

five years. This draft, revised management plan is intended to replace the NBNERR management plan approved in 2010.

DATES: Comments must be received at the appropriate address (see **ADDRESSES**) on or before January 2, 2025.

ADDRESSES: The draft revised management plan can be downloaded or viewed at: http://nbnerr.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/NBNERR_ManagementPlan_DRAFT_PublicComment.pdf. It is also available by sending a written request to the point of contact identified below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

You may submit comments by email to claudia.mazur@noaa.gov. Include "Comments on draft Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan" in the subject line of the message. NOAA will accept anonymous comments; however, the written comments NOAA receives are considered part of the public record, and the entirety of the comment, including the name of the commenter, email address, attachments, and other supporting materials, will be publicly accessible. Sensitive, personally identifiable information, such as account numbers and Social Security numbers, should not be included. Comments that are not related to the management plan for NBNERR, or that contain profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language, will not be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Claudia Mazur, claudia.mazur@noaa.gov, or Betsy Nicholson, betsy.nicholson@noaa.gov, (617-894-0197) of NOAA's Office for Coastal Management.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to 15 CFR 921.33(c), Rhode Island must revise the management plan for NBNERR at least every five years. If approved by NOAA, the revised management plan will replace the plan previously approved in 2010.

Management plans outline a reserve's strategic goals and objectives; administrative structure; programs for conducting research and monitoring, education, and training; resource protection, restoration, and manipulation plans; public access and visitor use plans; consideration for future land acquisition; and facility development to support reserve operations. In particular, this draft revised plan for NBNERR provides information on new staff positions and new staff hired, and describes the reserve's updated position within the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

Since the last management plan, NBNERR has secured a land acquisition and expanded its boundary. Additionally, the updated plan describes strategic goals and objectives and identifies topic areas where additional planning will be conducted to identify and develop new goals and objectives over the next five years. The revised management plan, once approved, would serve as the guiding document for the reserve for the next five years.

NOAA's Office for Coastal Management analyzes the environmental impacts of the proposed approval of this management plan in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*, and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508 (2022)). The public is invited to comment on the draft revised management plan. NOAA will take these comments into consideration when deciding whether to approve the revised management plan in whole or in part.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*; 15 CFR 921.33.

Keelin S. Kuipers,

Deputy Director, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2024-SCC-0111]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act State Plan Guide

AGENCY: Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing a revision of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before January 2, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be submitted within 30 days of

publication of this notice. Click on this link www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain to access the site. Find this information collection request (ICR) by selecting "Department of Education" under "Currently Under Review," then check the "Only Show ICR for Public Comment" checkbox. Reginfo.gov provides two links to view documents related to this information collection request. Information collection forms and instructions may be found by clicking on the "View Information Collection (IC) List" link. Supporting statements and other supporting documentation may be found by clicking on the "View Supporting Statement and Other Documents" link.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Braden Goetz, (202) 245-7405.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department 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: Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act State Plan Guide.

OMB Control Number: 1830-0029.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved ICR.

Respondents/Affected Public: State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 54.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 1,026.

Abstract: This information collection is used by the Department to request State Plans and annual revisions under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. We are proposing to revise the ICR to provide data specifications for the numerators and denominators used to calculate the law's performance indicators so that they are measured in a manner that is consistent with the statute, reduce the collection of potentially duplicative information, give States more time to report education and employment outcomes to improve the accuracy and completeness of these data, and to

improve the consistency of performance data reported by States.

Dated: November 26, 2024.

Juliana Pearson,

PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance, Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

[FR Doc. 2024–28204 Filed 11–29–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Record of Decision for the Long-Term Management and Storage of Elemental Mercury and Designation of a Long-Term Management and Storage Facility

AGENCY: Office of Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Record of decision and facility designation.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is issuing this Record of Decision (ROD) for the long-term management and storage of elemental mercury to meet the purpose and need for agency action, which is to fulfill DOE's statutory responsibility for long-term management and storage of elemental mercury generated within the United States as required by the *Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008* and the *Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act* (together referred to herein as MEBA).

