

likely be related to disposal of dredged material, and construction impacts. These will be addressed in the study as part of the plan formulation of the Feasibility Study, and potential impacts will be analyzed in the DEIS.

#### 4. Scoping Process

Participation of all interested Federal, State, and County agencies, groups with environmental interests, and any interested individuals is encouraged. Public involvement will be most beneficial and worthwhile in identifying the scope of pertinent, significant environmental issues to be addressed; identifying and eliminating from detailed study issues that are not significant; offering useful information such as published or unpublished data; providing direct personal experience or knowledge which informs decision making; and recommending suitable mitigation measures to offset potential impacts from the proposed action or alternatives.

A public scoping meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2001 in the City of Morro Bay. When available, the specific time and location of this meeting will be announced in a mailing to those on the mailing list developed for this project, and announced through local media channels. The purpose of the scoping meeting will be to gather information from the general public or interested organizations about issues and concerns that they would like to see addressed in the DEIS. Comments may be delivered in writing or verbally at the meeting or sent in writing to the Los Angeles District at the address given above. The scoping period will conclude 60 days after publication of this NOI.

#### 5. Availability of the DEIS

The DEIS is expected to be available to the public for review and comment beginning in the fall of 2003.

Dated: October 12, 2001

**Richard G. Thompson,**

*Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District Engineer.*

[FR Doc. 01-26673 Filed 10-22-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-KF-M

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Federal Student Assistance Programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as Amended

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice inviting letters of application for participation in the Quality Assurance Program.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Education invites institutions of higher education that may wish to participate in the Quality Assurance Program, under section 487A(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), to submit a letter of application to participate in the program.

**DATES:** Letters of application may be submitted any time after October 23, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Institutions wishing to apply to participate in the Quality Assurance Program may do so by mailing a letter of application to Barbara Mroz, U.S. Department of Education, 830 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20202-5232 or by submitting a letter of application electronically to Barbara Mroz at: [Barbara.Mroz@ed.gov](mailto:Barbara.Mroz@ed.gov)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharyn Hutson, U.S. Department of Education, 830 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20202-5232, telephone: (202) 377-4379, or via internet: [Sharyn.Hutson@ed.gov](mailto:Sharyn.Hutson@ed.gov)

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-888-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape or computer diskette) on request by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Background**

Institutions of higher education are invited to join the Department in an effort to simplify regulations and administrative processes for the Federal Student Financial Assistance (SFA) Programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). The vision of the Quality Assurance Program, with 143 institutions currently participating, is to provide tools that help all Title IV institutions promote better service to students, compliance, and continuous improvement in program delivery. The program encourages participating institutions to develop and implement their own comprehensive systems to verify student financial aid application data.

The Department continues to support the expansion of the Quality Assurance Program. The Secretary is authorized to provide participating institutions with regulatory flexibility for the verification of student data, and to encourage alternative management approaches in the areas of institutional processing and disbursement of Title IV funds, and entrance and exit counseling.

The Secretary believes that the process of continuous improvement fostered by the institutions already participating in the Quality Assurance Program has enhanced not only the accuracy of student aid awards and payments, but also the management of student aid offices and the delivery of services to students. By expanding the Quality Assurance Program to include other management areas, the Secretary believes it can serve more institutions and promote further improvements.

#### **Features of the Program**

The mission of the Quality Assurance Program is to help schools attain, sustain, and advance exceptional student aid delivery and service excellence. For the past 16 years, the program has done that by providing participating institutions with the flexibility to design an institutional verification program that more directly focuses on their own population segments. It has also helped them target areas of administration that affect award accuracy or that may leave the institution vulnerable to potential liabilities.

The Quality Assurance Program has given institutions the tools and techniques to assess, measure, analyze, correct and prevent problems, and has provided them with data on which to base their decisions for solving problems and addressing verification items.

The Secretary encourages institutions participating in the Quality Assurance Program to evaluate their policies and procedures and adopt improvements in those procedures. Institutions measure performance and test the effectiveness of their verification program by using the Department's Quality Analysis Tool. The Quality Analysis Tool is an Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) analysis software product that provides Financial Aid Administrators with an in-depth analysis of their applicant population. It allows them to see not only which FAFSA elements changed when verified, but also what impact these changes have upon the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). This analysis helps Financial Aid Administrators develop a targeted institutional verification program, which makes the financial aid process easier for students.

