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Signed, written requests should include the individual's full name, current address, telephone number, and the name and number of this system of records notice.

In addition, the requester must provide either a notarized statement or an unsworn declaration made in accordance with 28 U.S.C. 1746, in the following format:

If executed outside the United States: "I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (date). (Signature)."

If executed within the United States, its territories, possessions, or commonwealths: "I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (date). (Signature)."

#### CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) rules for accessing records, and for contesting contents and appealing initial agency determinations are published in OSD Administrative Instruction 81; 32 CFR part 311; or may be obtained from the system manager.

#### NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:

Individuals seeking to determine if information about themselves is contained in this record system should address written inquiries to the Director, Office of Family Readiness Policy (OFRP) or Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO) Program Manager, Military Community and Family Policy (MC&FP), 4800 Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22350-2300.

Signed, written requests should include the individual's full name, current address, and telephone number.

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#### EXEMPTIONS PROMULGATED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

#### HISTORY:

None.

[FR Doc. 2018-05422 Filed 3-16-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Meeting of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Advisory Board

**AGENCY:** Office of Postsecondary Education, Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Board, U.S. Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Announcement of an open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the agenda, time, and location of an upcoming open meeting of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Advisory Board (Board). Notice of this meeting is required by Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and is intended to notify the public of the opportunity to attend.

**DATES:** The Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., Central Time, in Room 313 (Bowden Alumni Center), Sutton Learning Center Building, St. Philip's College, 1801 Martin Luther King Drive, San Antonio, TX 78203.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Adam H. Kissel, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs and the Designated Federal Official for the Board, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202; telephone: (202) 453-6808; email: [Adam.Kissel@ed.gov](mailto:Adam.Kissel@ed.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*The Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Advisory Board's Statutory Authority and Function:* The Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Advisory Board (Board) is authorized by Title III, Part D, Section 347 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended in 1998 (20 U.S.C. 1066f). The Board is established within the Department of Education to provide advice and counsel to the Secretary and the designated bonding authority as to the most effective and efficient means of implementing construction financing on historically black college and university campuses and to advise Congress regarding the progress made in implementing the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Program (Program). Specifically, the Board will provide

advice as to the capital needs of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, how those needs can be met through the Program, and what additional steps might be taken to improve the operation and implementation of the Program.

*Meeting Agenda:* The purpose of this meeting is to update the Board on current program activities, set future meeting dates, enable the Board to make recommendations to the Secretary on the current capital needs of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and discuss recommendations regarding how the Board might increase its effectiveness.

There will be an opportunity for members of the public to provide oral comment on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 1:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m. Please be advised that comments cannot exceed five (5) minutes and must pertain to issues within the scope of the Board's authority. Members of the public interested in submitting written comments may do so by submitting comments to the attention of Adam H. Kissel, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC, 20202. Comments must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, March 27, 2018, to be considered for discussion during the meeting. Comments should pertain to the work of the Board or the Program.

*Access to Records of the Meeting:* The official verbatim transcripts of the Board's public meeting will be made available for public inspection no later than 60 calendar days following a meeting.

Pursuant to the FACA, 5 U.S.C. App. as amended, Section 10(b), the public may also inspect meeting materials at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/hbcu-finance.html>. *Reasonable Accommodations:* The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you will need an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the meeting (e.g., interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format), notify the contact person listed in this notice at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. We will attempt to meet a request received after that date, though, we may not be able to make available the requested auxiliary aid or service because of insufficient time to arrange it.

*Electronic Access to This Document:* The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free 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 site. 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:** Title III, Part D, Section 347, of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended in 1998 (20 U.S.C. 1066f).

**Frank T. Brogan,**

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and delegated the duties of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development, Delegated the duties of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.*

[FR Doc. 2018-05535 Filed 3-16-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Notice of Request for Information (RFI) on Critical Water Issues Prize Competition

**AGENCY:** Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Request for Information (RFI).

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), seeks information from the public to understand the key technical and other barriers that may prevent long-term access to low-cost water supplies that could be best addressed through challenges and prize competitions. DOE may use the information provided through this Request for Information (RFI) to develop challenges and prize competitions to address low-cost water problems. For the purposes of this RFI, challenges and prize competitions are tools and approaches the Federal government and others can use to engage a broad range of stakeholders, including the general public, to develop solutions to difficult problems. Challenges and prize competitions rely on competitive structures to drive innovation among participants and usually offer rewards (financial and/or other) to winners and/or finalists. This RFI is not designed to solicit input on DOE's broader water research and development (R&D) efforts.

