

## 2. Purpose of the Match

The purpose of this matching program between ED and VA is to verify the veteran's status of applicants for financial assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), who claim to be veterans.

The Secretary of Education is authorized by the HEA to administer the Title IV programs and to enforce the terms and conditions of the HEA.

Section 480(c)(1) of the HEA defines the term "veteran" to mean "any individual who (A) has engaged in the active duty in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard; and (B) was released under a condition other than dishonorable." (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(c)(1)). Under section 480(d)(3) of the HEA, an applicant who is a veteran (as defined in section 480(c)(1)) is considered an independent student for purposes of Title IV, HEA program assistance eligibility, and therefore does not have to provide parental income and asset information to apply for Title IV, HEA program assistance. (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(d)(3)).

## 3. Authority for Conducting the Matching Program

ED is authorized to participate in the matching program under sections 480(c) and (d)(3) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(c)(1) and (d)(3)) and 5 U.S.C. 552a. The VA is authorized to participate in the matching program under 38 U.S.C. 523.

## 4. Categories of Records and Individuals Covered by the Match

ED will provide the Social Security Number and other identifying information of each applicant who indicates that he or she is a veteran. This information will be extracted from the Federal Student Aid Application File system of records (18-11-01), pursuant to routine use no. 16, as corrected by 66 FR 18758 (April 11, 2001). The ED data will be matched against the Veterans and Beneficiaries Identification and Records Location Subsystem-VA (38VA21), consistent with routine use no. 21, as added by 66 FR 30049-50 (June 4, 2001).

## 5. Effective Dates of the Matching Program

The matching program will become effective on (1) June 24, 2006, the day after the expiration of the current computer matching agreement (CMA); (2) thirty (30) days after this notice of the matching program has been published in the **Federal Register**; or (3) forty (40) days after a report concerning the matching program has been

transmitted to the OMB and the Congress, whichever date occurs last. The matching program will continue for 18 months after the effective date and may be extended for an additional 12 months thereafter, if the conditions specified in 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(2)(D) have been met.

## 6. Address for Receipt of Public Comments or Inquiries

Individuals wishing to comment on this matching program or obtain additional information about the program, including requesting a copy of the computer matching agreement between ED and VA, should contact Ms. Marya Dennis, Management and Program Analyst, U.S. Department of Education, 63H2 Union Center Plaza, 830 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 377-3385. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

### Electronic Access to the Document

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

To use PDF you must have the 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 Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO access at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Dated: April 28, 2006.

**Theresa S. Shaw**,  
Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid.  
[FR Doc. E6-6694 Filed 5-2-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Energy Information Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed modifications to data collection Form EIA-902, "Annual Geothermal Heat Pump Manufacturers Survey," and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The EIA is soliciting comments on the proposed revisions and extension through November 30, 2007 to the Form EIA-902, "Annual Geothermal Heat Pump Manufacturers Survey."

**DATES:** Comments must be filed by July 3, 2006. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed below as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Fred Mayes. To ensure receipt of the comments by the due date, submission by FAX (202) 287-1964 or e-mail [Fred.Mayes@eia.doe.gov](mailto:Fred.Mayes@eia.doe.gov) is recommended. The mailing address is U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, EI-52, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20585. Alternatively, Fred Mayes may be contacted by telephone at (202) 287-1750.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of any forms and instructions should be directed to Fred Mayes at the address listed above.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments

#### I. Background

The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the DOE Organization Act (Pub. L. 95-91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*) require the EIA to carry out a centralized, comprehensive, and unified energy information program. This program collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates information on energy resource reserves, production, demand, technology, and related economic and statistical information. This information is used to assess the adequacy of energy resources to meet near and longer term domestic demands.

The EIA, as part of its effort to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of

1995 (Pub. L. 104–13, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35), provides the general public and other Federal agencies with opportunities to comment on proposed collections of energy information conducted by or in conjunction with the EIA. Any comments that are received help the EIA to finalize data requests that maximize the utility of the information collected, and to assess the impact of collection burden on the public. The EIA will later seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under section 3507(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The Form EIA–902, “Annual Geothermal Heat Pump Manufacturers Survey,” collects information about the manufacture and distribution of geothermal heat pumps and the status of the industry. The survey information is disseminated in electronic products and electronic data files. For details on EIA’s renewables information program, please visit EIA’s Web site at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/fuelrenewable.html>.

