

(1) Provide members of the (10) Regional Advisory Committees an extended amount of time together to review and discuss the reports that they will submit to the Secretary of Education on March 28, 2005.

(2) Provide an opportunity for the public to observe and listen to RAC discussions on the top challenges in each region for improving student achievement.

(3) Provide an opportunity for the public to observe and listen to RAC discussions on the top challenges to implementing the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act in each region.

(4) Provide an opportunity for the public to observe and listen to RAC discussions on recommendations for the types of technical assistance that would help states, districts and schools successfully address the critical educational challenges identified by each of the RACs.

(5) Provide an opportunity for the public to observe and listen to discussions and recommendations from each of the ten RACs on the priorities for federally funded technical assistance in their region.

DATES: March 10, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and March 11, 2005 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Note:** The Region 2 (Southwest), Regional Advisory Committee will meet only on Thursday, March 10, 2005 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: George R. Brown Convention Center, 1001 Avenida de la Americas, Houston, TX 77010. Tel: 800-427-4697.

Minutes of the meetings will be available to the public online (<http://www.rac-ed.org>) within fourteen days of the meetings and for public inspection at the office of Georgette Joyner, The CNA Corporation, 4825 Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22311 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Regional Advisory Committees are established under section 206 of the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002, (20 U.S.C. 9605). The RACs are to advise the Secretary by (1) conducting an educational needs assessment of each region described in section 174(b) of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002; and (2) submitting reports for each region based on the regional assessments no later than 4 months after the committees are first convened.

Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the meeting (*i.e.*, interpreting services, assistive listening devices, materials in alternative format) should notify the RAC Support Office at The

CNA Corporation by no later than Tuesday, March 1, 2005. We will attempt to meet requests after this date, but cannot guarantee availability of the requested accommodation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Enid Simmons, (202) 708-9499 or at enid.simmons@ed.gov.

Dated: February 15, 2005.

Raymond Simon,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

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ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Information Collection Activity; Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, EAC announces the proposed extension of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received on or before Friday, February 25, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Election Assistance Commission, 1225 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005, ATTN: Mr. Brian Hancock or may be submitted by facsimile transmission at 202-566-3127.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address, or call Mr. Brian Hancock or Ms. Juliet Thompson at (202) 566-3100.

Title and OMB Number: Voter Registration Survey; OMB Number 3265-0NEW.

Needs and Uses: The information collection requirement is necessary to meet a requirement of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) (42 U.S.C. 1973gg, *et seq.*). NVRA requires the EAC to collect information regarding voter registration following each Federal general election. In order to fulfill those requirements and to provide a complete report to Congress, EAC is seeking information relating to November 2, 2004 election.

Affected Public: State government.
Annual Burden Hours: 3,000 hours.
Number of Respondents: 55.
Responses Per Respondent: 1.
Average Burden Per Response: 54 hours.
Frequency: Biennially.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Information Collection

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) created the Election Assistance Commission and enacted numerous provisions aimed at improving the administration of federal elections. In addition, HAVA gave EAC the responsibility for administering the NVRA. This survey seeks information relating to the November 2, 2004 election that will fulfill the requirements placed on EAC by the NVRA to collect and report on data related to voter registration. The following categories of information are requested on a county/local election jurisdiction and/or state-wide level:

Total Voter Registration

(a) Total number of registered voters (active and inactive) at the time of the close of registration for the 2002 Federal general election, (b) total number of registered voters (active and inactive) at the time of the close of polls for the 2004 Federal General Election (November 4, 2004), and (c) total number of registered voters (active and inactive) who were eligible to vote in the November 4, 2004 election.

Voter Registration Officials

(a) The local election official primarily responsible for registering voters, (b) all State or local government offices or agencies that conduct voter registration, (c) the location where voter registration forms are received, (d) total number of election jurisdictions conducting voter registration, and (e) total number of jurisdictions that provided information for this survey.

