

should specifically address: (a) Whether the 2019 NAEP Science Framework needs to be updated; (b) if the framework needs to be updated, why a revision is needed; and (c) what should a revision to the framework include? This notice sets forth the review schedule and provides information for accessing additional materials that will be informative and useful for this review.

Assessment and Item Specifications elaborate on the framework as guidance for item development conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the NAEP assessment development contractor(s). The framework development and update process also produces recommendations for contextual variables, which supports NCES' development of the questionnaires administered to students, teachers, and schools to help the public understand the achievement results in each subject. By engaging NAEP's audiences, partners, and stakeholders in the panels that provide recommendations for NAEP frameworks and by seeking public comment, NAEP frameworks reflect content valued by the public as important to measure. Additional information on the Governing Board's work in developing NAEP Frameworks and Specifications can be found at <https://www.nagb.gov/naep-frameworks/frameworks-overview.html>.

All responses will be taken into consideration before finalizing the recommendations for updating the NAEP Science Assessment Framework. Once finalized, recommendations will be used to guide a framework update process, if an update is needed for the 2028 NAEP Science Assessment.

Comments shall be submitted via email to [nagb@ed.gov](mailto:nagb@ed.gov) with the email subject header NAEP Science Framework no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, September 30. It is anticipated that public comments will be shared and discussed publicly in upcoming Governing Board meetings and materials. *When providing comment, please indicate if you are not comfortable with your name and affiliation being included with the comments that will be shared publicly by the Governing Board in its deliberations.*

Additional information (including the materials referenced below) can be found on the project website at <https://www.nagb.gov/naep-frameworks/science/science-framework-feedback.html>.

### Existing Science Framework for the NAEP

The existing framework (adopted in 2005) can be downloaded from the Governing Board website at <https://www.nagb.gov/naep-frameworks/science.html>.

### Governing Board's Periodic Review and Updating of NAEP Frameworks

Governing Board policy articulates the Board's commitment to a comprehensive, inclusive, and deliberative process to determine and update the content and format of all NAEP assessments. For each NAEP assessment, this process results in a NAEP framework, outlining what is to be measured and how it will be measured. Periodically, the Governing Board reviews existing NAEP frameworks to determine if changes are warranted. Each NAEP framework development and update process considers a wide set of factors, including but not limited to reviews of recent research on teaching and learning, changes in state and local standards and assessments, and the latest perspectives on the nation's future needs and desirable levels of achievement.

In 2021, the Board is initiating a preliminary review of the NAEP Science Framework. The Governing Board's NAEP Science Framework review will use general public comment collected through this notice as well as expert commentary to determine whether a framework update is required and the type of updates that may be needed. Learn more about framework update processes at [https://www.nagb.gov/content/dam/nagb/en/documents/naep/NAEP-Frameworks-FAQ\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.nagb.gov/content/dam/nagb/en/documents/naep/NAEP-Frameworks-FAQ_FINAL.pdf).

*Electronic Access to this Document:* The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available via the Federal Digital System at: [www.gpo.gov/fdsys](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys). At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the Adobe website. You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at: [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov). Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

*Authority:* Pub. L. 107–279, Title III—National Assessment of Educational Progress § 301.

**Lesley Muldoon,**

*Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB), U. S. Department of Education.*

[FR Doc. 2021–17676 Filed 8–17–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000–01–P**

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## ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

### Agency Information Collection Activities: National Mail Voter Registration Form

**AGENCY:** U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of emergency reinstatement.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) gives notice that it is requesting from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) an emergency reinstatement of the National Mail Voter Registration form. Section 9(a) of the NVRA and Section 802 of HAVA requires the responsible agency to maintain a national mail voter registration form for U.S. citizens that want to register to vote, to update registration information due to a change of name, make a change of address or to register with a political party by returning the form to their state election office.

**DATES:** Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on August 31, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written statements with respect to the reinstatement of the National Mail Voter Registration form no later than 5 p.m. on August 31, 2021. Statements may be sent via email to [research@eac.gov](mailto:research@eac.gov) and via standard mail addressed to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nichelle Williams, Telephone: (202) 924–1312.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. National Mail Voter Registration Form

Persons wishing to register to vote may use the National Mail Voter Registration form (“Federal form” or “form”) to apply for voter registration. After completing the form, an applicant submits her/his form to their respective state election office for processing.

