

address: Mr. Peter A. McCabe, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC 20202, Telephone (202) 205-9567. Note: The Education Department should only be contacted on matters related to Institutional status; questions regarding the Program Solicitation should be directed to Mr. Columbia at DOE by telefacsimile on (412) 892-6216.

Applications from HBCU/OMI-affiliated research institutes must be submitted through the college or university with which they are affiliated. The university (*not* the university-affiliated research institute) will be the recipient of any resultant DOE grant award. Applications submitted in response to the solicitation must meet the following two criteria: the Principal Investigator or a Co-Principal Investigator must be a teaching professor at the submitting university listed in the application; *and* a minimum of 30% of personnel time invoiced under the grant is to pay for student assistance for each year of the grant. Although it is not required as an application qualification criterion, collaboration with the private sector is encouraged, and applications proposing private sector collaboration may be evaluated more favorably. The solicitation will contain a complete description of the technical evaluation factors and relative importance of each factor. Collaboration by the private sector with the HBCU/OMI may be in the form of cash cost sharing, consultation, HBCU/OMI access to industrial facilities or equipment, experimental data and/or equipment not available at the university, or as a subgrantee/subcontractor to the HBCU/OMI.

Areas of Interest

In order to develop and sustain a national program of HBCU/OMI research in advanced and fundamental fossil fuel studies, the Department is interested in innovative research and development of advanced concepts pertinent to fossil fuel conversion and utilization limited to the following seven (7) technical topics:

- Topic 1—Advanced Environmental Control Technologies for Coal
- Topic 2—Advanced Coal Utilization
- Topic 3—Coal Liquefaction Technology
- Topic 4—Heavy Oil Upgrading and Processing
- Topic 5—Advanced Recovery, Completion/Stimulation, and Geoscience Technologies for Oil
- Topic 6—Natural Gas Supply, Storage, and Processing
- Topic 7—Faculty/Student Exploratory Research Training Grants

Note: Technical Topic No. 7, *Faculty/Student Exploratory Research Training Grants*, is the *only* topic under this Program Solicitation wherein the inclusion or exclusion of private sector collaboration will not affect the technical evaluation of the application.

Awards

DOE anticipates issuing financial assistance (grants) for each project selected. DOE reserves the right to support or not support, with or without discussions, any or all applications received in whole or in part, and to determine how many awards may be made through the solicitation subject to funds available in this fiscal year. The limitation on the maximum DOE funding for each selected grant to be awarded under this Program Solicitation is as follows:

Topics 1-6	Maximum award
To 12 months grant duration	\$85,000.00
13-24 months grant duration	150,000.00
25-36 months grant duration	200,000.00
Topic 7	Maximum award
To 12 months grant duration	\$20,000.00

Approximately \$850,000 is planned for this solicitation. The total should provide support for four to eight R&D application selections (Topics 1-6), and approximately two to twelve faculty/student exploratory research training application selections (Topic 7).

Solicitation Release Date

The Program Solicitation is expected to be ready for release on or about November 30, 1998. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions and forms contained in the Program Solicitation. To be eligible, applications must be Received by the designated DOE office by the closing time and date specified in the Program Solicitation (anticipated to be on or about January 20, 1999, at 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time).

Dale A. Siciliano,

Contracting Officer, Acquisition and Assistance Division.

[FR Doc. 98-32457 Filed 12-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Technology Center; Solicitation for Cooperative Agreement Proposal (SCAP); Research Titled: Early Entrance Coproduction Plant

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Federal Energy Technology Center.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation.

SUMMARY: On or about January 22, 1999, The U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Technology Center, plans to issue a Solicitation for Cooperative Agreement Proposal (SCAP) No. DE-SC26-99FT40040 for the solicitation of applications in support of research and development entitled "Early Entrance Coproduction Plant." Authority for this action is the DOE Organization Act Public Law 95-91 and the DOE Financial Assistance Regulations 10 CFR Part 600. DOE anticipates multiple awards with a project duration of approximately five years. DOE plans to make available funds totaling \$30,000,000 over the project duration; a minimum cost share of 20 percent for the concept definition and RD&T planning, 35 percent for research, development, and testing; and 50 percent for the preliminary EECP design is required.

