

loan rate) which may be significantly above the prevailing market price.

While the impact of the loan program on the cash market is not within the Exchange's jurisdiction, the rules relating to certification of stocks for futures delivery are, and the Exchange is concerned that the interplay between the loan program and the stocks certification process does not adversely affect the economic performance of the futures market.

The level of certified stocks is an important influence in the day-to-day behavior of the futures market. It is, after all, (and is designed to be), the most relevant measure of available deliverable supply. Furthermore, \* \* \* the level of certified stocks is the primary determinant of inter-temporal price relationships in the cotton No. 2 futures market, which in turn underpin the role of the futures market in guiding commercial inventory management activity.

Hence, the Exchange's concern that, if certified stocks include cotton which is under loan, it is not responsive to commercial market forces and is eligible to be forfeited to the CCC on non-commercial terms, the future market will not be properly informed as to commercially available deliverable supply and its role in guiding commercial inventory management will be impaired.

In support of its view that the level of certified cotton stocks is the primary determinant of inter-temporal cotton futures price relationships, the Exchange provided an econometric analysis comparing the relationship between the December/March cotton futures price spread and the level of stocks certified for futures delivery with the relationships between the same cotton futures price spread and total cotton stocks in public warehouses and total U.S. stocks. Based on this analysis, the Exchange concluded that "[t]he results confirm the critical role of certified stocks in determining price spread behavior and demonstrate the markedly superior explanatory power of certified stocks in this regard over that of other publicly available stocks data."

The Exchange also said that, since 1993, it has monitored and included in its weekly stocks report data on certified stocks which are under CCC loan. The Exchange indicated that, during this period, certified stocks under CCC loan have never been more than several hundred bales and that, since 1995, there have been no certified stocks under loan.

The Division is requesting comments on the proposed amendment. The Division is particularly interested in comments in regard to whether: (1) the continuation of the practice of allowing certified cotton stocks to remain under CCC loan represents a threat to orderly trading and delivery in the futures market; (2) the proposal will reduce

deliverable supplies to levels that would make the futures market susceptible to price manipulation or distortion; and (3) the proposal, by precluding the use of a method of financing that is commonly used in the cash market, is consistent with the requirements of section 15 of the Commodity Exchange Act.<sup>1</sup>

The proposed amendment was submitted under the Commission's Fast Track procedure for the review of rule changes which provides that, absent and contrary action by the Commission, the proposed amendment may be deemed approved 45 days after the Commission received the proposal. However, in view of the complex issues posed by the proposal and to provide an adequate period for interested parties to comment, the Fast Track review period has been extended by an additional 30 days to May 31, 2000, pursuant to the provisions of Commission Regulation 1.41(b).

Copies of the proposed amendment will be available for inspection at the Office of the Secretariat, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581. Copies of the proposed amendment can be obtained through the Office of the Secretariat by mail at the above address, by phone at (202) 418-5100, or via the Internet at secretary@cftc.gov.

Other materials submitted by the Exchange in support of the proposal may be available upon request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Commission's regulations thereunder (17 CFR part 145 (1997)), except to the extent they are entitled to confidential treatment as set forth in 17 CFR 145.5 and 145.9. Request for copies of such materials should be made to the FOI, Privacy and Sunshine Act Compliance Staff of the Office of the Secretariat at the Commission's headquarters in accordance with 17 CFR 145.7 and 145.8.

Any person interested in submitting written data, views, or arguments on the proposed amendment, or with respect to other materials submitted by the Exchange, should send such comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581 by the specified date.

<sup>1</sup> Section 15 stipulates that, in requiring or approving any bylaw, rule, or regulation of a contract market, the Commission must take into consideration the public interest to be protected by the antitrust laws and endeavor to take the least anticompetitive means of achieving the objectives of the Act, as well as the policies and purposes of the Act.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 31, 2000.

**Richard Shilts,**  
*Acting Director.*

[FR Doc. 00-8354 Filed 4-4-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6351-01-M**

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**SUMMARY:** The Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 5, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address DWERFEL@OMB.EOP.GOV.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, *e.g.*, new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

Dated: March 30, 2000.

**William Burrow,**

*Leader, Information Management Group,  
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

**Office of Postsecondary Education**

*Type of Review:* New.

*Title:* Application for Grants Under the Community Scholarship Mobilization Program.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

Responses: 100.

Burden Hours: 6,000.

*Abstract:* This application is essential to conducting the competition for new awards in Fiscal Year 2000 for national organizations to support the establishment or ongoing work of regional, state, local, or community program centers.

