

b. Improve water quality by developing treatment wetlands to treat effluent river flows.

c. Restore and re-connect fragmented wetland habitats.

d. Within the Los Angeles Basin, maintain and improve current levels of flood protection.

e. Protect the community's cultural and historic resources along this reach of the River, while improving connectivity and public access to historical and cultural sites in this area.

f. Visually improve the River's scenic values through environmental restoration.

g. Improve linkages to existing recreational features in the vicinity of the River, and enhance open space along the River.

h. Better manage, optimize and conserve water resources.

i. Restore, protect, and augment habitat quality, quantity, and connectivity. Based on these objectives, the programmatic EIS/EIR would evaluate a range of potential alternative sites as a basis for selecting site specific improvements.

4. *Scoping Process.* a. Potential impacts associated with the proposed action will be evaluated. Resource categories that will be analyzed include: land use, physical environment, geology, biological resources, agricultural resources, air quality, ground water, recreational usage, aesthetics, cultural resources, transportation, communications, hazardous waste, socioeconomics and safety.

b. Participation of affected Federal, State and local resource agencies, native American groups and concerned interest groups/individuals is encouraged in the scoping process. Time and location of the Public Scoping meetings will be announced by means of letters, public announcements and news releases. Public participation will be especially important in defining the scope of analysis in the EIS/EIR, identifying potentially significant environmental issues, and obtaining relevant published and unpublished data, gathering personal input on relevant issues, and identifying acceptable mitigative measures for proposed actions. Those interested in providing information or data relevant to the environmental or social impacts to be included or considered in the environmental analysis can furnish this information by writing to the points of contact indicated above, or by attending a public scoping meeting. A mailing list will also be established so pertinent data may be distributed to interested parties.

Dated: January 27, 2006.

Mark R. Blackburn,

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Deputy District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 06-1052 Filed 2-3-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-KF-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Estuary Habitat Restoration Council; Open Meeting

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 105(h) of the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000, (Title I, Pub. L. 106-457), announcement is made of the forthcoming meeting of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Council. The meeting is open to the public.
DATES: The meeting will be held February 21, 2006, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be in room 3M60/70 in the GAO building located at 441 G Street, NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Ellen Cummings, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, DC 20314-1000, (202) 761-4750; or Ms. Cynthia Garman-Squier, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Washington, DC, (703) 695-6791.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Estuary Habitat Restoration Council consists of representatives of five agencies. These are the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Agriculture, and Army. The duties of the Council include soliciting, reviewing, and evaluating project proposals, and submitting to the Secretary of the Army a prioritized list of projects recommended for construction.

Agenda topics will include decisions on recommending additional proposals to the Secretary of the Army for funding, a brief update on projects previously recommended, a discussion of minor changes to be incorporated in the next solicitation for proposals, and a report on the habitat trends report produced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Current security measures require that persons interested in attending the meeting must pre-register with use

before 2 p.m. February 16, 2006. We cannot guarantee access for requests received after that time. Please contact Ellen Cummings to pre-register. When leaving a voice mail message please provide the name of the individual attending, the company or agency represented, and a telephone number, in case there are any questions. The public should enter on the "G" Street side of the GAO building. All attendees are required to show photo identification and must be escorted to the meeting room by Corps personnel. Attendee's bags and other possessions are subject to being searched. All attendees arriving between one-half hour before and one-half hour after 10 a.m. will be escorted to the meeting. Those who are not pre-registered and/or arriving later than the allotted time will be unable to attend the public meeting.

Brenda S. Bowen,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 06-1050 Filed 2-3-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-92-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 renewed recognition, requests for an expansion of the scope of recognition, or reports will be reviewed at the Advisory Committee meeting to be held on June 5-7, 2006, at the Hilton Arlington Hotel, 950 North Stafford Street, Arlington, Virginia.

Where Should I Submit My Comments?

Please submit your written comments by mail, fax, or e-mail no later than March 8, 2006 to Ms. Robin Greathouse, 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, fax: (202) 219-7005, or e-mail:

Robin.Greathouse@ed.gov. 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. 011c. 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 comments.

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 Section 496 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and 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/index.html>. We will also include your comments with the staff analyses we present to the Advisory Committee at its June 2006 meeting. Therefore, in order for us to give full consideration to your comments, it is important that we receive them by March 8, 2006.

In all instances, your comments about agencies seeking continued recognition and/or an expansion of an agency's scope of recognition must relate to the Criteria for Recognition. In addition, your comments for any agency whose interim report or progress 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 or State approval 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 she grants to the agency.

