

transportation improvements from SC 31, in Little River, Horry County, South Carolina, to US 17, near Shallotte, Brunswick County, North Carolina. This proposed project is called the "Carolina Bays Parkway Extension" and is NCDOT Project 44604 and SCDOT Project P029554.

Based on the 2006 Feasibility Study, the Carolina Bays Parkway (CBP) Extension is needed to improve motorists' mobility and manage existing and future traffic congestion projected along US 17 and other roadways such as S-57/SR 1303 (Hickman Road) within Horry and Brunswick Counties. The preliminary project study area is roughly bounded on the southwest at the interchange of SC 31 and SC 9 near Little River, Horry County, South Carolina, and runs northeast near SR 1303 (Hickman Road) and finally along the existing US 17 corridor up to the Town of Shallotte, Brunswick County, North Carolina. The final project study area and purpose and need for the project will be further defined during development of the DEIS.

To the extent practicable and consistent with COE oversight, this project is expected to be reviewed using the same or similar procedures as set forth in the merger process, as implemented in the State of North Carolina. This merger process is a synchronized review process performing the various environmental review and permitting procedures or consultation requirements necessary for a proposed project in a concurrent fashion. The process would provide a forum for appropriate agency representatives to discuss and reach consensus on ways to facilitate meeting the regulatory requirements of Section 404 of the CWA during the NEPA/SEPA decision-making phase of transportation projects.

The CBP project has roots back to the 1980s and was revitalized with coordination in the 2000s culminating in a feasibility study produced in July of 2006. The feasibility study can be located on the project Web page at: <https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/CBP/>. The current effort by the COE, NCDOT and SCDOT anticipates a DEIS completed by 2020 and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) completed by 2022.

*Environmental consequences:* CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1502.16) state the EIS will include the environmental impacts of the alternatives including the proposed action, any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented, the relationship between short-term uses of man's environment

and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the proposal should it be implemented. The EIS will assess a reasonable number of alternatives and identify and disclose the direct impacts of the proposed project on the following: Topography, geology, soils, climate, biotic communities, wetlands, fish and wildlife resources, endangered and threatened species, hydrology, water resources and water quality, floodplains, hazardous materials, air quality, noise, aesthetics, recreational resources, historical and cultural resources, socioeconomic, land use, public health and safety, energy requirements and conservation, natural or non-renewable resources, drinking waters, and environmental justice.

*Secondary and cumulative environmental impacts:* Cumulative impacts result from the incremental impact of the proposed action when added to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes the action. Geographic Information System (GIS) data and mapping will be used to evaluate and quantify secondary and cumulative impacts of the proposed project with particular emphasis given to wetlands and surface/groundwater resources.

*Mitigation:* CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1502.14, 1502.16, and 1508.20) require the EIS to include appropriate mitigation measures. The COE has adopted a mitigation policy which embraces the concepts of "no net loss of wetlands" and project sequencing. This policy supports the overall goal to restore and maintain the chemical, biological, and physical integrity of "Waters of the United States," specifically wetlands. Mitigation of wetland impacts has been defined by the CEQ to include: Avoidance of impacts (to wetlands), minimizing impacts, rectifying impacts, reducing impacts over time, and compensating for impacts (40 CFR 1508.20). Each of these aspects (avoidance, minimization, and compensatory mitigation) must be considered in sequential order. As part of the EIS, and in accordance with CEQ regulations and COE regulations (33 CFR 320.4(r) and 33 CFR part 332), the NCDOT and SCDOT will develop a compensatory mitigation plan detailing the methodology and approach to compensate for unavoidable impacts to waters of the U.S., including streams and wetlands.

*NEPA/SEPA Preparation and Permitting:* The proposed project requires approvals from federal and

state agencies under both the NEPA and the SEPA, respectively. Therefore, the COE will serve as the lead Federal agency for the NEPA process. The EIS will serve as the NEPA document for the COE, and as the SEPA document for the State of North Carolina.

Within the EIS, the COE will conduct a thorough environmental review, including an evaluation of a reasonable number of alternatives. After distribution and review of the Draft EIS, consideration of public comment, and issuance of a Final EIS, the Wilmington District and the Charleston District will produce a Federal ROD that will document the completion of the EIS process and serve as a basis for permitting decisions. In accordance with SEPA, the State of North Carolina will issue a separate NC State ROD.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the COE at the address provided. The Wilmington District and Charleston District will issue Public Notices consistent with CEQ requirements.