Voter Registration Applications

(a) Total number of voter registration applications received from all sources during the period from the close of registration for the November 2002 federal election until the close of registration for the November 2004 federal election, (b) total number of mail voter registration applications received during the period from the close of registration for the November 2002 federal election until the close of registration for the November 2004 federal election, (c) total number of voter registration applications received in person in the clerk or voter registrars' office during the period from the close of registration for the November 2002 federal election until the close of registration for the November 2004 federal election, (d) total number voter registration applications received from each voter registration agency during the period from the close of registration for the November 2002 federal election until the close of registration for the November 2004 Federal election, (e) total number of voter registration applications that were changes to address, name or party, (f) total number of voter registration applications that were duplicates of other valid voter registrations, (g) the manner in the which voter registration applications are transferred from other voter registration agencies to the official responsible for voter registration, and (h) which voter registration forms are accepted, including the Federal form, State form, and military applications as well as any restrictions on those applications such as paper weight, fax, electronic, etc.

Processing Voter Registration Applications

(a) How voter registration applications are maintained, (b) how the registration official checks for duplicate registrations, (c) the type of number used as a voter registration number, (d) whether applicants who are rejected are notified of the rejection and reason for rejection.

List Maintenance

(a) The number of removal notices (Section 8(d)(2) notices) sent between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 3, 2004, (b) the number of voters who were ultimately removed from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 3, 2004, (c) the numbers of voters who were removed from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 3, 2004 because of the death

of the voter, (d) the number of voters who were removed from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 3, 2004, due to failure to vote in two consecutive federal general elections, (e) the number of voters who were removed from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 3, 2004 because the voter requested to be removed, (f) the number of voters who were removed from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 3, 2004 for other reasons, (g) the number of confirmation notices that were mailed between the federal general election in 2002 and November 4, 2004, (h) the number of responses that were received to the confirmation notices, (i) the sources of data that are considered in performing list maintenance, (j) the process that is used to perform list maintenance, and (k) the way that each state treats voters who (1) have been convicted of a felony, (2) are serving a sentence of incarceration for conviction of a felony, and (3) are serving a term of probation following the conviction of a felony.

NVRA and HAVA Provisions

(a) Which states are subject to the National Voter Registration Act, (b) the number of states that have revised the state voter registration form to include the citizenship and age questions required by HAVA, (c) the manner in which each state treats applications where one or more of the HAVA required questions are not answered, (d) the number of states that have implemented the verification requirements of HAVA, (e) the manner in which each state verifies voter registration applications, and (f) the number of states that have implemented a statewide voter registration database.

Voter Registration Drives

(a) The number of states that allow outside groups to conduct voter registration drives and submit the voter registration applications and (b) how states that allow outside voter registration drives manage the number of applications given to the outside group and the number and timing of the return of those forms by the outside registration group.

Gracia M. Hillman,

Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.
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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[FE Docket No. PP-197]

Withdrawal of Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; Public Service Company of New Mexico

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of withdrawal.

SUMMARY: On February 12, 1999, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) for the Public Service Company of New Mexico's (PNM) request for a Presidential permit for proposed international electric transmission lines. The proposed Federal action in this EIS was to grant PNM a Presidential permit for the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of two 345,000-volt electric transmission lines originating at the switchyard of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) near Phoenix, Arizona, and extending approximately 160 miles to the south, crossing the United States border with Mexico in the vicinity of Nogales, Arizona. The EIS would have evaluated the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Federal action and reasonable alternatives.

In a letter dated November 16, 2004, PNM notified DOE that it no longer finds the proposed project viable and withdrew its application for a Presidential permit. Therefore, further preparation of an EIS is not necessary. The notice of intent to prepare an EIS is withdrawn and the NEPA process is hereby terminated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ellen Russell, Office of Fossil Energy, FE-27, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585. Telephone 202-586-9624; electronic mail: ellen.russell@hq.doe.gov.

For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0119, Phone: 202-586-4600 or leave a message at 800-472-2756; facsimile: 202-586-7031.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The construction, operation, maintenance and connection of facilities at the international border of the United States for the transmission of electric energy between the United States and a foreign