

can also be submitted using the Pantex Plant EIS Faxline at 1-800-822-5499. Facsimiles should be marked: Pantex Plant EIS. Oral comments and requests concerning this EIS may also be submitted by calling the Pantex Plant EIS Hotline at 1-800-788-0306. Comments may also be submitted via the Internet. The e-mail address is: tetratrec@indirect.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on DOE's NEPA process, please contact: Ms. Carol Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20585, 202-586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756. For information on this EIS, please contact: Ms. Nanette Founds at the above address or by calling (505) 845-4351.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pantex Plant, near Amarillo, Texas, is the Nation's nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly site. Its assigned missions also include the fabrication of high explosive components and the maintenance, modification and evaluation of existing nuclear weapons. However, its current workload is centered on the dismantlement of nuclear weapons being retired from the military stockpile. There are currently no plans for producing new weapons. The preferred alternative is to maintain Pantex Plant's assigned missions as well as increase the plant's onsite interim storage levels from 12,000 to 20,000 pits. The Draft EIS also evaluates a No Action Alternative, which would continue current activities with no new projects or facility upgrades and limit onsite interim storage to 12,000 pits and a Relocation of Pit Storage Alternative, in which some or all of Pantex interim storage activities would be relocated to an alternate site: the Savannah River Site near Aiken, South Carolina; the Nevada Test Site near Las Vegas, Nevada; the Hanford Site near Richland, Washington; or the Manzano Weapons Storage Area at Kirtland Air Force Base near Albuquerque, New Mexico.

This Draft EIS incorporates public comments received during two scoping periods (59 FR 26635, May 23, 1994; 60 FR 32661, June 23, 1995). Copies of all comments and associated EIS documentation prepared by DOE are available for inspection at the following locations:

U.S. Department of Energy, Freedom of Information Reading Room, Room 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20825, 202-586-6020

U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office Public Reading Room,

2753 S. Highland Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109, 702-295-1274

U.S. Department of Energy, National Atomic Museum Public Reading Room, Kirtland Air Force Base, Building 20358, Wyoming Boulevard, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115, 505-845-6670/4378

Los Alamos National Laboratory, Community Reading Room, Museum Parke Office Complex, 1450 Central Avenue, Suite 101, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544, 505-665-2127 or 1-800-543-2342

U.S. Department of Energy, Public Document Room, 2nd Floor, University Library, University of South Carolina, Aiken Campus, 171 University Parkway, Aiken, South Carolina 29801, 803-648-6851

Oak Ridge Public Reading Room, 55 Jefferson Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830, 615-576-0887

U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room, Reference Department, Lynn Library and Learning Center, Amarillo College, 2201 South Washington, 4th Floor, Amarillo, Texas 79109, 806-371-5400

Pantex EIS Public Information Center, c/o Tetra Tech, Inc., 6900 I-40 West, Suite 260, Amarillo, Texas, 806-355-9480

U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room, Carson County Public Library, 401 Main Street, P.O. Box 339, Panhandle, Texas 79068, 806-537-3742

U.S. Department of Energy, Public Reading Room, Washington State University, 100 Sprout Road, Richland, Washington 99352, 509-376-8583

Subsequent Document Preparation

DOE intends to complete the Final EIS and prepare a response to comments received during the review of the Draft EIS in October 1996 and will announce its availability in the Federal Register.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 29, 1996.

Henry K. Garson,

Associate Deputy Assistant, Secretary for Core Technical Support and Facility Transition, Defense Programs.

[FR Doc. 96-8290 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements on Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials and Stockpile Stewardship and Management

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of additional public meeting session.

On March 8, 1996, the Department announced the availability of the Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Stockpile Stewardship and Management (61 FR 9443). In addition to the Washington, D.C. public meeting

scheduled for the morning of April 18, 1996 on the Draft EISs, the Department intends to provide an additional session on the afternoon of April 17, 1996 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Forrestal Building, Room 6E-069/081, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C.

To pre-register for this meeting (optional) and to obtain related information call 1-800-820-5134.

Issued in Washington, DC, April 1, 1996.

David B. LeClaire,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs.

Gregory P. Rudy,

Acting Director, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition.

[FR Doc. 96-8500 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Financial Assistance Award (GRANT)

AGENCY: U. S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Solicitation of Applications for Grant Awards for High-Energy Density and Laser-Matter Interaction Studies.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 10 CFR 600.15, the U. S. DOE announces that it plans to conduct a technically competitive solicitation for basic research experiments in high energy density and laser matter interaction studies at the National Laser Users' Facility (NLUF) located at the University of Rochester Laboratory for Laser Energetics (UR/LLE).

Grant Solicitation No. DE-PS03-96SF21040. Universities or other higher education institutions, private sector not-for-profit organizations, or other entities are invited to submit grant applications. The total amount of funding expected to be available for Fiscal Year 1997 (FY97) program cycle is \$700,000. Multiple awards are anticipated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Solomon, Contracting Officer, DOE Oakland Operations Office, 1301 Clay Street, Room 700N, Oakland, CA 94612-5208, Telephone No. (510) 637-1865.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The solicitation is targeted for release approximately April 19, 1996. The actual work to be accomplished will be determined by the experiments and diagnostic techniques that are selected for award. Proposed experiments and diagnostic techniques will be evaluated through scientific peer review against predetermined, published and available criteria. Final selection will be made by the DOE. It is anticipated that multiple

grants will be awarded within the available funding. The unique resources of the NLUF are available to scientists for state-of-the-art experiments primarily in the area of inertial confinement fusion (ICF) and related plasma physics. Other areas such as spectroscopy of highly ionized atoms, laboratory astrophysics, fundamental physics, material science, and biology and chemistry will be considered on a secondary basis.