## II. Current Actions

The EIA will request OMB approval of: (a) A 14-month extension, through November 30, 2007, and (b) modifications to Form EIA–902 described below. The proposed changes EIA is requesting reflect the increasing emergence of the renewable industry as a whole and the geothermal energy industry in particular. The changes proposed herein would be effective for EIA’s calendar year 2007 data collection (2006 data) but would expire on November 30, 2007. The reason for this shortened interim clearance proposal is so that EIA can synchronize the forms clearance schedule for three of its renewable energy data collections. Specifically, EIA desires to consolidate the expiration date of Form EIA–902 with the expiration dates of Form EIA–63A, “Annual Solar Thermal Collector Manufacturers Survey,” and Form EIA–63B, “Annual Photovoltaic Module/Cell Manufacturers Survey.” Synchronizing the expiration date of these three forms, which all collect information from manufacturers of renewable energy equipment, will permit EIA to conduct a more comprehensive review of its data needs for this market sector and develop a unified data collection approach which would lead to more efficient survey processing by EIA.

EIA recognizes that its information collections must continue to adapt as the industry changes. It is especially critical to Federal policymakers and

State governments, who increasingly rely on the data to understand and respond to the current and emerging impacts of renewable industry developments on consumers nationally and in their particular State. In addition, as government energy policy moves towards market-based solutions, market data becomes even more important. The proposed form EIA–902 presented here incorporates discussions with trade associations of the geothermal energy industry.

EIA proposes the following changes to Form EIA–902: (1) Collect estimates of the coefficient of performance (COP) and the energy efficiency ratio (EER) for geothermal heat pumps by heat pump type; (2) collect the total rated capacity of geothermal heat pumps shipped (3.0) instead of the number of units shipped by destination; (3) collect the total rated capacity of domestic shipments by customer type (4.0) instead of the total number of geothermal heat pump shipments by customer type; (4) redefine the economic sectors to correspond to the standard sectors used by EIA; (5) collect total rated capacity of domestic shipments by economic sector (5.0), instead of average rated capacity for all shipments; and (6) add a FAX number to the information collected for the respondent contact. The form and instructions will be modified to show these changes.

## III. Request for Comments

Prospective respondents and other interested parties should comment on the actions discussed in item II. The following guidelines are provided to assist in the preparation of comments.

### General Issues

A. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency and does the information have practical utility? Practical utility is defined as the actual usefulness of information to or for an agency, taking into account its accuracy, adequacy, reliability, timeliness, and the agency’s ability to process the information it collects.

B. What enhancements can be made to the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?

### As a Potential Respondent to the Request for Information

A. What actions could be taken to help ensure and maximize the quality,

objectivity, utility, and integrity of the information to be collected?

B. Are the instructions and definitions clear and sufficient? If not, which instructions need clarification?

C. Can the information be submitted by the due date?

D. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to be an average 4.20 hours per response. The estimated burden includes the total time necessary to provide the requested information. In your opinion, how accurate is this estimate?

E. The agency estimates that the only cost to a respondent is for the time it will take to complete the collection. Will a respondent incur any start-up costs for reporting, or any recurring annual costs for operation, maintenance, and purchase of services associated with the information collection?

F. What additional actions could be taken to minimize the burden of this collection of information? Such actions may involve the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

G. Does any other Federal, State, or local agency collect similar information? If so, specify the agency, the data element(s), and the methods of collection.

### As a Potential User of the Information To Be Collected

A. What actions could be taken to help ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of the information disseminated?

B. Is the information useful at the levels of detail to be collected?

C. For what purpose(s) would the information be used? Be specific.

D. Are there alternate sources for the information and are they useful? If so, what are their weaknesses and/or strengths?

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of the form. They also will become a matter of public record.

**Statutory Authority:** Section 3507(h)(1) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104–13, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Issued in Washington, DC, April 26, 2006.

**Jay H. Casselberry,**

*Agency Clearance Officer, Energy Information Administration.*

[FR Doc. E6–6667 Filed 5–2–06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450–01–P**