

and design will be determined based on the technical requirements of the selected turbines, soils profile, depth, and site conditions. Typical foundations may include monopole, gravity based, suction caisson, or jacket structures. Scour protection in the form of prefabricated materials or clean stone may be placed at the base of the foundations.

b. *Transmission Lines:* Installation of up to 4 substations will be required in each lease to reduce the number of transmission lines to shore and reduce electricity loss. Offshore substations gather electricity from the rows of turbines through an inter-array of subsea cables and convert it into a higher voltage. Transforming power into a higher voltage allows for the installation of fewer export cables, more efficient transmission of power and minimizes power loss. The inter-array cables will be buried to a target depth of 3 feet and 18 inches wide, but will be dependent on the nature of the seabed. Connection between turbines and the substation platform is pre-installed j-tubes which protect the cable from the seabed to topside. To transfer the electricity to shore, up to 2 transmission lines per substation will be installed which connect the offshore substation to onshore electrical facilities. The dimension of the cables is in the range of 10 inches. However, for redundancy and safety issues, the transmission lines will be kept separate. Routing will be designed to minimize impacts to natural and cultural resources by following previously disturbed areas and areas devoid of vegetation, reefs, seagrasses, dunes and other valuable habitats. Scheduling of the work will also take into consideration minimization of impacts to marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, fisheries and other natural resources.

c. *Planning and Construction:* Prior to Construction, Baryonyx Corporation will conduct the necessary surveys and studies to describe and quantify natural resources. These studies will include geophysical geotechnical survey, delineation of aquatic habitats, and cultural resource surveys. Onshore construction and assembly will utilize existing port facilities. No new onshore or port facilities are anticipated to be constructed.

d. *Mitigation:* The Applicant proposes to avoid impacts to special aquatic sites and sensitive sea areas where practicable. No surface areas or wetlands are proposed to be filled at this time other than temporary side-cast material from trench construction. Horizontal drilling for burial of cables will be considered under unavoidable

wetlands, seagrass beds, reefs and dunes where practicable.

2. *Scoping and Public Involvement Process:* A Public Notice was published on June 15, 2011 to initiate the public scoping process for the proposed project. At that time, based on information provided by the Applicant, a preliminary review indicated that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was not required. However, based on continuing permit assessment and information brought forth during the initial coordination process, areas of potential significant impact on the human environment have been identified. Therefore, the EIS process is being implemented so that the permit application can be fully evaluated and a permit decision can be made. All comments received to date, including those provided for review during the Public Notice comment period, will be considered by the Galveston District during EIS preparation. The purpose of the EIS scoping meeting is to gather information on the subjects to be studied in detail by the EIS. In addition to the EIS, the Applicant has avoided and minimized impacts identified during the public notice comment period by removing the Mustang site, and its alternate, from consideration during this permit application. While the Applicant's minimization effort is designed to avoid potential impacts to the Padre Island National Seashore and Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, it is without prejudice to apply for these sites at another date.

3. *Purpose and Need.* The basic purpose of the proposed action is to construct a power generation facility. The overall purpose is to provide electrical generation capacity for current markets in Texas and potential sale in the wholesale market utilizing wind resources offshore. The Corps recognizes that there is a public and private need for additional power generation.

4. *Alternatives.* An evaluation of alternatives to the Applicant's preferred alternative initially being considered includes a No Action alternative, alternatives that would avoid, minimize and compensate for impacts to the aquatic environment within the project footprint, alternatives that would avoid, minimize and compensate for impacts to the aquatic environment outside of the footprint, alternatives utilizing alternative practices, and other reasonable alternatives that will be developed through the project scoping process which may also meet the identified purpose and need.

5. *Public Involvement.* The purpose of the public scoping process is to

determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis and EIS alternatives. General concerns in the following categories have been identified to date: potential direct effects to waters of the United States including wetlands; water quality; aquatic species; air quality; environmental justice; socioeconomic environment; archaeological and cultural resources; recreation and recreational resources; energy supply and natural resources; hazardous waste and materials; aesthetics; public health and safety; navigation; erosion and accretion; invasive species; cumulative impacts; public benefit and needs of the people along with potential effects on the human environment. All parties who express interest will be given an opportunity to participate in the process.

6. *Coordination.* The proposed action is being coordinated with a number of Federal, State, regional and local agencies including but not limited to the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas General Land Office, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

7. *Availability of the Draft EIS.* The Corps currently expects the Draft EIS to be made available to the public by December 2014. A State and Federal agency scoping meeting will be held at Holiday Inn Brownsville at 2 p.m. on March 28, 2012. A public scoping meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Brownsville on March 28, 2012 at 6 p.m. The Holiday Inn Brownsville is located at 3777 North Expressway, Brownsville, TX 78520. The Corps will announce the public scoping meeting through local news media and the Corps' Web page at <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/reg> at least 15 days prior to the first meeting.

Brenda S. Bowen,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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BILLING CODE 3720-58-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Equity and Excellence Commission Meeting

AGENCY: Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of An Open Meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of an upcoming meeting of the Equity and

Excellence Commission (Commission). The notice also describes the functions of the Commission. Notice of this meeting is required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and is intended to notify the public of their opportunity to attend.

DATES: March 29, 2012.

Time: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

ADDRESSES: The Commission will meet in Washington, DC at the United States Department of Education at 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20202, in Room 1W105/108.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Eichner, Designated Federal Official, Equity and Excellence Commission, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20202. Email: equitycommission@ed.gov. Telephone: (202) 453-5945.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 29, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, the Equity and Excellence Commission will hold an open meeting in Washington, DC at the United States Department of Education at 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20202, in Room 1W105/108.

The purpose of the Commission is to collect information, analyze issues, and obtain broad public input regarding how the Federal government can increase educational opportunity by improving school funding equity. The Commission will also make recommendations for restructuring school finance systems to achieve equity in the distribution of educational resources and further student performance, especially for the students at the lower end of the achievement gap. The Commission will examine the disparities in meaningful educational opportunities that give rise to the achievement gap, with a focus on systems of finance, and recommend appropriate ways in which Federal policies could address such disparities.

The agenda for the Commission's March 29, 2012 meeting will include reviewing and editing the Commission's final report. The Commission is also expected to discuss what materials will accompany the final report and the timing of the release of the final report. Due to time constraints, there will not be a public comment period, however, individuals wishing to provide comments related to the Commission may contact the Equity Commission via email at equitycommission@ed.gov. For comments related to the upcoming meeting, please submit comments no later than March 22, 2012.

Individuals interested in attending the meeting must register in advance, as meeting room seating may be limited. Please contact Jim Eichner at (202) 453-5945 or by email at equitycommission@ed.gov. Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the meeting (e.g., interpreting services, assistive listening devices, or materials in alternative format) should notify Jim Eichner at (202) 245-5945 no later than March 22, 2012. We will attempt to meet requests for accommodations after this date but cannot guarantee availability. The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Records are kept of all Commission proceedings and are available for public inspection at the Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20202 from the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Russlynn Ali,

Assistant Secretary, Office for Civil Rights.

[FR Doc. 2012-6189 Filed 3-13-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Proposed Agency Information Collection

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy, DOE.

ACTION: Notice and request for OMB review and comment.

SUMMARY: This notice corrects DOE's notice of January 26th, which incorrectly stated the Internet link for the collection instrument. The Department of Energy (DOE) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance, a proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The proposed collection will supersede the existing Form OE-781R, "Monthly Electricity Imports and Exports Report". The Form OE-781R is currently suspended and would be terminated with the implementation of the proposed Form EIA-111.

DATES: Comments regarding this collection must be received on or before April 13, 2012. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, please advise the DOE Desk Officer at OMB of your intention to make a submission as soon as possible. The Desk Officer may be telephoned at 202-395-4650.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to the: DOE Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10102, 735 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503, and to Michelle Bowles. To ensure receipt of the comments by the due date, email (eia-111@eia.gov) is recommended. The mailing address is the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Mail Stop: EI-23 (Form EIA-111), 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585. Alternatively, Ms. Bowles may be contacted by telephone at 202-586-2430 or via fax at (202) 287-1960.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of any forms and instructions (the draft proposed collection) should be directed to Michelle Bowles at the address listed above. Forms and instructions are also available on the Internet at: <http://www.eia.gov/survey/#oe-781r>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This information collection request contains: (1) OMB No.; (2) Information Collection Request Title; (3) Type of Request; (4) Purpose; (5) Annual Estimated Number of Respondents; (6) Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses; (7) Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours; (8) Annual Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden.

1. New.
2. Form EIA-111, Quarterly Electricity Imports and Exports Report.
3. Three-year approval.
4. Form EIA-111 collects U. S. electricity import and export data. The data are used to get an accurate measure of the flow of electricity into and out of the United States. The import and export data are reported by U.S. purchasers, sellers and transmitters of wholesale electricity, including persons authorized by Order to export electric energy from the United States to foreign countries, persons authorized by Presidential Permit to construct, operate, maintain, or connect electric power transmission lines that cross the U.S. international border, and U.S. Balancing Authorities that are directly interconnected with foreign Balancing Authorities. Such entities are to report monthly flows of electric energy received or delivered across the border, the cost associated with the transactions, and actual and implemented interchange. The data collected on this form may appear in various EIA publications.
5. 173 respondents surveyed quarterly.