The LLE was established in 1970 to investigate the interaction of high power lasers with matter. Available at the LLE for NLUF researchers is the upgraded OMEGA LASER, a 30 kJ UV 60 beam laser system (at 0.35 μm) suitable for direct-drive ICF implosions, and the Glass Development Laser (GDL), a 1 trillion watt, single beam prototype for the OMEGA (at 0.35 μm). The systems are suitable for a variety of experiments including laser-plasma interactions and atomic spectroscopy. The NLUF program for FY97 is to concentrate on experiments that can be done with the OMEGA laser at the University of Rochester and development of diagnostic techniques suitable for the OMEGA system.

Measurements of the laser coupling, laser-plasma interactions, core temperature, and core density are needed to determine the characteristics of the target implosions. Diagnostic techniques could include either new instrumentation, development of analysis tools, or development of targets that are applicable for 30 kJ implosions. Additional information about the facilities and potential collaboration at the NLUF can be obtained from: Dr. James Knauer, Manager, National Laser Users' Facility, University of Rochester/LLE, 250 East River Road, Rochester, NY 14623.

Issued in Oakland, CA, March 20, 1996.
Joan Macrusky,
Chief, Financial Assistance Branch, Program Acquisition and Assistance Division.
[FR Doc. 96-8499 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Office of Energy Research

Energy Research Financial Assistance Program Notice 96-13: Research in Photochemistry

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).
ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Basic Energy Sciences (BES) of the Office of Energy Research (ER), U.S. Department of Energy, hereby announces its interest in

receiving grant applications in support of the Photochemistry and Radiation Sciences program, as described in the recent workshop report entitled, "Research Opportunities in Photochemical Sciences".

DATES: Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a brief preapplication. All preapplications, referencing Program Notice 96-13, should be received not later than 4:30 PM, E.D.T., April 30, 1996. A response discussing the potential program relevance of a formal application generally will be communicated to the applicant within 15 days of receipt. The deadline for receipt of the formal applications is 4:30 PM, E.D.T., May 29, 1996, in order to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award in fiscal year 1996.

ADDRESSES: All preapplications, referencing Program Notice 96-13, should be sent to Dr. Silvia E. Ronco, Chemical Sciences Division, ER-141, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290.

After receiving notification from DOE concerning successful preapplications, applicants may prepare formal applications and send them to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Research, Grants and Contracts Division, ER-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290, Attn: Program Notice 96-13. The above address for formal applications also must be used when submitting formal applications by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail, any commercial mail delivery service, or when handcarried by the applicant.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Silvia E. Ronco, Chemical Sciences Division, ER-141, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290. Telephone: (301) 903-6891.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A workshop entitled "Research Opportunities in Photochemical Sciences", organized by the Office of Basic Energy Sciences, was held February 5-8, 1996 in Estes Park, Colorado. The purpose of that meeting was to provide a forum to discuss and highlight the importance and relevance of basic research in various facets of photochemistry and related scientific fields to present and future technologies. There is a report available to the scientific and energy technology community, which contains a Recommendations for Future Research

section via the Internet using the following E-mail address: <http://www.er.doe.gov/production/bes/chm/chmhome.html>. The Chemical Sciences Division interests are in the areas of Photochemistry. The Materials Sciences Division has continuing interest in photovoltaic materials and their materials chemistry.

The brief preapplication should consist of two to three pages of narrative describing the research objectives and methods of accomplishment. Telephone and FAX numbers are required parts of the preapplication, and electronic mail addresses are desirable.

It is anticipated that up to \$500,000 can be made available for grant awards during FY 1996, contingent upon availability of appropriated funds. The number of awards and the range of funding will depend on the number of applications received and selected for award. Multiple-year funding of grant awards is expected and is also contingent upon availability of funds. Renewal of the award for another term will be dependent upon success factors such as publications and peer-review of the renewal application. Applications will be subjected to formal merit review and will be evaluated against the following criteria which are listed in descending order of importance as set forth in 10 CFR Part 605:

1. Scientific and/or technical merit of the project;
2. Appropriateness of the proposed method or approach;
3. Competency of applicant's personnel and adequacy of proposed resources;
4. Reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget.

In fiscal year 1997, it is expected that funds will be available to support research in photochemistry, subject to fiscal year 1997 appropriations. Complete information about the photochemistry program may be obtained from either Dr. Silvia E. Ronco at the above address or from Dr. Mary E. Gress at the same address or at (301)903-5827. To be considered for possible fiscal 1997 funding, potential applicants may submit applications at any time after the May 29, 1996 due date set forth in this notice. The submission of brief preapplications prior to submitting formal applications is encouraged. Information about the development, submission, and the selection process, and other policies and procedures may be found in 10 CFR Part 605, and in the Application Guide for the Office of Energy Research Financial Assistance Program. The Application Guide is available from the U.S. Department of Energy, Chemical Sciences Division,