

Designated Federal Officer in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section above.

Tommy W. Lee,

Acting Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs); Notice of Charter Renewal

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of charter renewal.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act of October 6, 1972, that the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (PBAHBCU), Department of Education, has been renewed for a 2-year period through April 9, 2028.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sedika Franklin, Associate Director, President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20024. Email: sedika.franklin@ed.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, the U.S. Department of Education is providing notice of the renewal of the charter of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Department of Education. This charter has been renewed for a two-year period through April 9, 2028.

Public Interest Determination

Pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.60(a), to establish, renew, reestablish, or merge a discretionary (agency discretion) advisory committee, an agency must first consult with the General Services Administration's Committee Management Secretariat (the Secretariat) and, as part of the consultation, provide a written public interest determination approved by the head of the agency to the Secretariat with a copy to the Office of Management and Budget. In addition, pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.35, an agency shall follow the same consultation process and document in writing the same determination of need before creating a subcommittee under a discretionary committee that is not made up entirely of members of a parent advisory committee.

Information on the following factors for the committee is provided to the Secretariat to demonstrate that renewing the committee is in the public interest:

1. Annual budget: The U.S. Department of Education's estimated annual costs for operating the PBAHBCU, including Federal personnel and other Federal internal costs are as follows: a. Federal personnel on a full-time equivalent basis, \$18,500; b. Other Federal internal costs, \$2,000 for audio/visual and transcription services; and c. Projected costs for Board travel and accommodations, \$40,000.

2. If applicable, the total dollar value of grants expected to be recommended during the fiscal year, \$0.

3. Criteria for selecting members to ensure the committee has the necessary expertise and fairly balanced membership: The Board shall consist of not more than 21 members appointed by the President. The Secretary of Education and the Executive Director of the White House HBCU Initiative or their designees shall serve as ex officio members. In addition, the Board shall include sitting HBCU presidents as well as leaders from a variety of sectors, including education, philanthropy, business, finance, entrepreneurship, innovation, science and technology, and private foundations.

4. List of all other Federal advisory committees of the agency:

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Advisory Board
- National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity
- National Advisory Council on Indian Education
- National Board for Education Sciences
- National Board of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (Inactive)
- Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Advisory Committee (Inactive)

5. Justification that the information or advice provided by the Federal advisory committee or subcommittee is not available from another Federal advisory committee, another Federal Government source, or any other more cost-effective and less burdensome source: The Board shall advise the President, through the [White House HBCU] Initiative, on all matters pertaining to strengthening the educational capacity of HBCUs, which shall include the following:

- (i) improving the identity, visibility, distinctive capabilities, and overall competitiveness of HBCUs;
- (ii) engaging the philanthropic, business, government, military, homeland security, and education

communities in a national dialogue regarding new HBCU programs and initiatives;

(iii) improving the ability of HBCUs to remain fiscally secure institutions that can assist the Nation in achieving its educational goals and in advancing the interests of all Americans;

(iv) elevating the public awareness of, and fostering appreciation of, HBCUs;

(v) encouraging public-private investments in HBCUs; and

(vi) improving government-wide strategic planning related to HBCU competitiveness to align Federal resources and provide the context for decisions about HBCU partnerships, investments, performance goals, priorities, human capital development and budget planning.

6. If the consultation is a committee renewal, a summary of the previous accomplishments of the committee and the reasons it needs to continue:

Summary of the previous accomplishments: The PBAHBCU has provided valuable insights to Presidents over many decades and has served as the primary convening body for HBCUs across the country.

Reasons for the continuation: The PBAHBCU is a longstanding advisory committee that provides expert advice and insight on important African American institutions of higher education that have historically had a unique relationship with the Federal government. The continuance of this advisory board is essential for the President to receive valuable expertise on these institutions as American higher education transitions into artificial intelligence instruction and online learning.

