

Islands, primarily off of Maui, Hawaii, over a period of 2 years. The purpose of the research is to collect genetic information that will, among other things, determine the sex and behavior patterns of individual humpback whales involved in "singing" behavior. The permit holder is now requesting that the Permit be amended to authorize: the observation of up to 200 humpback whales annually by the use of remote cameras to (1) observe the activities of individual whales, and (2) to determine if images can be obtained that will allow the length measurement of specific whales; and the observation of up to 1000 humpback whales annually through fixed wing and helicopter flights to measure the length of whales through photogrammetry for the purpose of age estimation and to observe (video/film) behavior patterns.

Dated: April 23, 1997

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-11077 Filed 4-29-97; 8:45am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

ACTION: Notice.

The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance, the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Title and Associated Form: Vehicle Access Application, DD Form X076, OMB Number 0704-0329.

Type of Request: Reinstatement With Change.

Number of Respondents: 300.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 300.

Average Burden per Response: 5 minutes.

Annual Burden Hours: 25.

Needs and Uses: The information collection is necessary to control entry into the Pentagon. Respondents are non-DoD personnel who request consideration to enter controlled Pentagon entrances. The information provided by the requester consists of name, social security number, date of birth, race, sex, citizenship, vehicle description and tag number, and justification for entrance. The information is entered into a database

maintained by the Parking Management Office. Only the name and vehicle information are accessed by the Defense Protective Service Officers at controlled entry points. The Vehicle Access Application is filled out upon initial request and annually thereafter.

Affected public: Business or other for-profit.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: Mr. Edward C. Springer.

Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to Mr. Springer at the Office of Management and Budget, Desk Officer for DoD, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

DOD Clearance Officer: Mr. Robert Cushing.

Written requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Cushing, WHS/DIOR, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302.

Dated: April 24, 1997.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 97-11126 Filed 4-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

**Availability of Non-Exclusive,
Exclusive, or Partially Exclusive
Licensing of U.S. Patent #5,448,842
Entitled Enclosure Sign Device**

AGENCY: U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 37 CFR 404.6, Section 11(a)(2) of the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-502) and section 207 of title 35, United States Code announcement is made of the availability of the U.S. Patent No. 5,448,842 entitled, "Enclosure Sign Device" for licensing. The Department of the Army as represented by the Communications-Electronics Command wishes to license the technology described below in a non-exclusive, exclusive or partially exclusive manner to any party interested in manufacturing, using, and/or selling devices or processes covered by this U.S. Patent. This U.S. Patent has been assigned to the United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Army, Washington, D.C.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Army CECOM RDE Night Vision & Electronic Sensors Directorate, ATTN: AMSEL-RD-NV-OPS, 10221 Burbeck Road, STE 430, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5806.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Karen Gordon, Technology Transfer Manager, 703-704-2279, FAX 703-704-1215.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The above mentioned patent describes and claims a safety measure at the entrance to a laboratory/room where access must be limited due to safety reasons. A box is placed around the doorknob at the entrance to the laboratory/room. A hatch door at the front of the box allows access to the doorknob. The hatch door can be left open when equipment is not operating, allowing normal access to the room. However, when a piece of equipment (i.e. laser) is operating, the hatch door (marked on the front with an unmistakable warning) is closed. A latch on the hatch door allows access to the doorknob, but only after unavoidable recognition of the warning. No one can open the door and enter the room without noticing this warning. The device is especially useful when standard procedures prohibit locking the door (i.e. when lasers are operating and only one person is within the room). In an improvement to the current patent, a buzzer sounds whenever the lid is opened while the "danger" sign above the door is illuminated.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-11114 Filed 4-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Notice of Public Meetings on
Improving the Free Application for
Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

AGENCY: United States Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Education will convene three public meetings to receive comments on its plan to make the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) easier to complete by reducing the overall number of questions on the form, reducing the number of questions that certain families must complete, and simplifying the way those questions are asked. The Department plans to use the revised FAFSA starting with the 1999-2000 award year. The FAFSA is completed by students and their families, and the information submitted

on the FAFSA is used to determine the students' eligibility and financial need for the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, (Title IV, HEA Programs).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Whitlock, by fax at (202) 708-7970 or electronically at jerry__whitlock@ed.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under section 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), the Secretary is charged, "in cooperation with agencies and organizations involved in providing student financial assistance," to "produce, distribute and process free of charge a common financial reporting form to be used to determine the need and eligibility of a student under" the Title IV, HEA Programs. This form is the FAFSA. In addition, section 483 authorizes the Secretary to include on the FAFSA up to eight non-financial data items that would assist States in awarding State student financial assistance.

