ID number and title, by the following method:


Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, Docket ID number, and title for this Federal Register document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the internet at http://www.regulations.gov as they are received without change. Including any personal identifiers or contact information.

DOD Clearance Officer: Mr. Frederick Licari.
Requests for copies of the information collection proposal should be sent to Mr. Licari at whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@email.mil.
Aaron T. Siegel,
Alternate OSD Federal Register, Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

| BILLING CODE 5001–06–P |

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
[Docket No.: ED–2018–ICCD–0044]
Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2019 and 2020
AGENCY: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Department of Education (ED).
ACTION: Notice.
SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing a revision of an existing information collection.
DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before July 23, 2018.
ADDRESSES: To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use http://www.regulations.gov by selecting the Docket ID number ED–2018–ICCD–0044. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at http://www.regulations.gov 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, LB9, Room 206–06, Washington, DC 20202–4537.

For Further Information Contact: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Kashka Kubzdela, 202–245–7377 or email NCES.Information.Collections@ed.gov.

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: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2019 and 2020.
OMB Control Number: 1850–0928.
Type of Review: A revision of an existing information collection.
Respondents/Affected Public: Individuals or Households.
Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 712,888.
Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 379,934.
Abstract: The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), is a federal authorized survey of student achievement at grades 4, 8, and 12 in various subject areas, such as mathematics, reading, writing, science, U.S. history, civics, geography, economics, technology and engineering literacy (TEL), and the arts. The National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (Pub. L. 107–279 Title III, section 303) requires the assessment to collect data on specified student groups and characteristics, including information organized by race/ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, disability, and limited English proficiency. It requires fair and accurate presentation of achievement data and permits the collection of background, noncognitive, or descriptive information that is related to academic achievement and aids in fair reporting of results. The intent of the law is to provide representative sample data on student achievement for the nation, the states, and subpopulations of students and to monitor progress over time. The nature of NAEP is that burden alternates from a relatively low burden in national-level administration years to a substantial burden increase in state-level administration years when the sample has to allow for estimates for individual states and some of the large urban districts. The request to conduct NAEP 2017–2019 was approved in August 2016, with the latest change requests approved in March 2018 (OMB# 1850–0928 v.1–9). This request updates the scope, sampling, procedures, and materials to be used in NAEP in 2019 and 2020, including operational assessments, pilot tests, and special studies. The NAEP results will be reported to the public through the Nation’s Report Card as well as other online NAEP tools.
Dated: June 18, 2018.

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

| BILLING CODE 4000–01–P |

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Policy Statement Regarding Long-Term Authorizations To Export Natural Gas to Non-Free Trade Agreement Countries
AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, Department of Energy.
ACTION: Policy statement.
SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) stands behind the long-term authorizations it has issued under the Natural Gas Act, approving the export of natural gas (including liquefied natural gas) to countries that have signed free trade agreements (FTAs) with the United States. On September 21, 2018, DOE announced the issuance of a long-term FTA authorization to Dominion Energy. The Department is committed to ensuring that natural gas is a reliable, secure, affordable, and abundant energy source for our domestic and international customers. We believe that our policies and regulations support the nation's energy security and economic growth.
DOE/FE has never rescinded a long-term non-FTA export authorization for any reason. Further, DOE has no record of ever having vacated or rescinded an authorization to import or export natural gas over the objections of the authorization holder.12 DOE has rescinded (or “vacated”) one long-term LNG export authorization to FTA countries (see supra note 2)—DOE/FE Order No. 3482, issued to Louisiana LNG Energy LLC (LLNG) on August 28, 2014.13 DOE/FE vacated this order in 2017 on the basis of LLNG’s own prolonged inaction, after LLNG effectively self-terminated its proposed LNG export project.14 Specifically, LLNG: (i) Failed to participate in its ongoing FERC process, such that FERC terminated LLNG’s pre-filing review process;15 and (ii) failed to comply with its DOE/FE reporting obligations under the terms of its FTA order, for a period of more than 18 months.16 Throughout this 18-month time period, DOE/FE made repeated efforts to contact LLNG, with no success.17 Even after DOE/FE issued an Order to Show Cause—inviting LLNG to respond and explain the circumstances—LLNG took no action.18 The evidence clearly showed

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1 Id. (quoting Sabine Pass Liquefaction, LLC, DOE/FE Order No. 2961, at 33 n.45).
5 See Letter from Ann Miles, Director of FERC’s Office of Energy Projects, to Martin Houston, Chairman of LLNG, Re: Pre-Filing Review Termination of the Mississippi River LNG Project, FERC Docket No. PF14–17–000 (Dec. 13, 2016) (FERC observing that LLNG “has not filed the application needed for staff to continue the environmental review of [the] project”), cited in Louisiana LNG Energy LLC, DOE/FE Order No. 3482–A, at 3 n.9.
7 See id. at 3.
8 See Louisiana LNG Energy LLC, Order to Show Cause, at 5 (providing 30 days for LLNG to show
that LLNG neither wished to move forward with its proposed LNG export facility nor to maintain its FTA authorization.\textsuperscript{19} DOE/FE therefore vacated LLNG’s FTA authorization under NGA section 16, but it did so without prejudice to LLNG and without prejudice to LLNG, should LLNG wish to seek an export LNG authorization in the future.\textsuperscript{20}

The LLNG proceeding was a highly unusual scenario where all evidence indicated that the company was no longer pursuing its proposed LNG export project and had, in fact, ceased to exist as a commercial operation. In vacating LLNG’s FTA order without prejudice, DOE responded appropriately in both implementing its statutory authority under NGA section 16 and in upholding the integrity of its natural gas regulatory program under 10 CFR part 590.

II. DOE/FE Policy on Non-FTA Export Authorizations

Potential importers of U.S. LNG and financiers of LNG export projects (collectively, interested stakeholders) have expressed concern about DOE/FE rescinding one or more non-FTA export authorizations in the future. In raising this concern, they point to the language in the existing non-FTA authorizations (quoted above) in which DOE/FE has observed its authority under NGA section 16 to “make, amend, and rescind [export] orders . . . as it may find necessary or appropriate . . .” Citing DOE/FE’s language, they have asked what potential “developments” in the U.S. LNG market could rise to the level of “such significant consequence as to put the public interest at risk”—such that DOE would unilaterally rescind one or more non-FTA export authorizations or take other action to protect the public interest under NGA section 3(a).

As a preliminary matter, DOE/FE wishes to allay concerns about the security of existing (or future) non-FTA export authorizations. In this policy statement, DOE/FE affirms its commitment to all export authorizations issued under the NGA, including long-term authorizations approving the export of LNG to non-FTA countries. As indicated above, DOE/FE currently has issued 29 final non-FTA export authorizations, based on a thorough consideration of the public interest under section 3(a) of the NGA. In each of these proceedings, DOE/FE reviewed a substantial administrative record addressing factors including economic impacts, international impacts, security of natural gas supply, and environmental impacts, among others. In granting each application, DOE/FE concluded that exports of U.S. LNG will generate net economic benefits to the broader U.S. economy and will provide energy security and environmental benefits to the global community (including emerging economies presently reliant upon more carbon intensive fuels).\textsuperscript{21}

DOE/FE stands firmly behind these factual findings and legal conclusions—many of which have been challenged and upheld in federal court.\textsuperscript{22} Authorization holders, as well as any interested stakeholders, thus should have the utmost confidence in the validity of DOE/FE’s LNG export authorizations for the full term of each non-FTA order. Indeed, as noted above, DOE has never rescinded a non-FTA export authorization for any reason. DOE has vacated one FTA order under NGA section 16, but the circumstances of that proceeding were based solely on the inaction of the authorization holder.\textsuperscript{23}

As a matter of law, DOE preserves its authority to take action as necessary or appropriate to carry out its duties under the NGA.\textsuperscript{24} However, DOE does not foresee a scenario where it would rescind one or more non-FTA authorizations. The United States government takes very seriously the investment-backed expectations of private parties subject to its regulatory jurisdiction. In particular, DOE understands the far-ranging economic investments and natural gas supply commitments associated with these authorizations over their full term—affecting both U.S. and global interests. DOE emphasizes that it remains committed to the durability and stability of the export authorizations it has granted under the NGA, as well as to supporting the approved export of U.S. natural gas around the world.

\textsuperscript{19} See Louisiana LNG Energy LLC, DOE/FE Order No. 3482–A, at 3.
\textsuperscript{20} See Louisiana LNG Energy LLC, DOE/FE Order No. 3482–A, at 3–4.
\textsuperscript{21} Id. at 4 (also dismissing LLNG’s pending non-FTA application without prejudice).
\textsuperscript{22} See supra at 4–5.
\textsuperscript{23} 15 U.S.C. 717o.
\textsuperscript{24} See supra at 4–5.
\textsuperscript{25} See supra at 4–5.
\textsuperscript{26} See id. at 4 (also dismissing LLNG’s pending non-FTA application without prejudice).

\textsuperscript{15} See supra at 4–5.
\textsuperscript{24} 15 U.S.C. 717o.