ADDRESSES: For copies of this ROD/MEBA Designation or the Mercury Storage SEIS–II, please contact Timothy Herald at U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management, Office of Waste and Materials Management (EM–4.2), 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC, 20585 or via email, Timothy.Herald@em.doe.gov. Electronic files can be accessed at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/listings/records-decision-rod>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on the management and storage of elemental mercury, please contact Timothy Herald at Timothy.Herald@em.doe.gov or visit <https://www.energy.gov/em/long-term-management-and-storage-elemental-mercury>; by telephone: 240–243–8753. For general information on the Office of Environmental Management's *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (NEPA) process, please contact Bill Ostrum, NEPA Compliance Officer for the Office of Environmental Management, via email William.Ostrum@hq.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This ROD is issued for the *Long-Term Management and Storage of Elemental Mercury Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS–0423–S2) (Mercury Storage SEIS–II), which evaluates the storage of up to 7,000 metric tons (7,700 tons) of elemental mercury in one or more existing facilities at alternative locations including a government facility at the Hawthorne Army Depot near Hawthorne, Nevada, and seven commercial candidate locations: Waste Control Specialists, LLC (WCS) near Andrews, Texas; Bethlehem Apparatus Company in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; Perma-Fix Diversified Scientific Services, Inc., in Kingston, Tennessee; Veolia Environmental Services in Gum Springs, Arkansas; and Clean Harbors Environmental Services, with three alternative facilities in Pecatonica, Illinois; Greenbrier, Tennessee; and Tooele, Utah. This ROD announces DOE's decision to select WCS from its preferred alternative of selecting one or more of the existing commercial facilities evaluated in the SEIS–II. DOE is also issuing this document to designate a facility of the DOE for the long-term management and storage of elemental mercury generated within the United States in accordance with MEBA. In addition to the analysis in the Mercury Storage SEIS–II, DOE based its MEBA facility designation decision on a combination of factors including schedule, permitting, policy and technical considerations, as well as cost information (including information gained during an independent and competitive procurement process). DOE designates WCS as that facility in accordance with MEBA.

A. Background

The *Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008* (Pub. L. 110–414) and the 2016 *Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act* (Pub. L. 114–182) (together referred to herein as MEBA), address, among other things, the export and long-term management and storage of elemental mercury. MEBA prohibits the export of elemental mercury from the United States (U.S.) (with certain essential use exemptions). MEBA also directs the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to designate a facility or facilities of DOE for the long-term management and storage of elemental mercury generated within the U.S. (42 U.S.C. 6939f(a)(1)). MEBA further provides the Secretary of Energy with the authority to establish such terms, conditions, and procedures as are necessary to carry out this long-term management and storage function

(42 U.S.C. 6939f(f)). Consistent with these statutory provisions, and based on longstanding authorities and practice, DOE construes the term “facility of DOE” to include a facility leased from a commercial entity or another Federal agency over which DOE provides an appropriate level of responsibility and control.¹

The primary sources of elemental mercury in the United States include mercury generated as a byproduct of the gold-mining process and mercury reclaimed from recycling and waste-recovery activities. In addition, the DOE National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) stores at the Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee approximately 1,200 metric tons (1,300 tons) of elemental mercury that was acquired in support of NNSA's mission. As identified in the Mercury Storage SEIS–II, this NNSA elemental mercury is included in the SEIS–II (for analytical purposes), even though it is currently designated as a commodity and not waste.

In 2011, DOE prepared the *Final Long-Term Management and Storage of Elemental Mercury Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS–0423) (2011 Mercury Storage EIS) to evaluate seven candidate locations for a facility for management and storage of elemental mercury, as well as a No-Action Alternative. The locations included use of existing facilities, new facility construction, or both. The candidate locations evaluated in 2011 were the DOE Grand Junction Disposal site near Grand Junction, Colorado (new construction); DOE Hanford Site near Richland, Washington (new construction); Hawthorne Army Depot (HWAD) near Hawthorne, Nevada (modification of existing facilities); DOE Idaho National Laboratory near Idaho Falls, Idaho (new construction and modification of an existing facility); Kansas City Plant in Kansas City, Missouri (existing facility); DOE Savannah River Site near Aiken, South Carolina (new construction); and the Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS) site near Andrews, Texas (new construction and an existing facility).

In 2013, DOE prepared the *Final Long-Term Management and Storage of Elemental Mercury Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS–0423–S1) (2013 Mercury Storage SEIS) to evaluate three additional alternative locations, all in the vicinity of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near

¹ DOE has further analyzed the meaning of “facility or facilities of the [DOE]” in a memo entitled *The Meaning of “Facility or Facilities of the Department of Energy”* in the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008, in the Administrative Record.