7. Explanation of why the committee/subcommittee is essential to the conduct of agency business:

The PBAHBCU issues an Annual Federal Plan for Assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This Plan is shared with the President and provides an overview on participation by HBCUs in federally sponsored programs. The Board also provides advice to the Secretary of Education and makes recommendations in reports to the President on how to increase the private sector role in strengthening HBCUs, with particular emphasis on enhancing institutional infrastructure and facilitating planning, development, and the use of new technologies to ensure the goal of long-term viability and enhancement of these institutions. This is valuable information about a unique group of historically and culturally important education institutions that is critical for the U.S. Department of Education to

capitalize on in supporting American education.

In conclusion, this public interest determination documents that renewing the committee is in the public interest, essential to the conduct of agency business, and that the information to be obtained is not already available through another advisory committee or source within the Federal Government.

The Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities related to higher education.

David Barker,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

[FR Doc. 2026–13831 Filed 7–8–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Availability of Draft 2026 National Transmission Needs Study and Request for Comment

AGENCY: Office of Electricity, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) gives notice of availability of the draft *2026 National Transmission Needs Study* for public review and comment.

DATES: DOE is currently accepting public comment from July 9, 2026 through September 8, 2026. Comments must be sent to *NeedsStudy.Comments@hq.doe.gov* by midnight EST, September 8, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties to submit comments electronically to *NeedsStudy.Comments@hq.doe.gov*. DOE's guidance is available at: *www.energy.gov/oe/national-transmission-needs-study*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alissa Baker, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity, via (240) 702–4890; or *NeedsStudy.Comments@hq.doe.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE's Office of Electricity (OE) is announcing the availability of the draft *2026 National Transmission Needs Study* (2026 Needs Study) and requests public comment on the draft.

Section 216(a) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), as amended by section 40105 of the Infrastructure Investment and

Jobs Act (IIJA), requires DOE to conduct a study of electric transmission capacity constraints and congestion every three years. The 2026 Needs Study implements that statutory provision and OE published the last study in October 2023.

Pursuant to section 216(a)(1), DOE is consulting with states, Tribes, and appropriate regional reliability entities regarding the 2026 Needs Study, including by providing a consultation draft for review and comment by these entities, as well as through additional outreach.

Pursuant to section 216(a)(2) of the FPA, the study would inform any decision to exercise DOE's National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor designation authority. The 2026 Needs Study will also inform DOE as it coordinates the use of other authorities and funding related to electric transmission. Members of the public can visit OE's website to access the public draft of the study as well as guidance for how to send comments or request further information at: *www.energy.gov/oe/national-transmission-needs-study*.

Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on June 30, 2026, by Gilbert C. Bindewald III, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Electricity, U.S. Department of Energy, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That 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. The administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on July 7, 2026.

Treena V. Garrett,

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

[FR Doc. 2026–13844 Filed 7–8–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Renewal of the Electricity Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of Electricity (OE), Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of renewal.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act and following consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat of the General Services Administration, notice is hereby given that the Electricity Advisory Committee (EAC) will be renewed for a two-year period. The Committee will provide advice, information, and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on a continuing basis regarding policies and programs to modernize the nation's electric system.

DATES: The Board will be renewed on August 5, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Corinne Price, Designated Federal Officer, at 202–586–4037; email: *corinne.price@hq.doe.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Committee members are chosen to assure well-balanced representation in terms of substantive technical expertise, institutional affiliation (*i.e.*, State, industry, and university), geographic location, and any other considerations required. The EAC has members who represent interests outside of private industry, including academic, economic, labor, research, and state and tribal government interests. OE will continue to broadly reach out to interested individuals to find membership for the board through direct contact or expressions of interest via a **Federal Register** Notice. Membership and representation of all interests will be determined in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and its implementing regulations.

The renewal of the Committee has been deemed essential to the Department of Energy's (DOE's) business and in public interest in conjunction with the performance of duties imposed upon the DOE, by law and agreement.

Public Interest Determination: Pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.65(a), DOE is providing a written public interest determination, approved by the Secretary of Energy, detailing why this committee is essential to the conduct of agency business and that the information to be obtained is not already available through another advisory committee or source within the Federal Government.

1. Annual budget: Approximately \$465,000 is planned for FY 27.

a. Federal personnel on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis—The estimated annual person year of staff support required is one-half equivalent Federal full-time employee, at an estimated annual cost of \$135,000.