States covered by the NVRA process the information from the form to register an applicant to vote. Neither EAC nor any other Federal agency processes or collects any information from the Federal form that a registration applicant submits to a state. Rather, EAC prescribes the Federal form, and states collect and record the information applicants submit. The Federal form is composed of the registration application, instructions for completing the application (General Instructions and Application Instructions), and State-specific instructions that identify each state's particular requirements. A copy of the current form in English and 14 additional translated languages is available on EAC's website, at <https://www.eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form>.

**Nichelle Williams,**

*Director of Research, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.*

[FR Doc. 2021-17733 Filed 8-17-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6820-KF-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Assessing the National and International Standing of BER Basic Research

**AGENCY:** Office of Science, Biological and Environmental Research Program, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Request for information.

**SUMMARY:** The Biological and Environmental Research (BER) Program, as DOE's coordinating office for research on biological systems, bioenergy, environmental science, and Earth system science, is seeking input on technical and logistical pathways that would enhance the BER research portfolio in comparison to similar international research efforts.

**DATES:** Written comments and information are requested on or before October 31, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons may submit comments by email only. Comments must be sent to [BERACRFI@science.doe.gov](mailto:BERACRFI@science.doe.gov) with the subject line "BER research benchmarking".

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Tristram O. West, (301) 903-5155, [Tristram.west@science.doe.gov](mailto:Tristram.west@science.doe.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A charge was issued from the Director of Office of Science on October 8, 2020, to the BER Advisory Committee (BERAC) to assess BER's standing in relation to related research efforts nationally and internationally, and to consider strategies that would increase BER's

ability to conduct world-class science in core BER research areas. The Director's charge letter may be found here: <https://science.osti.gov/ber/berac/Reports/Current-BERAC-Charges>.

The information collected through this request, in addition to other informational sources, may be used by BERAC to develop strategies to further strengthen BER's research capabilities. The conclusions drawn from BERAC's effort are expected to serve as a benchmark for BER's standing in core research areas and provide strategies for improvement where appropriate.

### Request for Information

The objective of this request for information is to gather information on BER's standing in relation to related research efforts occurring nationally and internationally, and how BER might increase its stature in conducting world-class basic science currently supported by BER (<https://science.osti.gov/ber/Research>). Supported research includes Atmospheric Science; Earth and Environmental System Modeling; Environmental Science; Bioenergy and Bioproducts; Plant and Microbial Genomics; Data Analytics and Management; and Scientific User-focused Infrastructure (*i.e.*, DOE User Facilities, Computational Knowledgebase Platforms, Community Observational and Analytical Resources). Information is specifically requested on the status of current capabilities, partnerships, funding mechanisms, and workforce development specific to one or more of the aforementioned research areas. Answers or information related, but not limited, to the following questions are specifically requested:

- Within the BER-supported topical research areas and facility capabilities, in which areas and capabilities, presently or in the foreseeable future, does BER lead in the international community, and in which areas does leadership require strengthening? In identifying these areas, please consider their critical mission relevance, recent history, the status quo, observable trends, and evidence-based projections.

- Are there key international partnerships that could strengthen BER science output and increase global visibility of BER?

- Is there a preferred optimization for organizing research, collaboration, and funding mechanisms among labs, universities, and other federal agencies to preserve and foster U.S. leadership with resource constraints? Are there other key efficiencies and balances that should be considered and modified to

improve U.S. leadership in BER research areas?

- How can BER programs and facilities be structured and managed to create incentives that will attract and retain talented people deciding whether to pursue a scientific career, as well as mid-career scientists considering whether to stay in the U.S.?

- What are the key opportunities for BER in attracting and enhancing careers in BER-supported scientific fields?

While the questions provided above can help guide thinking on this topic, any input is welcome which may help DOE assess BER's international standing in the core research areas. The information provided through this request should be presented as specific strategies which DOE Office of Science could implement and track.

### Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on August 11, 2021, by Dr. J. Stephen Binkley, Acting Director, Office of Science, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. The document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE **Federal Register** Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on August 12, 2021.

**Treena V. Garrett,**

*Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.*

[FR Doc. 2021-17658 Filed 8-17-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 3562-026]

### KEI (Maine) Power Management (III) LLC; Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission and Soliciting Additional Study Requests and Establishing Procedural Schedule for Relicensing and a Deadline for Submission of Final Amendments

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