Over the past several years, the Secretary, in cooperation with the above described agencies and organizations, has added questions to the form. Those questions were added to accommodate the needs of States that administer State student aid programs, and of institutions of higher education that administer the Title IV, HEA Programs. They were also added to facilitate eliminating or reducing the number of State and institutional forms that a student and his or her family must complete in order to receive student financial assistance.

On the other hand, section 478 of the HEA recognized that it was not necessary for certain types of students to complete all the income and asset questions on the FAFSA to have their expected family contributions (EFC) calculated. Thus, under that section, students whose family income is \$12,000 or less and were not required to file an IRS Tax Form 1040 are deemed to have a zero EFC. Consequently, these students should have to answer only a limited number of questions on the FAFSA. Moreover, under that section, students whose family income is less than \$50,000 and were not required to file an IRS Tax Form 1040 do not have to report asset information.

In the context of re-engineering the FAFSA and looking at each FAFSA question anew, it appears that a great many of the questions now on the form are not needed to determine a student's

need and eligibility for Title IV, HEA Program funds. For example, using the 1996-97 and 1997-98 FAFSAs as reference points, a student does not need to complete the following questions in order to have his or her eligibility and need for Title IV, HEA Program funds determined: 11-14, 18, 20-39, 50, 53-54, 65-66, and 92-105.

Moreover, it appears that many of these questions are of a marginal value, even for State and institutional purposes, and it further appears that the FAFSA does not fully accommodate those students who did not have to fully answer all the questions on the form. Finally, the Department has found that many individuals who complete the form find it difficult to understand and confusing and burdensome to complete.

To assist in reconciling potential conflicting purposes of forms reduction, form simplification, and burden reduction, the Department would appreciate receiving comments that address the following issues:

- To what extent should the FAFSA be viewed as the vehicle to collect information over and above the information needed to determine a student's eligibility and financial need for Title IV, HEA Program funds?
- To what extent should the FAFSA be used to accommodate the additional information needs of States and institutions of higher education?
- What guidelines should the Department use when adding or deleting data elements on the FAFSA? How should the need for data be balanced against the complexity and burden that may result from collecting additional information?
- How much of the current difficulty in completing the FAFSA results from the design/format of the FAFSA, the number of questions, the way the questions are asked, and the length or phrasing of the instructions?

The dates and locations of the three public meetings at which these issues will be discussed appear below. Each is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Individuals who wish to make oral statements should be prepared to limit their remarks to five minutes if the number of speakers will not allow longer presentations. The Department encourages all participants to submit written statements.

Dates, Locations, and Contact Persons for the Public Meetings

Meeting One

Date: Friday, May 2, 1997.

Address: John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Room 200, 899-10th Avenue, New York, New York, 10019.

For Further Information Contact: George Chin or Phil Friedman at (212) 290-5700.

Meeting Two

Date: Monday, May 12, 1997.

Address: Manchester Conference Center, Room 206A, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, California.

For Further Information Contact: Sister Dale Brown at (619) 260-2235.

Meeting Three

Date: Friday, June 6, 1997.

Address: J.C. Penney Building, Room 101, University for Missouri-St. Louis, 8001 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Missouri.

For Further Information Contact: Jerry Joseph at (314) 516-6397.

Any person who is unable to attend any meeting but wishes to submit written comments on the FAFSA may do so by sending those comments to: Patrick Sherrill, Information Management Team, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C., 20202-4651. You may fax your written comments on the FAFSA to Mr. Sherrill at (202) 708-9346 or send them electronically to pat__sherrill@ed.gov.

David A. Longanecker,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 97-11270 Filed 4-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Strategic Petroleum Reserve; Opportunity for Public Comment

AGENCY: Department of Energy, Fossil Energy, Office of Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

ACTION: Opportunity for Public Comment on Strategic Petroleum Reserve Policy.

SUMMARY: In preparation for the issuance of an Administration Statement of Policy concerning the capacity, size, use, and financing, among other issues, of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the Department of Energy, Office of Strategic Petroleum Reserve, extends this opportunity for interested persons to submit written comments. All submissions in response to this notice will be made available to the public.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments at the address below by June 16, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Mr. Richard D. Furiga, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Strategic