Dated: June 27, 2017.

**Scott McLendon,**

*Chief, Regulatory Division.*

[FR Doc. 2017-14214 Filed 7-5-17; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No. ED-2017-ICCD-0053]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Federal Direct Loan Program and Federal Family Education Loan Program Teacher Loan Forgiveness Forms

**AGENCY:** Federal Student Aid (FSA), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing an extension of an existing information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 7, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by

searching the Docket ID number ED–2017–ICCD–0053. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. *Please note that comments submitted by fax or email and those submitted after the comment period will not be accepted.* Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Director of the Information Collection Clearance Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., LBJ, Room 216–32, Washington, DC 20202–4537.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Jon Utz, 202–377–4040.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* Federal Direct Loan Program and Federal Family Education Loan Program Teacher Loan Forgiveness Forms.

*OMB Control Number:* 1845–0059.

*Type of Review:* An extension of an existing information collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Individuals or Households.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 8,700.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 2,871.

*Abstract:* The Teacher Loan Forgiveness (TLF) Application serves as the means by which an eligible Direct Loan or FFEL program borrower who has completed five consecutive years of qualifying teaching service applies for forgiveness of up to \$5,000 or up to \$17,500 of his or her eligible loans. Eligible special education teachers and secondary school math or science teachers may receive a maximum of \$17,500 in loan forgiveness. Other teachers may receive a maximum of \$5,000 in loan forgiveness. Borrowers who are working toward loan forgiveness may use the TLF Forbearance Request to request a forbearance during some or all of their required five consecutive years of teaching service. A prospective TLF applicant may receive a forbearance during some or all of the five-year teaching period only if the projected balance on the borrower's eligible loans at the end of the five-year period (if the borrower made monthly loan payments during that period) would be less than the maximum forgiveness amount for which the borrower qualifies.

Dated: June 29, 2017.

**Stephanie Valentine,**

*Acting Director, Information Collection Clearance Division, Office of the Chief Privacy Officer, Office of Management.*

[FR Doc. 2017–14132 Filed 7–5–17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[OE Docket No. PP–371]

### Notice of Availability for Public Comment of Interconnection Facilities Studies Summary Prepared for the Proposed Northern Pass Transmission Project

**AGENCY:** Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability for public comment of interconnection facilities studies summary.

**SUMMARY:** Northern Pass Transmission LLC (NPT) applied to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect an electric transmission line across the U.S. border with Canada, currently referred to as the Northern Pass Project. NPT would construct and operate an overhead high-voltage direct current

(HVDC) electric transmission line that is to originate at an HVDC converter station near Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada; connect to a facility in Franklin, New Hampshire, that will convert the line's direct current to alternating current (AC); and continue from there to its southern terminus in Deerfield, New Hampshire. The proposed facilities will be capable of transmitting up to 1,090 megawatts (MW) of power. The amended applications are summarized below. DOE hereby announces the availability for public comment of a summary of the interconnection facilities studies prepared for the NPT project.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before August 7, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be addressed to: Christopher Lawrence, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, OE–20, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585–0001. Because of delays in handling conventional mail, it is recommended that documents be transmitted by overnight mail, by electronic mail to [Christopher.Lawrence@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Christopher.Lawrence@hq.doe.gov) (preferred), or by facsimile to 202–586–8008.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher Lawrence (Program Office) at 202–586–5260, or via electronic mail at [Christopher.Lawrence@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Christopher.Lawrence@hq.doe.gov); or Rishi Garg (Program Attorney) at 202–586–0258, or via electronic mail at [Rishi.Garg@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Rishi.Garg@hq.doe.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

Executive Order (EO) 10485 (Sept. 9, 1953), as amended by EO 12038 (Feb. 7, 1978), requires that a Presidential permit be issued by DOE before electricity transmission facilities may be constructed, operated, maintained, or connected at the U.S. border. DOE may issue or amend a permit if it determines that the permit is in the public interest and after obtaining favorable recommendations from the U.S. Departments of State and Defense. In determining whether issuance of a permit for a proposed action is in the public interest, DOE considers the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, the project's impact on electricity reliability by ascertaining whether the proposed project would adversely affect the operation of the U.S. electric power supply system under normal and contingency conditions, and any other factors that DOE considers relevant to the public interest.

On October 14, 2010, NPT applied to DOE for a Presidential permit to