

Dated: September 1, 1995.

Jill Nevius,

Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Assessment Governing Board; Hearings

AGENCY: National Assessment Governing Board; Education.

ACTION: Notice of hearings.

SUMMARY: The National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB), U.S. Department of Education, is announcing three public hearings. These hearings will be conducted as part of the Council of Chief State School Officers' contract with NAGB for the purpose of developing an assessment framework and specifications for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in Civics. Public and private parties and organizations with an interest in civics education and assessment are invited to present written and oral testimony to the Council.

Each hearing will focus on the first draft of a framework for the national assessment of civics education for NAEP which will be given to a national sample of students in grades 4, 8, and 12. The results of the hearings are particularly important because they will provide broad public input in developing the civics education assessment framework to be used in the planned national NAEP examination. This assessment will measure American students' progress in civics education. These hearings are being conducted pursuant to Public Law 103-382 which states, "The Board shall develop assessment objectives and specifications through a national consensus approach which includes the active participation of teachers, curriculum specialists, local school administrators, parents, and concerned members of the general public."

DATES: The dates of the three public hearings have been set as follows:

- October 25, 1995 in Washington, DC.
- November 10, 1995 in Chicago, Illinois.
- November 16, 1995 in Seattle, Washington.

The first hearing is scheduled from 10:00 to 2:00 pm and will be conducted in the Hall of States in the National Guard Memorial Building in Washington, DC. The second hearing will be held in conjunction with the

National Council for the Social Studies Annual Convention in Chicago, Illinois from 9:30 am to 11:30 am in the Acapulco Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The third and final hearing will be held in cooperation with the meeting of the National Assessment Governing Board from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm in the Congress Room of the Four Seasons Hotel in Seattle, Washington. Persons desiring to present oral statements at any of these hearings shall submit a notice of intent to appear, postmarked no fewer than ten days (10) prior to the scheduled meeting date. The scheduling of oral presentations cannot be guaranteed for notices of intent received less than 10 days prior to the hearing.

Notices of Intent to present oral statements shall be mailed to: Council of Chief State School Officers, One Massachusetts Avenue NW., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001-1431, Attn: Tiffanie Lee—Public Hearings.

Individuals are encouraged to request a copy of the draft framework, prepared by the NAEP Civics Education Consensus Project committees and staff. This document, which represents the project's first attempt at outlining the NAEP civics education assessment, will serve as the springboard for public comment and review. Requests for the draft framework may be made to Tiffanie Lee at the Council (address above), by phone to 202/336-7076, or fax to 202/789-0596.

LOCATIONS: For detailed information on the exact locations of all public hearings, please contact Council offices at (202) 336-7076.

WRITTEN STATEMENTS: Written statements may be submitted for the public record in lieu of oral testimony up to 30 days after each hearing. These statements should be sent directly to the Council (see aforementioned address) in the following format:

I. Issues and Questions Addressed

Testimony should respond to the content and layout of the draft civics education assessment framework, and the following questions:

1. Does the civics assessment framework combine feasibility and vision?
2. Does the framework contain appropriate expectations for students in grades 4, 8, and 12?
3. Is the design of NAEP civics education assessment appropriate for a large-scale national assessment?
4. Will this framework be useful to policymakers, educators, legislators, school board members and the public?

II. Summary

Briefly summarize the major points and recommendations presented in the testimony.

III. Discussion

The narrative should provide information, points of view and recommendations that will enable the Council to consider all factors relevant to the question(s) the testimony addresses. Respondents are encouraged to limit this section of their written statements to five (5) pages. The discussions may be appended with documents of any length providing further explanation. Written statements presented at each hearing will be accepted and incorporated into the public record. All written statements should follow the above format, as much as it is possible.

HEARINGS OBJECTIVES AND PROCEDURES: The Council seeks participation in the hearings from a broad spectrum of individuals and organizations in the sharing of opinions and recommendations regarding civics education proficiencies, knowledge, and those skills and strategies to be assessed at grade levels 4, 8, and 12. The list of speakers shall, on the one hand, provide a wide range of viewpoints and interests, but also be organized to respect the time constraints of the hearing schedule.

The goal of the hearings is to provide a medium for maximum input and guidance from teachers, curriculum specialists, policymakers, business and government representatives, civic and professional organizations, and concerned members of the general public. Following a brief introduction to the project by the Council of Chief State School Officers, the majority of each session will be devoted to presentations by scheduled speakers.

As listed in the **DATES** section above, speakers wishing to present statements shall file notices of intent. To assist the Council in appropriately scheduling speakers, the written notice of intent to present oral testimony should include the following information: (1) name, address and telephone number of each person to appear; (2) affiliation (in any); (3) a brief statement of the issues and/or concerns that will be addressed; and (4) whether a written statement will be submitted for the record.

