

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Assessment Governing Board is established under section 412 of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994 (Title IV of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994) (Pub. L. 103-382).

The Board is established to formulate policy guidelines for the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The Board is responsible for selecting subject areas to be assessed, developing assessment objectives, identifying appropriate achievement goals for each grade and subject tested, and establishing standards and procedures for interstate and national comparisons. Under P.L. 105-78, the National Assessment Governing Board is also granted exclusive authority over developing the Voluntary National Tests pursuant to contract number RJ97153001.

On May 7, the Design and Methodology Committee will meet in open session from 9:00-11:30 a.m. The Committee will be reviewing the plan for research studies on the Voluntary National Tests, and the pilot test design.

From 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. the Design and Methodology and Reporting and Dissemination Committees will meet jointly in open session. The Committees will be reviewing the work plan for accommodations and adaptations on the Voluntary National Tests. There will be an open meeting of Subject Area Committee #2 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. The agenda for this meeting includes review of math issues and timeliness for the Voluntary National Tests, and an update on 1998 NAEP assessment in civics.

Also on May 7, the Executive Committee will meet in open session from 4:00-6:00 p.m. The Executive Committee will receive updates on Voluntary National Tests activities and decisions on the Voluntary National Tests contract. Also, the Committee will hear updates on reauthorization and NAEP redesign activities. The Committee will begin discussion on augmenting the schedule of NAEP assessments to include grade 4 reading in the year 2000.

On May 8, the full Board will convene in open session from 8:30-10:00 a.m. In addition to a report from the Executive Director of the National Assessment Governing Board, and an update on NAEP activities, the agenda for this session of the meeting includes the release of the NAEP-TIMSS Linking Report on 8th Grade Mathematics and Science.

Beginning at 10:00 a.m. there will be meetings of the standing committees. Subject Area Committee #1 will meet in partially closed session. From 10:00-

10:30 a.m., the meeting will be closed to permit the Committee to review proposed items for the Voluntary National Test in reading. This portion of the meeting must be closed because references will be made to specific items from the assessment and premature disclosure of the information presented for review would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action. Such matters are protected by exemption (9) (B) of Section 552b(c) of Title 5 U.S.C.

In open session, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., the Committee will review Voluntary National Test reading issues and timelines. Also, the Committee will receive an update on the 1998 NAEP assessment in reading and writing.

The Reporting and Dissemination Committee will meet from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The Committee will be considering the schedule and plans for the release of NAEP reports; reporting district-level results from existing state samples; and work plans for reporting and utilization of the results for the Voluntary National Tests.

There will be open meetings of the Achievement Levels Committee and the Design and Methodology Committee. The Achievement Levels Committee will meet from 10:00-11:00 a.m. to prepare recommendations to the Board on the preliminary achievement levels descriptions for NAEP. The Committee will receive a briefing on the status of the 1998 achievement levels setting activities. The Committee will discuss the achievement levels issues on the Voluntary National Tests, such as reliable classification of individual student performance.

The Design and Methodology Committee will meet from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. to review the plans for research studies on the Voluntary National Tests, and the pilot test design.

The Full Board will reconvene in partially closed session from 12:00-4:00 p.m. The meeting will be closed to the public from 12:00-1:30 p.m. for the Board to hear a presentation on the results of the NAEP Instructional Reports for Mathematics and Science. This portion of the meeting must be closed because references may be made to data, which may be misinterpreted, incorrect, or incomplete. Such matters are protected by exemption 9(B) of Section 552b(c) of Title 5 U.S.C. The agenda for the open portion of this session of the Full Board meeting includes an update on work plans for the Voluntary National Tests and comments about the NAEP and the Voluntary National Tests by representatives of the National Alliance of Business.

On May 9, the Full Board will meet in partially closed session. In open session, from 8:00-11:30 a.m., the Board will receive a briefing on the Mathematics Content Analysis Project; hear a presentation from ACHIEVE, Inc. on the work being conducted in Benchmarking, and be given reports from the NAGB standing committees. The Board will meet in closed session from 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. to receive the report from the Nominations Committee regarding recommendations to submit to the Secretary of Education for Board appointments in the following categories: general public, secondary school principal, elementary school principal, eighth grade teacher, fourth grade teacher, chief state school officer, and state legislator (Democrat). This session must be closed because the Board will be considering qualifications of nominees for appointment to Board membership. The review and subsequent discussion of this information will touch upon matters that relate solely to the internal rules and practices of an agency and would disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if conducted in open session. Such matters are protected by exemptions (2) and (6) of Section 552b(c) of Title 5 U.S.C.

Summaries of the activities of the closed sessions and related matters, which are informative to the public and consistent with the policy of section 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), will be available to the public within 14 days of the meeting. Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the U.S. Department of Education, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite #825, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Dated: April 15, 1998.

**Roy Truby,**

*Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board.*

[FR Doc. 98-10298 Filed 4-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Notice of Intent To Conduct Policy Analysis; Request for Public Comment

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to conduct policy analysis; request for public comment.

