preferred alternative for its respective sequenced order, and includes Francis E. Warren Air Force Base (AFB) WY (Ops-1); Malmstrom AFB, MT (Ops-2); and Minot AFB, ND (Ops-3). The additional maintenance, training, storage, testing, support, decommissioning, and disposal actions would occur at Hill AFB, UT; the Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR), UT; Camp Guernsey, WY; and Camp Navajo, AZ.

The EIS may consider alternatives that include deploying the GBSD system in phases. The Proposed Action would not include generating or disposing of nuclear material, and the number of ground based nuclear missiles would remain unchanged. Deployment of the GBSD system would begin in the mid-2020s, extending the capabilities of the ground-based leg of the U.S. nuclear triad through at least 2075. The EIS will analyze facility construction, modification, and operations at and around Francis E. Warren AFB and Camp Guernsey, Malmstrom AFB, Minot AFB, Hill AFB and UTTR, and Camp Navajo. During the transition from Minuteman III to GBSD, the two weapon systems would be partially operated and maintained concurrently for several years; therefore, the EIS also will analyze the overlapping actions and resulting impacts of conducting aspects of the programs in parallel. The EIS will also analyze the No Action Alternative which will also be fully considered. It serves as the baseline against which to compare the Proposed Action. Under the No Action Alternative, the Air Force would continue to maintain and operate the Minuteman III weapon system in its current configuration and the GBSD system would not be deployed.

Expected environmental impacts are assumed to result from ground disturbing activities associated with construction of the GBSD system. It is anticipated that these environmental impacts, will be mitigated to the extent practical or avoided where possible. Further, the Air Force will pursue all required Federal and State permits, licenses, and other authorizations during the course of this EIS process, including but not limited to consultations under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as well as permits under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.).

The scoping process allows and invites early and meaningful participation by the public and is used to define the full range of issues and concerns to be evaluated in the EIS. As such, the Air Force is soliciting scoping comments and/or identification of
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 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: Recipient’s Funding Certification and Agreement CARES Act.

OMB Control Number: 1801–0005.

Type of Review: An extension without change of a currently approved collection.

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

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 34,230.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 17,115.

Abstract: The Department of Education (the Department) is requesting clearance to allow for immediate outreach to institutions of higher educations (IHEs) to meet the requirements of the CARES Act. Section 18004(a)(1) of the CARES Act, Public Law 116–136 (March 27, 2020), authorizes the Secretary of Education (“Secretary”) to allocate formula grant funds to participating institutions of higher educations (IHEs). Section 18004(c) of the CARES Act requires the IHEs to use no less than fifty percent of the funds received to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus (including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care).


Kate Mullan,
PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance, Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

[FR Doc. 2020–21187 Filed 9–24–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED–2020–SCC–0082]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing an extension without change of a currently approved collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before October 26, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection request by selecting “Department of Education” under “Currently Under Review,” then check “Only Show ICR for Public Comment” checkbox.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Gaby Watts, 202–453–7195.

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