**DATES:** Responses to the RFI must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. (ET) on May 14, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested parties are to submit comments electronically to [WaterPrizeRFI@ee.doe.gov](mailto:WaterPrizeRFI@ee.doe.gov) no later than 5:00 p.m. (ET) on May 14, 2018.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Questions may be addressed to: Andre de Fontaine, Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20585. Telephone: (202)-586-6585. Email: [andre.defontaine@ee.doe.gov](mailto:andre.defontaine@ee.doe.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Table of Contents

- I. Background
- II. Purpose
- III. Request for Information Categories and Questions
- IV. Guidance for Submitting Documents

#### I. Background

Water is a critical resource for human health, economic growth, and agricultural productivity. The United States has benefitted from access to generally low-cost water supplies, but new challenges are emerging that, if left unaddressed, could threaten this paradigm. For example, traditional freshwater sources are coming under stress from competing uses in a growing number of U.S. regions. A range of water quality problems are impacting human health and the environment, while municipal water and wastewater treatment systems face billions of dollars in unmet infrastructure investment needs, which will likely increase as population grows, and water and wastewater treatment requirements become more stringent.<sup>1</sup> This will put upward pressure on water and sewer rates, which have already experienced steady increases, on a national average, over the last several years.<sup>2</sup>

Energy is a key resource that modern water systems need to function properly. DOE has conducted substantial work to explore issues and advance solutions related to the energy-water nexus,<sup>3</sup> a term used to describe

<sup>1</sup> Arzbaecher, C., K. Parmenter, R. Ehrhard, and J. Murphy. 2013. *Electricity Use and Management in the Municipal Water Supply and Wastewater Industries*. Palo Alto, CA: Electric Power Research Institute and Water Research Foundation. <http://www.waterrf.org/PublicReportLibrary/4454.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> DOE (Department of Energy). 2017. *Water and Wastewater Annual Price Escalation Rates for Selected Cities across the United States*. Washington, DC: DOE. [https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/10/f38/water\\_wastewater\\_escalation\\_rate\\_study.pdf](https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/10/f38/water_wastewater_escalation_rate_study.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> See, DOE. 2014. *The Water-Energy Nexus: Challenges and Opportunities*. Washington, DC: DOE. <https://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/07/f17/Water%20Energy%20Nexus%20Full%20Report%20July%202014.pdf>.

the interconnected nature of energy and water systems. This RFI contains a category of questions that specifically target the energy-water nexus, and energy is a theme that runs through several, if not all, of the other categories. With the exception of the energy-water nexus category, however, respondents should not limit themselves to energy issues in their responses. DOE is interested in collecting broad information that helps define the key water issues that could be addressed through challenges and prize competitions whether they concern energy explicitly, implicitly, or not at all. Responses collected through this RFI may be shared with other agencies to help them craft related prize competitions and challenges.

DOE recognizes that local, state, Federal, private, and non-profit actors are working to address water challenges using a range of mechanisms, including policy changes, early stage R&D, and grant funding. For example, DOE's Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO) is developing an early stage R&D program to develop technologies that advance the cost-effective and energy efficient production of treated water from a range of conventional and non-conventional sources. AMO has conducted substantial stakeholder engagement to support this early stage R&D effort, including three workshops and a separate RFI issued in June of 2017. This RFI differs from the June request in that it seeks input from the public specifically on the water problems that could be best addressed through challenges and prize competitions. Additionally, it asks how those challenges and prize competitions could be structured to achieve maximum results.

In challenges and prize competitions, a given prize sponsor will define a problem and offer a reward for a solution.<sup>4</sup> Rewards can be monetary as well as non-monetary, such as national recognition, testing and validation of technologies, access to experts and specialists, and other organizational support. A key characteristic of challenges and prize competitions is they clearly define a problem without prescribing a particular solution path. Participation in prize competitions is generally open to a wide range of participants, with financial or other rewards provided at the end of the competition after a designated target or goal has been reached. This contrasts

<sup>4</sup> For an overview of challenges and prize competitions, see Hendrix, M. 2014. *The Power of Prizes: Incentivizing Radical Innovation*. Washington, DC: U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.