

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Petition Requesting a Ban of Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) in All Toys and Other Products Intended for Children 5 Years of Age and Under

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission has received a petition under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) (Petition No. HP 99-1) from the National Environmental Trust and 11 other organizations. The petition asks the Commission to ban the use of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in toys and other products intended for the use of children age 5 and under. The Commission solicits written comments concerning the petition from all interested parties.

DATES: Comments on the petition should be received in the Office of the Secretary by February 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the petition should be mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207, telephone (301) 504-0800, or delivered to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda Maryland 20814. Comments may also be filed by telefacsimile to (301) 504-0127 or by email to cpsc-os@cpsc.gov. Comments should be captioned "Petition HP 99-1—PVC Children's Articles." Copies of the petition are available by writing or calling the Office of the Secretary.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rockelle Hammond, Docket Control and Communications Specialist, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207; telephone: (301) 504-0800 ext. 1232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission has docketed correspondence from the National Environmental Trust and 11 other organizations as a petition under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA) (Petition No. HP 99-1). The petition requests that the CPSC (1) "[i]nstitute an immediate ban on polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in all toys and other products intended for children five years of age and under" and (2) "[i]ssue a national advisory on the health risks that have been associated with soft plastic vinyl (PVC) toys to inform parents and consumers about the risks associated with PVC toys currently in stores and homes." These requests result from the petitioners' concerns

about health risks from phthalates (especially DINP), lead, and cadmium that can be in PVC.

The Commission solicits comments on the issues raised by the petition, particularly on the extent to which children might be exposed to the identified hazards. The requested "national advisory" would not require rulemaking to implement. Therefore, that request technically is not part of the docketed petition. Nevertheless, the Commission solicits comment on this request also.

Comments to CPSC should be mailed, preferably in five copies, to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207-0001, or delivered to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland; telephone (301) 504-0800. Comments may also be filed by telefacsimile to (301) 504-0127 or by email to cpsc-os@cpsc.gov. Comments should be captioned "Petition HP 99-1—PVC Children's Articles."

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the petition from the CPSC's website at <http://www.cpsc.gov> or by writing or calling the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207; telephone (301) 504-0800. A copy of the petition is available for inspection from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the Commission's Public Reading Room, room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

Dated: December 16, 1998.

Sadye E. Dunn,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 98-33864 Filed 12-21-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.037]

Office of Postsecondary Education

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Federal Perkins Loan and National Direct Student Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits for the 1998-99 School Year.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education (the Secretary) announces that the 1998-99 Federal Perkins Loan and National Direct Student Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools (The Directory) is now available on the Department of Education's (the Department) Web site. Under the

Federal Perkins Loan and National Direct Student Loan programs, a borrower may have repayment of his or her loan deferred and a portion of his or her loan canceled if the borrower teaches full-time for a complete academic year in a designated elementary or secondary school having a high concentration of students from low-income families. In the 1998-99 Directory, the Secretary lists, on a State-by-State and Territory-by-Territory basis, the schools in which a borrower may teach during the 1998-99 school year to qualify for deferment and cancellation benefits.

DATES: The Directory is currently available at the Department's Web site.

ADDRESSES: Information concerning specific schools listed in the Directory may be obtained from Christetta Nelson, Systems Administration Branch, Campus-Based Programs Systems Division, Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., (Portals Building, Room 6200), Washington, D.C. 20202-5447, Telephone (202) 708-7738. Information concerning deferment and cancellation of a National Director Federal Perkins loan may be obtained from Sylvia Ross or Gail McLarnon, Program Specialists, Campus-Based Loan Programs Section, Loans Branch, Policy Development Division, Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., (Regional Office Building 3, Room 3045), Washington, D.C. 20202-5447, Telephone (202) 708-8242. 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Directories are also available in an electronic format at (1) each institution of higher education participating in the Federal Perkins Loan Program, (2) each of the fifty-seven (57) State and Territory Departments of Education, (3) each of the major Federal Perkins Loan billing services, and (4) the U.S. Department of Education, including its regional offices.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary selects schools that qualify a borrower for deferment and cancellation benefits under the procedures contained in the Federal Perkins Loan program

regulation in 34 CFR 674.53, 674.54 and 674.55.

The Secretary has determined that, for the 1998–99 academic year, full-time teaching in the schools set forth in the 1998–99 Directory qualifies a borrower for deferment and cancellation benefits.

