

The Board is established to formulate policy guidelines for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The Board's responsibilities include selecting subject areas to be assessed, developing assessment objectives, developing appropriate student achievement levels for each grade and subject tested, developing guidelines for reporting and disseminating results, and developing standards and procedures for interstate and national comparisons.

The Assessment Development Committee will meet in closed session on August 5 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to review secure test items for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2006 assessments in U.S. History and Civics, and the NAEP 2007 Reading Assessment. The meeting must be conducted in closed session as disclosure of proposed test items from the NAEP assessments would significantly impede implementation of the NAEP program, and is therefore protected by exemption 9(B) of section 552b(c) of title 5 U.S.C.

On August 5, the Ad Hoc Committee on NAEP 12th Grade Participation and Motivation will meet in open session from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Execution Committee will meet in open session on August 5 from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. The committee will then meet in closed session from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. to discuss independent government cost estimates for contracts related to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). This part of the meeting must be conducted in closed session because public disclosure of this information would likely have an adverse financial effect on the NAEP program and will provide an advantage to potential bidders attending the meeting. The discussion of this information would be likely to significantly impede implementation of a proposed agency action if conducted in open session. Such matters are protected by exemption 9(B) of section 552b(c) of title 5 U.S.C.

On August 6, the full Board will meet in open session from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Board will approve the agenda; recognize departing Board members; hear the Executive Director's report; receive an update on the work of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) from the Commissioner of NCES, Robert Lerner; and discuss NAEP inclusion and accommodation issues.

From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on August 6, the Board's standing committees—the Assessment Development Committee; the Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology; and the Reporting

and Dissemination Committee—will meet in open session.

From 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m., Board members will receive an ethics briefing from staff of the Office of General Counsel. This will be followed by Board discussion and action on the NAEP 2009 Reading Framework from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The Board will then receive a briefing on models for describing "readiness" for postsecondary education from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m., after which the August 6 session of the Board meeting will adjourn.

On August 7, the full Board will meet in open session from 8:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. At 8:15 a.m., the Board will receive a briefing on pre-conference sessions that took place at the Large-Scale Assessment Conference. From 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., the Board will discuss NAEP Reporting Guidelines. This item will be followed by a presentation on student "readiness" for postsecondary options from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

From 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., the Board will discuss issues related to 12th Grade NAEP. Board actions on policies and Committee reports are scheduled to take place between 11 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., Board members will elect the Vice Chair from 11:45 to 12 noon, upon which the August 7, 2004, session of the Board meeting will adjourn.

Detailed minutes of the meeting, including summaries of the activities of the closed sessions and related matters that 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 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern standard time.

Dated: July 13, 2004.

**Charles E. Smith,**

*Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board.*

[FR Doc. 04-16163 Filed 7-15-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### **Recognition of Accrediting Agencies, State Agencies for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational Education, and State Agencies for the Approval of Nurse Education**

**AGENCY:** National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, Department of Education (The Advisory Committee).

### **What Is the Purpose of This Notice?**

The purpose of this notice is to invite written comments on accrediting agencies and State approval agencies whose applications to the Secretary for initial or renewed recognition or whose interim reports will be reviewed at the Advisory Committee meeting to be held on December 13–15, 2004.

### **Where Should I Submit My Comments?**

Please submit your written comments by August 30, 2004 to Ms. Carol Griffiths, Accreditation and State Liaison. You may contact her at the U.S. Department of Education, room 7105, MS 8509, 1990 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006, telephone: (202) 219-7011. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

### **What Is the Authority for the Advisory Committee?**

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity is established under Section 114 of the Higher Education Act (HEA), as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1011c. One of the purposes of the Advisory Committee is to advise the Secretary of Education on the recognition of accrediting agencies and State approval agencies.

### **Will This Be My Only Opportunity To Submit Written Comments?**

Yes, this notice announces the only opportunity you will have to submit written comments. However, a subsequent **Federal Register** notice will announce the meeting and invite individuals and/or groups to submit requests to make oral presentations before the Advisory Committee on the agencies that the Committee will review. That notice, however, does not offer a second opportunity to submit written comment.