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**Correction**

In Notice document 98-7155, beginning on page 13396, in the issue of Thursday, March 19, 1998, make the following correction: on page 13397, in the first column, in the fourth line, "1-800-635-4080" should read "1-888-635-4080."

Dated: April 14, 1998.

**James M. Owendoff,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management.*

[FR Doc. 98-10317 Filed 4-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Office of Energy Research****Energy Research Financial Assistance Program Notice 98-16; Genome Instrumentation Research Program**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy

**ACTION:** Notice inviting grant applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (BER) of the Office of Energy Research (ER) of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces its interest in receiving applications in Instrumentation Research supporting the Human Genome Program. Applications are sought from a broad range of scientists with backgrounds in biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering including those not presently involved in the Human Genome Program. Both substantive improvements to current systems and novel and creative new strategies are needed in preparation for the needs of biology in the next century. New instrumentation and technical approaches are sought for DNA sequencing, automation and integration of DNA sequencing systems, validation of DNA sequencing accuracy, and the determination of gene function of newly sequenced DNA. The goals are to reduce costs and increase the throughput while maintaining accuracy for production DNA sequencing and related analyses. **DATES:** Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a brief preapplication. All preapplications should be received by DOE by 4:30 p.m., e.d.t., June 8, 1998. Early submissions are encouraged. A response encouraging or discouraging a formal application will be communicated to the applicant within two weeks of receipt.

Formal applications, in response to this notice, must be received by 4:30 p.m., e.d.t., August 19, 1998, in order to be accepted for merit review and to

permit timely consideration for award in Fiscal Year 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Preapplications, referencing Program Notice 98-16, should be forwarded to: Dr. Charles G. Edmonds, Medical Applications and Biophysical Research Division, ER-73, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, Attn: Program Notice 98-16. Preapplications will also be accepted by Fax and E-mail: Fax number: (301) 903-0567 and E-mail: charles.edmonds@oer.doe.gov.

Formal applications, referencing Program Notice 98-16, should be forwarded to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Research, Grants and Contracts Division, ER-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, Attn: Program Notice 98-16. This address also must be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail, or any commercial mail delivery service, or when hand-carried by the applicant. An original and seven copies of the application must be submitted.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Charles G. Edmonds, Medical Applications and Biophysical Research Division, ER-73, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290; telephone: (301) 903-0042; E-mail: charles.edmonds@oer.doe.gov. The full text of Program Notice 98-16 is available via the Internet using the following web site address: <http://www.er.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Biological and Environmental Research of the U. S. Department of Energy and the National Human Genome Research Institute of the National Institutes of Health are participating in a coordinated international program to "determine the complete sequence of the human genome, discover all the human genes and render them accessible for further biological study." As this program continues, improvement of sequencing technology is essential to complete the sequence of the 3 billion subunits of the human genome by the target year of 2005. Functional analyses of the displayed genes and their encoded proteins will continue long thereafter.

In December of 1997 a DOE-sponsored review of the DOE Human Genome Program was published by the JASON Program Office of the MITRE Corporation. A summary and related discussion has been printed: Science, 279(5347), (1998) 36-37; Science, 279(5347), (1989) 23; and Science, 279(5354), (1989) 1115-1116. The full

report can be accessed on the Internet using the following web address: <http://www.ornl.gov/hgmis/publicat/miscpubs/jason/index.html>. A more general discussion of the Human Genome Program may be found in Primer on Molecular Genetics available on the Internet using the following web address: [http://www.ornl.gov/TechResources/Human\\_Genome/publicat/primer/intro.html](http://www.ornl.gov/TechResources/Human_Genome/publicat/primer/intro.html).

These documents and companion references will be particularly useful to scientists and engineers less knowledgeable regarding current genomic technologies and projected needs.

Production scale sequencing has been initiated based largely on gel electrophoresis with data acquisition by laser induced fluorescence. Additionally, sequence comparison tasks are performed using "sequencing by hybridization" technologies. However, it may not be possible to achieve the desired goal within the available budget and project period without substantial improvements in speed and reliability of sequencing methods and other techniques currently in widespread use. Continuing developments of existing approaches to address the necessities of the production environment will be required.

Further, with an eye to the future, basic research is also needed that will substantially speed and enhance genomic analyses in the years following the projected completion of the human genome in the year 2005. After this date, the need for fast and cost-effective determination of DNA sequence for the comparison of sequences among human individuals and also for the determination of the genomes of numerous organisms of biomedical and commercial interest will be ongoing. Additionally, with the continuing acquisition of this remarkable base of biological data, high throughput experimental tools will be required to assist conversion into a practical and useful understanding of the function for the encoded gene products.

Both substantial evolutionary improvements in current systems and also revolutionary technologies for the post-2005 era are sought under this solicitation.

Research applications are invited:

- To develop approaches to more rapidly, accurately, and economically determine DNA sequence. Cost-effective approaches that increase current maximum read lengths of 800-1000 bases by at least a factor of 2.5, i.e., to at least 2000-2500 bases, are particularly desired.