The Secretary is providing the Directory to each institution participating in the Federal Perkins Loan Program in an electronic format only. Borrowers and other interested parties may check the website or their lending institution, the appropriate State or Territory Department of Education, regional office of the Department of Education, or the Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs of the Department of Education concerning the identity of qualifying schools for the 1998–99 academic year. The Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs retains, on a permanent basis, copies of past Directories.

Electronic Access to the Notice

Anyone may view this notice, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or portable document format (pdf) on the World Wide Web at either of the following sites:

<http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg.htm>
<http://www.ed.gov/news.html>

To use the pdf you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader Program with Search, which is available free at either of the previous sites. If you have questions about using the pdf, call the U.S. Government Printing Office toll free at 1–888–293–6498.

Dated: December 15, 1998.

Gerard A. Russomano,

Acting Chief Operating Officer, Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs.

[FR Doc. 98–33829; Filed 12–21–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science (Formerly Office of Energy Research); Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 99–07 Energy Biosciences

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice inviting grant preapplications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Basic Energy Sciences of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) invites preapplications from potential applicants for research funding in the Energy Biosciences program area. The intent in asking for a preapplication is

to save the time and effort of applicants in preparing and submitting a formal project application that may be inappropriate for the program. The preapplication should consist of a two- to three-page concept paper on the research contemplated for an application to the Energy Biosciences program. The concept paper should focus on the scientific objectives and significance of the planned research, and include an outline of the approaches planned, and any other information relating to the planned research. No budget information or biographical data need be included; nor is an institutional endorsement necessary. The preapplication gives us the opportunity to advise potential applicants on the suitability of their research ideas to the mission of the DOE Energy Biosciences program. A response indicating the appropriateness of submitting a formal application will be sent from the Division of Energy Biosciences office in time to allow for an adequate preparation period for a formal application.

DATES: For timely consideration, all preapplications should be received by March 3, 1999. However, earlier submissions will be gladly accepted.

A response to timely preapplications will be communicated by April 16, 1999. The deadline for receipt of formal applications is June 16, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Preapplications referencing Program Notice 99–07 should be forwarded to: U. S. Department of Energy, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, SC–17, Division of Energy Biosciences, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874–1290, Attn: Program Notice 99–07. Fax submissions are acceptable (Fax Number (301) 903–1003).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Pat Snyder, Division of Energy Biosciences, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, SC–17, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874–1290, telephone (301) 903–2873; E-mail pat.snyder@oer.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Potential applicants should submit a brief preapplication which consists of two to three pages of narrative describing research objectives. These will be reviewed relative to the scope and the research needs of the Energy Biosciences program. The Energy Biosciences program has the mission of generating *fundamental* biological information about plants and non-medical related microorganisms that can provide support for future energy related biotechnologies. The objective is to pursue *basic* biochemical, genetic and physiological investigations that

may contribute towards providing alternate fuels, petroleum replacement products, energy conservation measures as well as other technologies such as phytoremediation related to DOE programs. Areas of interest include bioenergetic systems, including photosynthesis; control of plant growth and development, including metabolic, genetic, and hormonal and ambient factor regulation, metabolic diversity, ion uptake, transport and accumulation, stress physiology and adaptation; genetic transmission and expression; plant-microbial interactions, plant cell wall structure and function; lignocellulose degradative mechanisms; mechanisms of fermentations, genetics of neglected microorganisms, energetics and membrane phenomena; thermophily (molecular basis of high temperature tolerance); microbial interactions; and one-carbon metabolism, which is the basis of biotransformations such as methanogenesis. The objective is to discern and understand basic mechanisms and principles.

Funds are expected to be available for new grant awards in FY 2000. The magnitude of these funds available and the number of awards which can be made will depend on the budget process. The awards made during FY 1998 averaged close to \$100,000 per year, mostly for a three-year duration. The principal purpose in using preapplications at this time is to reduce the expenditure of time and effort of all parties. Information about development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluations and selection processes, and other policies and procedures may be found in the 10 CFR Part 605 and the Application Guide for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program. Electronic access to SC's Financial Assistance Guide is possible via the Internet using the following Web Site address: <http://www.er.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this program is 81.049, and the solicitation control number is ERFAP 10 CFR Part 605.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 9, 1998.

John R. Clark,

Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 98–33859 Filed 12–21–98; 8:45 am]

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