### **What Happens to the Comments That I Submit?**

We will review your comments, in response to this notice, as part of our evaluation of the agencies' compliance with the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition of Accrediting Agencies and State Approval Agencies. The Criteria are regulations found in 34 CFR Part 602 (for accrediting agencies) and in 34 CFR Part 603 (for State approval agencies) and are found at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred>.

We will also include your comments with the staff analyses we present to the Advisory Committee at its December 2004 meeting. Therefore, in order for us to give full consideration to your

comments, it is important that we receive them by August 30, 2004. In all instances, your comments about agencies seeking initial or continued recognition must relate to the Criteria for Recognition. In addition, your comments for any agency whose interim report is scheduled for review must relate to the issues raised and the Criteria for Recognition cited in the Secretary's letter that requested the interim report.

#### **What Happens to Comments Received After the Deadline?**

We will review any comments received after the deadline. If such comments, upon investigation, reveal that the accrediting agency is not acting in accordance with the Criteria for Recognition, we will take action either before or after the meeting, as appropriate.

#### **What Agencies Will the Advisory Committee Review at the Meeting?**

The Secretary of Education recognizes accrediting agencies and State approval agencies for public postsecondary vocational education and nurse education if the Secretary determines that they meet the Criteria for Recognition. Recognition means that the Secretary considers the agency to be a reliable authority as to the quality of education offered by institutions or programs it accredits that are encompassed within the scope of recognition he grants to the agency.

Please note that the agencies listed below, which were originally scheduled for review during the National Advisory Committee's June 2004 meeting, were deferred and will be reviewed at the December 2004 meeting.

- Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools
- American Academy for Liberal Education
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
- National Association of Schools of Art and Design, Commission on Accreditation
- National Association of Schools of Dance, Commission on Accreditation
- National Association of Schools of Music, Commission on Accreditation, Commission on Non-Degree-Granting Accreditation, Commission on Community/Junior College Accreditation
- National Association of Schools of Theatre, Commission on Accreditation
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education

- New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Technical and Career Institutions
- Puerto Rico State Agency for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational, Technical Institutions and Programs

Any third-party written comments regarding these agencies that were received by March 22, 2004, in accordance with the **Federal Register** notice published on February 5, 2004, will become part of the official record. Those comments will be considered by the National Advisory Committee when it reviews the agencies at the December 2004 meeting.

The following agencies will be reviewed during the December 2004 meeting of the Advisory Committee:

#### **Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies**

##### *Petitions for Renewal of Recognition*

1. Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation of private, postsecondary allied health education institutions and institutions that offer predominantly allied health programs, private medical assistant programs, and public and private medical laboratory technician programs leading to the Associate of Applied Science and the Associate of Occupational Science degrees.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of private, postsecondary institutions in the United States offering predominantly allied health education programs and the programmatic accreditation of allied health programs, leading to a certificate, diploma, or the Associate of Applied Science and Associate of Occupational Science degrees, including those offered via distance education.)

2. Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation of private, postsecondary, non-degree-granting institutions and degree-granting institutions, including those granting associate and baccalaureate degrees, that are predominantly organized to educate students for occupational, trade and technical careers, and including institutions that offer programs via distance education.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of private, postsecondary, non-degree-granting institutions and degree-granting institutions in the United States, including those granting associate and baccalaureate degrees, that are predominantly organized to educate students for occupational, trade and

technical careers, and including institutions that offer programs via distance education.)

3. American Psychological Association, Committee on Accreditation (Current and requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of doctoral programs in clinical, counseling, school and combined professional-scientific psychology; predoctoral internship programs in professional psychology; and postdoctoral residency programs in professional psychology.)

4. National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation of postsecondary schools and departments of cosmetology arts and sciences and massage therapy.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of postsecondary schools and departments of cosmetology arts and sciences and massage therapy in the United States.)

5. Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, Accreditation Commission (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate" status) of postsecondary institutions that offer certificates, diplomas, and associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees, including institutions that offer distance education.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate" status) of postsecondary institutions in the United States that offer certificates, diplomas, and associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees, including institutions that offer distance education.)

6. Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Schools (Current and requested scope of recognition: the accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of adult and postsecondary schools that offer programs below the degree level in California, Hawaii, the United States territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.)

*Interim Reports* (An interim report is a follow-up report on an accrediting agency's compliance with specific criteria for recognition that was requested by the Secretary when the Secretary granted renewed recognition to the agency.)

1. American Academy for Liberal Education
2. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Council on

Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

3. Commission on English Language Program Accreditation

4. Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education, Commission on Accreditation

5. National Association of Schools of Art and Design, Commission on Accreditation

6. National Association of Schools of Dance, Commission on Accreditation

7. National Association of Schools of Music, Commission on Accreditation, Commission on Non-Degree-Granting Accreditation, Commission on Community/Junior College Accreditation

8. National Association of Schools of Theatre, Commission on Accreditation

9. New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education

10. New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Technical and Career Institutions

11. Teacher Education Accreditation Council, Accreditation Committee

*Progress Report:* A report on the agency's experience with its new method and system to assess its institutions' success with respect to student achievement.

1. Distance Education and Training Council, Accrediting Commission

#### **State Agencies Recognized for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational Education**

##### *Petitions for Renewal of Recognition*

1. Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

2. Puerto Rico State Agency for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational, Technical Institutions and Programs

##### *Interim Report*

1. Missouri State Board of Education

#### **Federal Agency Seeking Degree-Granting Authority**

In accordance with the Federal policy governing the granting of academic degrees by Federal agencies (approved by a letter from the Director, Bureau of the Budget, to the Secretary, Health, Education, and Welfare, dated December 23, 1954), the Secretary is required to establish a review committee to advise the Secretary concerning any legislation that may be proposed that would authorize the granting of degrees by a Federal agency. The review committee forwards its recommendation concerning a Federal agency's proposed degree-granting authority to the Secretary, who then forwards the

committee's recommendation and the Secretary's recommendation to the Office of Management and Budget for review and transmittal to the Congress. The Secretary uses the Advisory Committee as the review committee required for this purpose. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee will review the following institution at this meeting:

#### **Proposed Master's Degree-Granting Authority**

1. National Defense University, Joint Forces Staff College, Joint Advanced Warfighting School, Norfolk, VA (request to award a Master's in Science (M.S.) degree in Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy)

#### **Where Can I Inspect Petitions and Third-Party Comments Before and After the Meeting?**

All petitions and those third-party comments received in advance of the meeting, will be available for public inspection and copying at the U.S. Department of Education, room 7105, MS 8509, 1990 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006, telephone (202) 219-7011 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, until November 17, 2004. They will be available again after the December 13-15 Advisory Committee meeting. An appointment must be made in advance of such inspection or copying.

#### **How May I Obtain Electronic Access to This Document?**

You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

**Note:** The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gpo/nara/index.html>.

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.

Dated: July 12, 2004.

**Sally L. Stroup,**

*Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.*

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**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

### **Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Fernald**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Fernald. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Tuesday, August 3, 2004 6:15 p.m.-9 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Fernald Closure Project Site, 7400 Willey Road, Trailer 214, Hamilton, OH 45253.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Doug Sarno, The Perspectives Group, Inc., 1055 North Fairfax Street, Suite 204, Alexandria, VA 22314, at (703) 837-1197, or e-mail; [djsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com](mailto:djsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Purpose of the Board:* The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

#### *Tentative Agenda*

6:15 p.m.—Call to Order

6:15-6:30 p.m.—Chairs Remarks, Ex Officio Announcements and Updates

6:30-7:30 p.m.—Silos Projects

7:30-8:30 p.m.—Site Tour

8:30-8:45 p.m.—Preparation for September Retreat

8:45-9 p.m.—Public Comment

9 p.m.—Adjourn

*Public Participation:* The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board chair either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact the Board chair at the address or telephone number listed below. Requests must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Gary Stegner, Public Affairs Office, Ohio Field Office, U.S. Department of Energy, is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of five minutes to present their comments.

*Minutes:* The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and