Individuals who do not register in advance will be permitted to register and speak at the meeting in order of registration, if time permits. Speakers should plan to limit their total remarks to no more than five (5) minutes. While it is anticipated that all persons will

have an opportunity to speak, time limits may not allow this to occur. The Council will make the final determination on selection and scheduling of speakers.

All written statements presented at the hearings will be accepted and incorporated into the public record. Written statements submitted in lieu of oral testimony should be received no later than 30 days after each hearing in order to be included in the public record. However, while written statements received after this date will be accepted, inclusion in the public record cannot be guaranteed.

A staff member from the Council of Chief State School Officers will preside at each of the hearings. The proceedings will be audio taped. The hearings can also be signed for the hearing-impaired, upon advance request.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information is available from the Council offices for anyone wishing to obtain more specifics on the assessment project. A draft assessment framework document will be made available to interested parties prior to the hearings in October and November. Individuals desiring additional information on a specific hearing should contact Council offices at (202) 336-7076.

STEPS AFTER HEARING: The Council will review and analyze all comments and opinions received in response to this announcement. A report of the outcomes of these hearings will be made available to the public upon request after January 1996.

The results of this public testimony, along with the Council's civics education consensus committee work, will be used to formulate recommendations for the NAEP Civics Education Assessment for the National Assessment Governing Board. The Board, charged with developing the assessment framework and specifications, will take final action on the Council's recommendations in the spring of 1996.

A record of all Council proceedings will be kept at the Council of Chief State School Officers until March 1996, at which time all records will be transferred to the National Assessment Governing Board, and will be available for public inspection.

Dated: August 31, 1995.

Roy Truby,

Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board.

[FR Doc. 95-22189 Filed 9-6-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Morgantown Energy Technology Center; Rapid Commercialization Initiative Announcement

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE), Morgantown Energy Technology Center.
ACTION: Rapid Commercialization Initiative.

SUMMARY: The Rapid Commercialization Initiative (RCI) Announcement is being issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce, U. S. Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, and the U. S. Department of Energy. The RCI is a component of the Administration's efforts to build cooperative interactions between the private sector, states, and federal agencies to advance a national environmental technology strategy and bring environmental technologies to market more rapidly and efficiently. The primary mission of the RCI is to identify and reduce the barriers that impede market entry of the four categories of environmental technologies—avoidance, monitoring and assessment, control, and remediation and restoration technologies—by facilitating and accelerating commercialization.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: RCI Project Team, U.S. Department of Energy, Morgantown Energy Technology Center, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, West Virginia 26507-0880, Telefax: (304) 285-4683.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RCI has two short-term goals. The first goal of RCI is to provide services to companies to address the three key barriers targeted in the Announcement: (1) Assistance in finding appropriate sites for demonstration/testing of near commercial environmental technologies; (2) assistance in verification of the performance and the cost of performance of RCI technologies; and (3) assistance in facilitating and expediting the issuance of permits. Proposers may request assistance in any one, two, or all three of the RCI services. Industry is invited and encouraged to propose innovative approaches that streamline activity, process, or reporting; save time; improve quality or safety; reduce cost; or eliminate duplication or overlap, to address any or all of the enumerated RCI services.

The second goal of RCI is to identify other important barriers, such as unpredictable commercialization pathways, improving market data, and streamlining regulations and processes to meet government mission program requirements. This information will be used for future consideration and planning relative to the long term goal

of RCI to reduce these other barriers. Companies interested in applying for RCI assistance should request a copy of the Announcement which contains specific proposal preparation instructions. Proposal due date is September 28, 1995. Only written requests for the Announcement will be honored. Requests should be sent to the RCI Project Team, at telefax number (304) 285-4683. Letters requesting the solicitation should be addressed to the attention of the RCI Project Team, at the letterhead address and may reference number 95-32247.

Randolph L. Kesling,

Acting Director, Acquisition and Assistance Division, Morgantown Energy Technology Center.

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BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Alternative-Fuel Automotive Technician Training; Voluntary Certification Program

AGENCY: Department of Energy.
ACTION: Notice of TeleVideo Conference.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to facilitate participation by interested members of the public in a TeleVideo conference, co-presented by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), which will focus on the voluntary national certification program for private-sector alternative fuel vehicle training programs for automotive technicians.

DATES: The TeleVideo conference is scheduled for satellite broadcast on September 14, 1995 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

ADDRESSES: The public can participate in the TeleVideo conference and obtain information on how to arrange a video conference receive site by calling Steve Husty, West Virginia University Network Coordinator at (304) 293-2867 ext. 424. On the day of the conference, questions may be called in to 1-800-265-6104 or FAXed to (304) 293-7541. Registration is free.

Satellite Information: Telestar 302, Transponder: 10V, Channel: 19 (Downlink frequency: 4080 MHz), Trouble number: 1-800-809-5465, Information: Jack Johns, (304) 293-4221.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Instructions on how to apply for certification of alternative fuel technician training programs may be obtained from the National Automotive Technician Education Foundation (NATEF) by calling (703) 713-0100, after September 14, 1995. For general