

private nonprofit institution with a commitment to community service; (2) has operated a comprehensive work-learning program for at least two years; (3) requires all resident students who reside on campus to participate in a comprehensive work-learning program and the provision of services as an integral part of the institution's educational program and as part of the institution's educational philosophy; and (4) provides students participating in the comprehensive work-learning program with the opportunity to contribute to their education and to the welfare of the community as a whole.

#### *Applicable Regulations*

The following regulations apply to the Work-Colleges Program:

- (1) Student Assistance General Provisions, 34 CFR Part 668.
- (2) Federal Work-Study Programs, 34 CFR Part 675.
- (3) Institutional Eligibility under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, 34 CFR Part 600.
- (4) New Restrictions on Lobbying, 34 CFR Part 82.
- (5) Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants), 34 CFR Part 85.
- (6) Drug-Free Schools and Campuses, 34 CFR Part 86.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Thomasine Riley, Work-Colleges Program, Institutional Financial Management Division, U.S. Department of Education, P.O. Box 23781, Washington, D.C. 20026-0781. Telephone (202) 708-9750. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 2756b.

Dated: March 19, 1997.

**David A. Longanecker,**

*Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.*

[FR Doc. 97-7500 Filed 3-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

#### **Notice of Closed Teleconference**

**AGENCY:** National Assessment Governing Board, Education.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming closed teleconference of the Nominations Committee of the National Assessment Governing Board. This notice also describes the functions of

the Board. Notice of this teleconference is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

**DATES:** March 28, 1997.

**TIME:** 1:00-3:00 p.m. (ET)

**LOCATION:** National Assessment Governing Board Staff Office, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite #825, Washington, D.C.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mary Ann Wilmer, Operations Officer, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20002-4233; Telephone: (202) 357-6938.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Assessment Governing Board is established under Section 412 of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994 (Title IV of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994), (Pub. L. 103-382).

The Board is established to formulate policy guidelines for the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The Board is responsible for selecting subject areas to be assessed, developing assessment objectives, identifying appropriate achievement goals for each grade and subject tested, and establishing standards and procedures for interstate and national comparisons.

The Nominations Committee of the National Assessment Governing Board will meet in closed teleconference on March 28, 1997, from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m., to review the resumes of nominees to fill upcoming Board membership vacancies in the following categories: State board of education; business or industry; general public; local board of education; testing and measurement experts; State legislators, republican; non public school administrator or policy maker.

The review and subsequent discussion of this information will touch upon matters that relate solely to the internal rules and practices of an agency and would disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if conducted in open session. Such matters are protected by exemptions (2) and (6) of Section 552b of of Title 5 U.S.C.

A summary of the activities of the meeting and related matters, which are informative to the public, consistent with policy of 5 U.S.C. 552b, will be available to the public within fourteen days after the meeting.

The public is being given less than fifteen days notice of this meeting to ensure a quorum of the members to accomplish the work necessary for

reporting the outcome of this responsibility of the Committee.

Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the U.S. Department of Education, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

**Roy Truby,**

*Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board.*

[FR Doc. 97-7397 Filed 3-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

##### **Office of Environment, Safety and Health**

##### **Notice of Availability of Funds and Request for Applications To Support Medical Surveillance for Former Department of Energy Workers**

**AGENCY:** Office of Environment, Safety and Health, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of funds and request for applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environment, Safety and Health (EH) announces the availability of additional funds to evaluate former workers whose employment at departmental facilities may have placed their long-term health at significant risk. This Notice of Availability of Funds and Request for Applications to Support Medical Surveillance for Former DOE Workers does not affect cooperative agreements awarded pursuant to a similar **Federal Register** announcement published on March 1, 1996. This new Notice is issued subsequent to the more general Continuation of Solicitation for Epidemiology and Other Health Studies Financial Assistance Program published in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 53903) on October 16, 1996.

**DATES:** Applications submitted in response to this announcement must be received by June 3, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for further information and application forms may be directed to Dr. John Peeters, Office of Occupational Medicine and Medical Surveillance (EH-61), Telephone: (301) 903-5902; facsimile: (301) 903-5072. Applications may be submitted to Dr. Peeters at the address listed above.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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## I. Purpose

Section 3162 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (Pub. L. 102-484) directs the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to develop a program of medical evaluation for current and former DOE workers at significant risk for health problems due to exposures to hazardous or radioactive substances during employment.

On March 1, 1996, the first "Notice of Availability of Funds and Request for Applications to Support Medical Surveillance for Former DOE Workers" was published in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 8047). In September 1996, six cooperative agreements were awarded to begin phase I projects at the following DOE sites: Hanford Site, Nevada Test Site, Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, and the Oak Ridge Reservation. At five of the sites, the project teams are focusing on a selected group or groups of former workers (e.g., production workers or construction workers). At the Rocky Flats Site, the project team is initially assessing all former workers.