The following agencies will be reviewed during the June 2006 meeting of the Advisory Committee:

Nationally Recognized Accrediting Agencies

Petition for Initial Recognition

1. *National Oriental Medicine Accreditation Agency* (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of freestanding educational institutions of Oriental Medicine and programs that offer entry-level professional doctoral degrees in Oriental Medicine.)

Petition for Renewal of Recognition That Include an Expansion of the Scope of Recognition

1. *Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools* (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation of private postsecondary institutions offering certificates or diplomas and postsecondary institutions offering associate's, bachelor's, or master's degrees in programs that are designed to train and educate persons for careers or professions where business applications or doctrines, supervisory or management techniques, professional or paraprofessional applications, and other business-related applications support or constitute the career.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of private postsecondary institutions offering certificates or diplomas, and postsecondary institutions offering associate, bachelors, or master's degrees in programs designed to educate students for professional, technical, or occupational careers including those that offer those programs via distance education.)

2. *American College of Nurse-Midwives, Division of Accreditation* (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation of basic certificate and basic graduate

nurse-midwifery education programs for registered nurses, the pre-accreditation and accreditation of pre-certification nurse-midwifery education programs and the accreditation and pre-accreditation of direct-entry midwifery programs for the non-nurse.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation of basic certificate, basic graduate nurse-midwifery, direct-entry midwifery, and pre-certification nurse-midwifery education programs. The accreditation and pre-accreditation of freestanding institutions of midwifery education that may offer other related health care programs to include nurse practitioner programs, and including those institutions and programs that offer distance education.)

3. *Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology* (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation of educational programs for radiographers and radiation therapists.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation of educational programs in radiography, including magnetic resonance; radiation therapy; and medical dosimetry at the certificate and the associate, baccalaureate, and graduate levels, including programs using distance education methodology.)

4. *National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education* (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation throughout the United States of professional education units providing baccalaureate and graduate degree programs for the preparation of teachers and other professional personnel for elementary and secondary schools.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation throughout the United States of professional education units providing baccalaureate and graduate degree programs for the preparation of teachers and other professional personnel for elementary and secondary schools including programs offering distance education.)

Petitions for Renewal of Recognition That Include a Contraction of the Scope of Recognition

1. *Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education* (Current scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy leading to the degrees of Baccalaureate in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy.) (Requested scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree.)

Petitions for Renewal of Recognition

1. *American Bar Association, Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar (Current and requested scope of recognition:* The accreditation throughout the United States of programs in legal education that lead to the first professional degree in law, as well as freestanding law schools offering such programs.)

2. *American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation (Current and requested scope of recognition:* The accreditation of predoctoral dental education programs (leading to the D.D.S or D.M.D degree); advanced dental education programs and allied dental education programs that are fully operational or have attained "accreditation eligible" status, and for its accreditation of programs offered via distance education.)

3. *Council on Chiropractic Education, Commission on Accreditation (Current and requested scope of recognition:* The accreditation of programs leading to the Doctor of Chiropractic degree and single-purpose institutions offering the Doctor of Chiropractic program.)

4. *Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (Current and requested scope of recognition:* The accreditation of higher education programs for the nuclear medicine technologist.)

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

6. *Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (Current and requested scope of recognition:* The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of degree-granting institutions of higher education in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, including distance education programs offered at those institutions.)

7. *Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities (Current and requested scope of recognition:* The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Candidate for Accreditation") of senior colleges and universities 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, including distance education programs offered at those institutions.)

Interim Report (An interim report is a follow-up report on an accrediting agency's compliance with specific criteria for recognition.)

1. Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools.

2. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech—Language Pathology.

3. Distance Education and Training Council, Accrediting Commission.

Progress Report (A report describing the agency's progress in implementing new accreditation processes/or procedures.)

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

State Agencies Recognized For the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational Education

Interim Report

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

Progress Report

1. Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

State Agency Recognized For the Approval of Nurse Education

Petition for Renewal of Recognition

1. New York State Board of Regents, State Education Department, Office of the Professions (Nursing Education).

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 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 May 8, 2006. They will be available again after the June 5-7, 2006 Advisory Committee meeting. An appointment must be made in advance of such inspection.

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.gov/index.html>.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2

Dated: January 31, 2006.

Sally L. Stroup,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. E6-1549 Filed 2-3-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces an open meeting of the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee under the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that agencies publish these notices in the **Federal Register** to allow for public participation. This notice announces the meeting of the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee.

DATES: March 2, 2006 at 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; March 3, 2006 at 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

ADDRESSES: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Building 17—Room 4B, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden, CO 80401.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Neil Rossmeissl, Designated Federal Officer for the Committee, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585; (202) 586-8668 or Harriet Foster at (202) 586-4541; E-mail: harriet.foster@ee.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and guidance that promotes research and development leading to the