

been requested by February 26, 1999. A regular clearance process is also beginning. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before April 12, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer: Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget; 725 17th Street, NW, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503. Comments regarding the regular clearance and requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651, or should be electronically mailed to the internet address *Pat Sherrill@ed.gov*, or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. ED invites public comment at the address specified

above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

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 respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: February 5, 1999.

William E. Burrow,

Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Reinstatement.

Title: Applications for Institute for International Public Policy.

Abstract: Institute for International Public Policy: Collect program and budget information to make grants to a consortium higher education institutions.

Additional Information: Collection of information is necessary in order for the Secretary of Education to make a grant to a consortium of higher education institutions to establish an Institute for International Public Policy which will significantly increase the number of African Americans and other underrepresented minorities in the international service in both the governmental and the private sectors.

Frequency: Every three to four years.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden:

Responses: 5.

Burden Hours: 250.

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Board of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education; Meeting

AGENCY: National Board of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, Education.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Board of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. This notice

also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

DATES AND TIMES: February 25, 1999 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles Karelis, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 3100, ROB #3, Washington, DC 20202-5175. Telephone: (202) 708-5750. Individuals who use a telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday).

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Board of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education is established under Section 1001 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1980, Title X (20 U.S.C. 1131a-1). The National Board of the Fund is authorized to recommend to the Director of the Fund and the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education priorities for funding and approval or disapproval of grants of a given kind.

The meeting of the National Board is open to the public. The National Board will meet on Thursday, February 25, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to provide an overview of FIPSE's programs, appropriations for FY 1999 and 2000, and special initiatives.

The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. An individual with a disability who will need an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the meeting (e.g., interpreting service, assistive listening device or materials in an alternative format) should notify the contact person listed in this notice at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although the Department will attempt to meet a request received after that date, the requested auxiliary aid or service may not be available because of insufficient time to arrange it.

Records are kept of all Board proceedings, and are available for public inspection at the office of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, Room 3100, Regional Office Building #3, 7th & D streets, SW, Washington, DC 20202 from the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Dated: February 5, 1999.

David A. Longanecker,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Agency information collection activities: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision to the Form EIA-871A/F, "1999 Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey."

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before April 12, 1999. If you have difficulty in submitting comments within the 60 days, contact the person identified below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Martha Johnson, Project Manager, EI-63, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20585-0660. Alternatively, Martha may be reached by phone at 202-586-1135, by e-mail (Martha.Johnson@eia.doe.gov), or by FAX (202-586-0018).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Martha Johnson at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments

I. Background

The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. 95-91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*) requires the Energy Information Administration (EIA) to carry out a centralized, comprehensive, and unified energy information program. This program collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates information on energy resource reserves, production, demand, technology, and related economic and statistical information. This information is used to assess the adequacy of energy resources to meet near and longer term

domestic demands. In addition, as specified in Section 171 (b)(k)(1) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-486), EIA conducts surveys of residential and commercial energy use.

The EIA, as part of its effort to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), provides the general public and other Federal agencies with opportunities to comment on collections of energy information conducted by or in conjunction with the EIA. Any comments received help the EIA to prepare data requests that maximize the utility of the information collected, and to assess the impact of collection requirements on the public. Also, the EIA will later seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the collections under Section 3507(h) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) has been conducted six times previously covering the years 1979, 1983 and 1986 under the name of the Nonresidential Buildings Energy Consumption Survey, and years 1989, 1992 and 1995 under the current name, Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey. CBECS collects baseline data on energy consumption and expenditures in commercial buildings, and on the energy-related characteristics of those buildings. To obtain this information, interviews are conducted for a sample of commercial buildings in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. For buildings in the survey, data are collected on the types, amount and cost of energy consumed in the building, how the energy is used, structural characteristics of the buildings, activities conducted inside the buildings, building ownership and occupancy, energy conservation measures, and energy-using equipment. The information will be collected using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) for the 1999 CBECS. For those buildings that cannot provide energy consumption data for the building, the data will be obtained in a mail survey from the suppliers of electricity, natural gas, fuel oil and district heat to the building, after receiving permission from the building owner, manager or tenant. This mail survey is mandatory.

The data obtained from this survey are available to the public in a variety of EIA publications and electronic tables and reports. (The 1995 CBECS data were published in A Look at Commercial Buildings in 1995: Characteristics, Energy Consumption and Energy Expenditures.) These reports can also be obtained at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/>

consumption. Public use files that have been screened to protect the identity of the individual respondents are also available electronically. Selected data from the surveys are also published in the Monthly Energy Review and the Annual Energy Review.

II. Current Actions

This will be a proposed revision and three-year clearance request to OMB. The request in the expiration data will extend the EIA-871A/F to May 31, 2002.

Other anticipated changes for the 1999 CBECS include:

- Collecting the data by telephone (rather than in a personal interview) using CATI techniques;
- Collecting the energy consumption and expenditures data (Form EIA-871C-F) at the building level rather than from the energy suppliers;
- Resampling from the 1995 CBECS sample;
- Excluding buildings from the sample that are 10,000 square feet and less in size and that were constructed after 1995;
- Eliminating some building characteristics questions (Form EIA-871A) that are of a lower priority to CBECS data users, are no longer relevant, or that had a high item nonresponse in previous surveys;
- Reformatting the Building Characteristic Questionnaire (Form EIA-871A) so that fewer respondents are asked all questions.

III. Request for Comments

Prospective respondents and other interested parties are invited to comment on the actions discussed in item II. The following guidelines are provided to assist in the preparation of comments.

General Issues

A. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency and does the information have practical utility? Practical utility is defined as the actual usefulness of information to or for an agency, taking into account its accuracy, adequacy, reliability, timeliness, and the agency's ability to process the information it collects.

B. What enhancements can be made to the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

As a Potential Respondent:

A. Are the instructions and definitions clear and sufficient? If not, which instructions require clarification?

B. Can information be submitted by the due date?