This second Notice announces the availability of funds for up to three new projects to be funded through cooperative agreements. In particular, DOE is interested in applications that will help determine the potential need for medical surveillance for former workers at major DOE sites not included in the six phase I projects listed above. The new projects will identify, and, where appropriate, notify and medically screen groups of former workers who are potentially at significant risk for health problems due to work-related exposures.

Experience with all of these projects will help DOE to evaluate options for a possibly more comprehensive medical surveillance program for former workers and to determine how such a program may be integrated effectively with other ongoing site activities.

## II. Project Description

DOE intends to award up to three cooperative agreements with specific goals identical to the goals of the six ongoing projects. The goals of the projects are to:

- Identify groups of workers at significant risk for occupational diseases.
- Notify members of these risk groups.
- Offer these workers medical screening that can lead to medical interventions.

Each cooperative agreement will begin with an award for the first year for a phase I needs assessment. Under the same cooperative agreement, the project potentially could continue into phase II medical screening, if determined by DOE to be warranted.

Pursuant to this Notice, there will be up to three cooperative agreements awarded, totalling about \$1.5 million. The initial funding for each new cooperative agreement will be for a phase I needs assessment only. Phase I is expected to take approximately 12 months. Phase II, if warranted, will be funded through continuation awards under the same cooperative agreement. Phase II could continue up to 4 years, renewable annually. The award continuation for phase II, if made, will be based on the results from phase I, the availability of funds, and negotiation of the costs for phase II. Only those who participate in phase I will be eligible to participate in phase II.

## Phase I

During phase I, the awardees will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment. The needs assessment will include a review of existing site-specific information and other means to initially identify the most significant radiation and nonradiation exposures. During phase I, investigators will conduct the following tasks:

1. Identify existing information relevant to exposure and health outcomes among former workers;
2. Utilize this information to identify or develop viable methods for contacting these former workers;
3. Provide an initial determination of the most significant worker hazards, problems and concerns for each site;
4. Identify approaches for conducting the project in partnership with unions, site management, operating contractors, community representatives, and State and local health officials; and
5. Attend semiannual DOE-coordinated meetings of investigators to share information on ongoing needs assessments.

During phase I, investigators will develop a detailed plan and proposed budget for phase II focusing on the groups of workers determined to be at significant risk for adverse health effects during the needs assessment. The plan for phase II, and a draft of the needs assessment, is expected at least 60 days prior to the conclusion of phase I. Phase I will conclude with delivery of the final needs assessment to DOE.

## Phase II

DOE will determine the need for phase II activities based upon the phase I results and, if appropriate, will support these efforts through continuation awards. Where phase II plans are approved by DOE, the investigators will conduct the following tasks:

1. Identify and locate those former workers who based on the results of the phase I needs assessment are at significant risk of adverse health effects;
2. Ascertain the health concerns of former workers identified in task 1 related to their past DOE employment;
3. Communicate risk information to former workers regarding the nature of their health risk and discuss the actions that could be taken;
4. Provide medical screening to targeted former worker populations based on exposure history and the availability of acceptable screening tests;
5. Assist in the coordination of referrals, diagnostic workup, and followup treatment, including the coordination with workman's compensation and other existing insurance and benefits programs;
6. Ensure dialogue with local parties concerned with the project;
7. Evaluate former workers satisfaction with the project; and
8. Attend semiannual DOE-coordinated meetings of investigators to share information on ongoing screening programs.

## Potential Sites

A program policy factor for DOE is the determination of potential needs for medical surveillance for former workers at major DOE sites not included in the cooperative agreements awarded in September 1996.

Applicants for the cooperative agreements will propose individual (or alternative groups of) DOE sites for study and justify the technical factors used in site(s) selection. Such technical factors should include:

1. Presence of existing worker and community health programs;
2. Availability of information on former workers and their exposures;

3. Levels and types of exposures;
4. Number of former workers and access to them;
5. Concerns of workers about specific past exposures;
6. Concerns of DOE site managers and operating contractors about specific past exposures; and
7. Concerns of both national and local unions about past exposures.

### III. DOE's Policy on Protection of Human Subjects Reviews

DOE has codified the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects in 10 CFR part 745. As defined in this regulation, human subjects research may include a broad range of studies. DOE has determined that both phase I and phase II of the former worker medical surveillance program fall under the broad definition of human subjects research, and, accordingly, each phase requires Institutional Review Board (IRB) review and approval. Phase I activities will involve the review and possible collection of identifiable private information, either through records review or personal interviews. Therefore, IRB reviews are necessary to ensure adequate protection of privacy. Phase II, involving medical surveillance of former workers, including the handling of personal medical records, requires IRB review to ensure that all necessary protections are implemented.