The Quality Assurance Program also helps institutions make improvements beyond verification. It helps them set goals for continuous improvement in all areas of financial aid delivery, rather than be satisfied just to achieve basic compliance. It is a management tool that works well at all types of institutions,

including 2- and 4-year public, private, and proprietary. One key benefit of the program: institutions have reported better service to students as a primary outcome of their participation in the Quality Assurance Program. The program is a partnership between the Department and the participating institutions. Both parties become engaged in promoting continuous improvement in the administration and delivery of the student financial assistance programs, thereby enhancing service to students.

### Invitation for Applications

The Secretary invites institutions of higher education that administer one or more Title IV programs to submit a letter of application to participate in the Quality Assurance Program. Institutions that currently participate in the program may continue to do so without submitting a new letter of application. The Secretary will review the letter of application, which should reflect the institution's commitment to the goals of the Quality Assurance Program, as determined by the Secretary. The letter of application should address the following goals in detail:

- Attain and sustain compliance and continuous improvement in program delivery, and better service to students;
- Improve the accuracy of institutional verification programs;
- Increase institutional flexibility in managing student aid funds, while maintaining accountability for the proper use of those funds;
- Encourage the development of innovative management approaches that advance quality.

### Review Process

The Department will screen prospective participants to determine if the institution meets general Title IV eligibility requirements and has a demonstrated record of program compliance. The Secretary may also consider the institution's performance with regard to financial responsibility, administrative capability, program review findings, audit findings, etc. as outlined in the regulations and in the Student Financial Aid Handbook: Institutional Eligibility and Participation section. The Secretary anticipates that the review of applications will begin within 45 days of the date of this notice. However, applications that are received later will also be considered.

### Electronic Access to This Document

You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal**

**Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: [www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister](http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister).

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC area at (202) 512-1530.

**Note:** 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 on GPO Access at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

Dated: October 17, 2001.

**Greg Woods,**

*Chief Operating Officer, Student Financial Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 01-26648 Filed 10-22-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Idaho

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of Open Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Idaho. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meeting be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Tuesday, November 13, 2001, 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Wednesday, November 14, 2001, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Public participation sessions will be held on: Tuesday, November 13, 2001, 12:15-12:30 p.m., 5:45-6:00 p.m.; Wednesday, November 14, 2001, 11:45-12:00 noon, 4:00-4:15 p.m.

These times are subject to change as the meeting progresses. Please check with the meeting facilitator to confirm these times.

**ADDRESS:** Ameritel Inn, 645 Lindsay Boulevard, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Wendy Lowe, Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) Citizens' Advisory Board (CAB) Facilitator, Jason Associates Corporation, 477 Shoup Avenue, Suite 205, Idaho Falls, ID 83402, Phone (208) 522-1662 or visit the Board's Internet home page at <http://www.ida.net/users/cab>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Board is

to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of future use, cleanup levels, waste disposition and cleanup priorities at the INEEL.

**Tentative Agenda:** (Agenda topics may change up to the day of the meeting. Please contact Jason Associates for the most current agenda or visit the CAB's Internet site at [www.ida.net/users/cab/](http://www.ida.net/users/cab/).)

To meet with the new site manager.

To receive presentations on and to discuss:

- Potential site groundwater contamination
- Authorized DOE-Idaho funding for fiscal year 2002
- INEEL CERCLA Disposal Facility (ICDF) and the CAB's position on the facility
- INEEL efforts to identify potential new site missions

To discuss:

- Acceptable remediation objectives for the Subsurface Disposal Area
- Public perceptions related to alternatives to incineration
- Progress to date on the Decontamination and Decommissioning Decision Making Model

- CAB participation in the Top-to-Bottom DOE-HQ review

To receive status reports on:

- The dispute between DOE, the EPA, and the State of Idaho regarding the approach and schedule for cleanup at Pit 9 (located in Waste Area Group at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex)
- Workforce restructuring at the INEEL
- Coordination with the Bureau of Land Management (regarding Wildland Fires Memorandum of Understanding)

**Public Participation:** This meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board facilitator either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral presentations pertaining to agenda items should contact the Board Chair at the address or tele-phone number listed above. Request must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Jerry Bowman, Assistant Manager for Laboratory Development, Idaho Operations Office, U.S. Department of Energy, is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Every individual wishing to make public comment will be provided equal time to present their comments. Additional time may be made available for public comment during the presentations.

**Minutes:** The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday