

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket ID ED–2021–FSA–0005]

Privacy Act of 1974; Matching Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.
ACTION: Notice of a New Matching Program.

SUMMARY: This provides notice of the re-establishment of the matching program between the U.S. Department of Education (Department or ED) (recipient agency) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) (source agency). The purpose of the matching program is to assist the Department with verification of a veteran's status during the processing of applications for financial assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA).

DATES: Submit your comments on the proposed matching program on or before June 7, 2021.

The matching program will go into effect at the later of the following two dates: (1) July 3, 2021, or (2) 30 days after the publication of this notice, on May 6, 2021, unless comments have been received from interested members of the public requiring modification and replication of the notice. The matching program will continue for 18 months after the effective date and may be extended for an additional 12 months, if the respective Data Integrity Boards (DIBs) of ED and VA determine that the conditions specified in 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(2)(D) have been met.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. We will not accept comments submitted by fax or by email or those submitted after the comment period. To ensure that we do not receive duplicate copies, please submit your comments only once. In addition, please include the Docket ID at the top of your comments.

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov to submit your comments electronically. Information on using *Regulations.gov*, including instructions for accessing agency documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket, is available on the site under the "help" tab.

- *Postal Mail, Commercial Delivery, or Hand Delivery:* If you mail or deliver your comments about this proposed matching program, address them to: Gerard Duffey, Management and Program Analyst, Wanamaker Building, U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, 100 Penn Square East, Suite 509.B10, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Telephone: (215) 656–3249.

Privacy Note: The Department's policy is to make all comments received from members of the public available for public viewing in their entirety on the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. Therefore, commenters should be careful to include in their comments only information that they wish to make publicly available.

Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities in Reviewing the Rulemaking Record: On request we will provide an appropriate accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability who needs assistance to review the comments or other documents in the public record for this notice. If you want to schedule an appointment for this type of accommodation or auxiliary aid, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gerard Duffey, Management and Program Analyst, Wanamaker Building, U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid, 100 Penn Square East, Suite 509.B10, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Telephone: (215) 656–3249.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free at 1–800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We provide this notice in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a); Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Final Guidance Interpreting the Provisions of Public Law 100–503, the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, 54 FR 25818 (June 19, 1989); and OMB Circular No. A–108, 81 FR 94424 (December 23, 2016).

The prior notice of a new matching program was published in the **Federal Register** on December 4, 2018 (83 FR 62568). Under the provisions of the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, Public Law 100–503, 102 Stat. 2507, the Computer Matching Agreement (CMA) became effective on January 3, 2019, and was renewed for an additional 12 months to make it effective through July 2, 2021, because: (1) The matching program was conducted without change; and (2) each Data Integrity Board Chairperson certified in writing that the matching program was conducted in compliance with the CMA. ED and VA are now re-establishing the matching program through this notice.

Participating Agencies

ED and VA.

Authority for Conducting the Matching Program

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

Purpose(s)

The purpose of this matching program is to assist the Secretary of Education with verification of a veteran's status during the processing and review of applications for financial assistance under title IV of the HEA.

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)(1)(D) 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)(1)(D)).

Categories of Individuals

Individuals who have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and have indicated that they are a veteran.

Categories of Records

ED will provide to the VA the Social Security number, first and last name, and date of birth of each applicant for financial assistance under title IV of the HEA who indicates veteran status in his or her application.

System(s) of Records

ED system of records: Federal Student Aid Application File (18–11–01), which was most recently published in the **Federal Register** at 84 FR 57856 (October 29, 2019).

VA system of records: Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records—VA (58VA21/22/28), which was most recently published in the **Federal Register** at 84 FR 4138 (February 14, 2019).

Accessible Format: On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain

this document in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at www.govinfo.gov. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Mark Brown,

Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC21-22-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (Ferc-585); Comment Request; Extension

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the currently approved information collection, FERC-585, (Reporting of Electric Energy Shortages and Contingency Plans Under PURPA Section 206).

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due July 6, 2021.

ADDRESSES: You may submit copies of your comments (identified by Docket No. IC21-22-000) by one of the following methods:

Electronic filing through <http://www.ferc.gov>, is preferred.

- **Electronic Filing:** Documents must be filed in acceptable native applications and print-to-PDF, but not in scanned or picture format.

- For those unable to file electronically, comments may be filed by USPS mail or by hand (including courier) delivery:

✉ **Mail via U.S. Postal Service Only:**
Addressed to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

✉ **Hand (Including Courier) Delivery:**
Deliver to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852.

Instructions: All submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at: <http://www.ferc.gov>. For user assistance, contact FERC Online Support by email at ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov, or by phone at (866) 208-3676 (toll-free).

Docket: Users interested in receiving automatic notification of activity in this docket or in viewing/downloading comments and issuances in this docket may do so at <http://www.ferc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ellen Brown may be reached by email at DataClearance@FERC.gov, telephone at (202) 502-8663.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC-585 (Reporting of Electric Energy Shortages and Contingency Plans Under PURPA¹ Section 206).

OMB Control No.: 1902-0138.

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-585 information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: The Commission uses the information collected under the requirements of FERC-585 to implement the statutory provisions of Section 206 of PURPA. Section 206 of PURPA amended the Federal Power Act (FPA) by adding a new subsection (g) to section 202, under which the Commission, by rule, was to require each public utility to report to the Commission and any appropriate state regulatory authority:

- Any anticipated shortages of electric energy or capacity which would affect the utility's capability to serve its wholesale customers; and
- a contingency plan that would outline what circumstances might give rise to such occurrences.

¹PURPA = Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 95-617, 92 Stat. 3117), enacted 11/9/1978.

²Final Rule in Docket RM92-12-000, issued on 1/13/1995.

³Final Rule in Docket RM05-19-000, issued on 5/27/2005.

- In Order No. 5752, the Commission modified the reporting requirements in 18 CFR 294.101(b) to provide that, if a public utility includes in its rates schedule, provisions that during electric energy and capacity shortages:

✉ It will treat firm power wholesale customers without undue discrimination or preference; and

✉ it will report any modifications to its contingency plan for accommodating shortages within 15 days to the appropriate state regulatory agency and to the affected wholesale customers, then the utility need not file with the Commission an additional statement of contingency plan for accommodating such shortages.

This revision merely changed the reporting mechanism; the public utility's contingency plan would be located in its filed rate rather than in a separate document. In Order No. 6593, the Commission modified the reporting requirements in 18 CFR 294.101(e) to provide that public utilities must comply with the requirements to report shortages and anticipated shortages by submitting this information electronically using the Office of Electric Reliability's alert system at emergency@ferc.gov in lieu of submitting an original and two copies to the Secretary of the Commission. The Commission uses the information to evaluate and formulate an appropriate option for action in the event an unanticipated shortage is reported and/or materializes. Without this information, the Commission and State agencies would be unable to:

- Examine and approve or modify utility actions;
- prepare a response to anticipated disruptions in electric energy; and/or
- ensure equitable treatment of all public utility customers under the shortage situation.

The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR part 294.101.

Type of Respondents: Public Utilities.

Estimate of Annual Burden:⁴ The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden for the information collection as:

⁴"Burden" is defined as the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. For further explanation of what is included in the information collection burden, refer to 5 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.