It is the DOE's policy that each study involving DOE workers must be reviewed by the "local" DOE site institutional review board. "Local" IRB reviews will take place following award of the new cooperative agreements, and annually thereafter. Applicants also may have to comply with their own institution's requirements regarding review of human subjects research. Documentation of all reviews must be submitted to DOE prior to implementation of each phase.

### IV. Applications

This Notice of Availability is issued pursuant to DOE regulations contained in 10 CFR part 602: "Epidemiology and Other Health Studies Financial Assistance Program", as published in the **Federal Register** on January 31, 1995 (60 FR 5841). The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for 10 CFR part 602 is 81.108, and its solicitation control number is EOHSAFAP 10 CFR part 602. 10 CFR part 602 contains the specific requirements for applications, evaluation, and selection criteria. Only those applications following these specific criteria and forms will be considered. Application forms may be obtained at the address cited above.

### V. Proposal Format

The proposal shall contain two sections, technical and cost. Technical proposals shall be no more than fifty (50) pages in length; resumes of proposed key personnel should be submitted as an appendix to the technical proposal and will not be counted against the page limit. Cost proposals shall have no page limit. Because each project will be conducted in two phases, and the scope of phase II is dependent on the results of phase I, the technical description for phase II may be less specific than that for phase I, but must clearly demonstrate a capability to conduct phase II. It is left to the proposer to determine how best to structure the proposal. However, the following information shall be included:

- a. Proposals shall include a detailed project description that discusses the specific tasks to be performed under the proposed project. At a minimum, the tasks listed under section II above (Project Description) must be described (in detail for phase I tasks and more generally for phase II tasks). The project description must include clear statements of what is not known and what is uncertain, as well as statements of what is known. The project description must describe how independent, external peer review of the results of the project will be conducted. The project description must demonstrate that the offeror has the ability to integrate its work with the activities of other organizations conducting medical surveillance activities.

- b. Proposals must demonstrate the competency of research personnel and the adequacy of resources. Proposals must demonstrate that the offeror is perceived as neutral and credible, and is capable of conducting scientifically valid and responsible medical surveillance projects.

Proposals must demonstrate that the offeror has the experience and capability to plan, organize, manage, and facilitate worker and union participation in planning and execution. Proposals must also demonstrate that the offeror has the experience and ability to effectively communicate complicated scientific information on potential risks and uncertainties to workers, local and national stakeholders, concerned citizens, and decision makers at all levels. Proposals must demonstrate that the offeror presently has or is capable of obtaining staff with the training, expertise, and experience needed to conduct scientifically complex needs assessments and medical surveillance

programs. Proposals must identify the technical and scientific staff that will actually conduct the studies and detail their professional experience, as well as their level of program involvement. Proposals must demonstrate that the offeror has capability, for both financial and scientific management, and a demonstrated skill in planning and scheduling projects of comparable magnitude to those proposed under this Notice.

- c. The cost proposal for phase I must include a summary breakdown of all costs, and provide a detailed breakdown of costs on a task-by-task basis for each task contained in the project description. Costs for phase II tasks may be more general estimates since the initial award will be for phase I only. Any expectation concerning cost sharing must be clearly stated. Cost sharing is encouraged, but it will not be considered in the selection process.

- d. The cost proposal for phase I shall include an estimate of the costs of copying, filming, scanning, or abstracting data needed for the project, charges associated with site computer programming, and any additional support not routinely provided by DOE (see Section VII, DOE's Role). This amount should be included in the proposed budget for phase I.

### VI. Application Evaluation and Selection

Applications will be subjected to formal merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following criteria listed in descending order of importance and codified at 10 CFR 602.9(d):

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

Applications will be peer reviewed by evaluators apart from DOE employees and contractors as described in the Office of Environment, Safety and Health's Merit Review System (57 FR 55524, November 25, 1992) and at 10 CFR 602.9(c). Submission of an application constitutes agreement that this is acceptable to the investigator(s) and the submitting institution.

In accordance with 10 CFR 602.9(e), DOE shall also consider, as part of its evaluation, program policy factors such as an appropriate balance among sites for efforts to target former workers potentially in need of medical surveillance. As noted above in section

II (Project Description, Potential Sites), a program policy factor for DOE is the determination of potential needs for medical surveillance for former workers at major DOE sites not included in the cooperative agreements awarded in September 1996.