This information collection is being submitted under the Streamlined Clearance Process for Discretionary Grant Information Collections (1890-0001). Therefore, the 30-day public comment period notice will be the only public comment notice published for this information collection.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, or should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address [OCIO\\_IMG\\_Issues@ed.gov](mailto:OCIO_IMG_Issues@ed.gov) or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request. Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at (202) 708-9266 or via his internet address [Joe\\_Schubart@ed.gov](mailto:Joe_Schubart@ed.gov). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 00-8302 Filed 4-4-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Financial Assistance Award (Grant)**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of solicitation of applications for grant awards for high-energy density and laser-matter interaction studies.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to 10 CFR 600.8, the DOE announces that it plans to conduct a technically competitive solicitation for basic research experiments in high energy density and laser matter interaction studies at the National Laser Users' Facility (NLUF) located at the University of Rochester Laboratory for Laser Energetics (UR/LLE). Grant Solicitation No. DE-PS03-00SF22056. Universities or other higher education institutions, private sector not-for-profit organizations, or other entities are invited to submit grant applications. The total amount of funding (project cost) expected to be available for Fiscal Years 2001 and 2002 program cycle is \$1,400,000. Multiple awards are anticipated under the total budget of \$700,000 per year.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Janice Williams, Contract Specialist, DOE Oakland Operations Office, 1301 Clay Street, Room 700N, Oakland, CA 94612-5208, Telephone No.: (510) 637-1914, Facsimile No.: (510) 637-2074, E-mail [janice.williams@oak.doe.gov](mailto:janice.williams@oak.doe.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The solicitation document contains all the information relative to this action for prospective applicants. The solicitation is targeted for release on or about March 31, 2000. The actual work to be accomplished will be determined by the experiments and diagnostic techniques that are selected for award. Proposed experiments and diagnostic techniques will be evaluated through scientific peer review against predetermined, published and available criteria. Final selection will be made by the DOE. It is anticipated that multiple grants will be awarded within the available funding. The unique resources of the NLUF are available to scientists for state-of-the art experiments primarily in the area of inertial confinement fusion (ICF) and related plasma physics. Other areas such as spectroscopy of highly ionized atoms, laboratory astrophysics, fundamental physics, material science, and biology and chemistry will be considered on a secondary basis. The LLE was established in 1970 to investigate the interaction of high power lasers with matter. Available at the LLE for NLUF researchers is the OMEGA LASER, a 30 kJ UV 60 beam laser system (at 0.35 um) suitable for direct-drive ICF implosions. This system is suitable for a variety of experiments including laser-plasma interactions and atomic spectroscopy. The NLUF program for FY 2001 & FY 2002 is to concentrate on experiments that can be done with the OMEGA laser at the University of Rochester and development of diagnostic techniques suitable for the

OMEGA system. Measurements of the laser coupling, laser-plasma interactions, core temperature, and core density are needed to determine the characteristics of the target implosions. Diagnostic techniques could include either new instrumentation, development of analysis tools, or development of targets that are applicable for 30 kJ implosions. Additional information about the facilities and potential collaboration at the NLUF can be obtained from: Dr. John Soares, Manager, National Laser Users' Facility, University of Rochester/LLE, 250 East River Road, Rochester, NY 14623.

Issued in Oakland, CA on March 28, 2000.

**Joan Macrusky,**

*Director, Financial Assistance Center,  
Department of Energy, Oakland Operations  
Office.*

[FR Doc. 00-8328 Filed 4-4-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Office of International Affairs; Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Energy Ministers Conference**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of upcoming conference.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy and the City of San Diego, California, will co-sponsor the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Energy Ministers Conference: "Turning Vision Into Reality," in San Diego, California. The Conference will focus on strategies to implement existing policy commitments and to enhance investment in clean and sustainable energy development, on opportunities for regional energy market integration, and on continued transition to a market-oriented business climate. The region's energy ministers, and representatives of the private sector, multilateral institutions and nongovernment organizations will work together to create a vision for the 21st Century that will support clean and sustainable energy and economic development.

**DATES:** The three-day conference will be held from May 10-12, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information and to register on line, please visit our website on [www.apecenergy.org](http://www.apecenergy.org). You may also contact APEC Conference Headquarters on 703-352-7633, or via fax on 703-352-9513 for further information regarding the conference. For inquiries regarding exhibits for industry displays, please contact John Reyes in San Diego,