## VII. DOE's Role

In order for DOE to utilize cooperative agreements for these medical surveillance projects, there must be substantial involvement between DOE and any awardee(s). DOE established the core tasks for these projects and prepared this **Federal Register** Notice of Availability. DOE will conduct the selection and award process, which will include evaluations by persons outside the Federal government. DOE will evaluate the results of phase I and, where warranted, authorize and fund phase II. DOE will facilitate awardee access to the target sites and help familiarize investigators with the facility and historical operations. DOE will facilitate access to exposure records, including the identification and retrieval of records relating to DOE activities, and declassification of records, as needed. DOE will establish requirements for data collection and handling. DOE will consult with project investigators and coordinate semiannual meetings. DOE will interact with an independent advisory group that will provide advice to DOE and to project investigators. Finally, DOE will monitor and evaluate the results of the projects, including the participant's level of satisfaction, to determine how these projects could be expanded to other groups of former workers both at the project sites and at other DOE sites. In addition to helping former workers, information gained from these projects will contribute to DOE's ongoing efforts to improve health and safety programs for current workers.

## VIII. Applicants

Applicants for the cooperative agreements could include domestic nonprofit and for profit organizations, universities, medical centers, research institutions, other public and private organizations, including State and local governments, labor unions and other employee representative groups, and small, minority and/or women-owned businesses. Consortia of interested organizations are encouraged to apply. Awardees for each project will work cooperatively with former workers, DOE site officials, DOE operating contractors, labor organizations, health officials, and designated community representatives.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on March 14, 1997.

**Paul J. Seligman,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Studies.*

[FR Doc. 97-7470 Filed 3-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## Mobile Systems Certification Program

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy (DOE), Albuquerque Operations Office (AL).

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to issue competitive solicitation.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy, Albuquerque Operations Office, announces its intent to issue a competitive Federal Financial Assistance (FFA) Solicitation Number 97AL77459 under DOE Financial Assistance Rules, 10 CFR 600.8, for Mobile Systems Certification Program participation. This solicitation is to assist in the certification of Recipients to perform Contact-Handled (CH) Transuranic (TRU) Waste Management Activities at DOE's Waste Generator/Storage Sites and Small Quantity Sites located throughout the United States, through the use of the Recipient's Mobile Systems.

**DATES AND ADDRESSES:** DOE plans to issue FFA Solicitation Number 97AL77459 on or about April 15, 1997. A copy of the solicitation can be obtained after April 15, 1997, by contacting Mr. Lowther at the address, telephone, fax number, or E-Mail address below. Companies who have previously received a copy of or responded to DOE AL Draft Request For Proposal No. DE-RP04-97AL77459 entitled "Mobile CH TRU Waste Management Services" are currently on the mailing list and will be furnished a copy of this FFA Solicitation No. 97AL77459. *Applications will be due June 12, 1997.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** U.S. Department of Energy, Albuquerque Operations Office, PO. Box 5400, Albuquerque, NM 87185-5400, Attn: Mr. Robert D. Lowther, Contracts and Procurement Division, Telephone Number: (505) 845-6839, Fax Number: (505) 845-4004, E-Mail Address: rlowther@doeal.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The DOE plans to issue a Federal Assistance Solicitation for Cooperative Agreement Proposals (FASCAP) on or about April 15, 1997. The objective of this solicitation is to (1) stimulate the market place by having Recipients, who possess or can develop Mobile Systems (equipment which can be attached to trailers and transported to sites around the country) technology and capability,

apply for federal financial assistance to seek DOE's review and certification of the Recipient's procedures, policies, and processes, and, (2) to evaluate the Recipients' capabilities and equipment through participation in DOE performance demonstration programs and certification audits.

A maximum of three applicants will be awarded a cooperative agreement. The estimated DOE funding for this Mobile Systems Certification Program is \$900,000, to be shared equally among the selected applicants. The DOE funding is restricted to developing procedures and its associated quality assurance plans, and for participating in performance demonstration programs and audits. The DOE funding cannot be used to purchase or develop Mobile Systems equipment. Recipient cost sharing (non-federal) is highly encouraged. The DOE Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) will administer the cooperative agreements, which will have a project period of approximately six months with an August 1997 planned award date.

## Background

Approximately 102,000 cubic meters (contained in various size drums or boxes) of retrievably stored, CH TRU waste and mixed TRU waste, is in inventory at numerous sites around the country. In addition, an estimated 38,000 cubic meters of TRU waste will be generated in the course of continuing DOE operations. All stored and to-be-generated defense TRU waste is destined for permanent disposal in the DOE Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) located near Carlsbad, New Mexico. WIPP is scheduled to open in November 1997, pending receipt of regulatory approvals from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of New Mexico.

In order to ship TRU waste to WIPP, sites must certify that the waste meets WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC). Waste certification involves the physical characterization combined with the appropriate quality assurance documentation (records, audits, etc.) to demonstrate that the waste complies with the standards for disposal at WIPP. The waste must go through physical characterization performed in accordance with the Transuranic Waste Characterization Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) on a waste stream basis and per container basis to determine the chemical, radiological, and physical attributes of the waste. Waste containers that do not meet the acceptance criteria outlined in WIPP WAC will need further processing, including repackaging for shipment in