DATES: Proposals are due 60 days after release of solicitation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Crystal A. Sharp, IO7, Internet address: csharp@fetc.doe.gov, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Technology Center, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, West Virginia 26507-0880, Telephone (304) 285-4442, Procurement Request No. 26-99FT40040.000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The objective of this effort is to determine the feasibility of an EECP located at a specific site which produces fuels or chemicals in combination with electric power from synthesis gas derived from coal, or, coal in combination with some other carbonaceous feedstock. The project will consist of three budget periods: Budget Period 1—Concept Definition and RD&T Planning; Budget Period 2—Research, Development and Testing; and Budget Period 3—EECP Engineering Design. Efforts in Budget Period 1 (estimated at 1.5 years), are to focus on performing the necessary feasibility analyses and initial project definition to better define the proposed concept. Budget Period 2 (estimated at 2 years), efforts are to focus on research development and testing of components and subsystems. Budget Period 3 (estimated at 1 year), efforts are to focus

on completion of the EECF engineering design. An Information Package describing the draft technical requirements is currently available on FETC's Homepage at <http://www.fetc.doe.gov/business/solicit/>. Offerors and interested parties are encouraged to provide comments, suggestions, and/or questions regarding the information package. DOE plans to post the solicitation on FETC's Homepage in late January 1999. Again, FETC Homepage address is <http://www.fetc.doe.gov/business/solicit/>. Offerors and other interested parties are encouraged to download the solicitation once it becomes available, as paper copies will not be distributed. Any amendments to the solicitation will also be posted on the FETC Homepage. Electronic WordPerfect version 6.1 copies of the solicitation may be obtained by submitting a written request to the address provided above. Telephone requests will not be honored.

Dated: November 24, 1998.

Randolph L. Kesling,

Acquisition and Assistance Division, Federal Energy Technology Center.

[FR Doc. 98-32456 Filed 12-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC99-717-000; FERC-717]

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

December 1, 1998.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

DATES: Consideration will be given to comments submitted on or before February 5, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from and written comments may be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Attn: Michael Miller, Office of the Chief Information Officer, CI-1, 888 First Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at (202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at michael.miller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collected under the requirements of FERC-717 "Open Access Same Time Information System" (OMB No. 1902-0173) is used by the Commission to carry out the general authority in Sections 309 and 311 of the Federal Power Act 1978 (FPA) (16 U.S.C. 825h and 825j). On April 24, 1996, the Commission issued two separate but interrelated final rules. The first rule, Order No. 888, required that all public utilities that own, control or operate facilities used for transmitting electric energy in interstate commerce to have on file open access non-discriminatory transmission tariffs that contain minimum terms and conditions

of non-discriminatory service. The second rule and the subject of this collection of information, Order No. 889, required utilities to establish electronic systems to share information about available transmission capacity. Under this rule, each public utility (or its agent) that owns, controls, or operates transmission facilities must create or participate in an Open Access Same-Time Information System (OASIS) that provides open access transmission customers (current and potential) with electronic information about transmission capacity, prices, and other information necessary to obtain open access nondiscriminatory transmission services. The rule also established standards of conduct to ensure that a public utility's employees engaged in a transmission operations function independently of those employees engaged in wholesale purchases and sales of electric energy in interstate commerce. In addition, specifics with respect to various standards and protocols were identified to ensure that the OASIS system presents information in a consistent and uniform manner (these have been subject to additional changes as it has become necessary). The compliance with these requirements is mandatory. The reporting requirements are found at 18 CFR Part 37.

Action: The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date, with no changes to the existing collection of data.

Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

Number of respondents annually (1)	Number of responses per respondent (2)	Average burden hours per response (3)	Total annual burden hours (1) x (2) x (3)
140	1	1,418	198,520

The estimated total cost to respondents is \$21,157,500.

In the Commission's initial submission to OMB it included an estimate of the annualized Capital/Startup costs necessary for setting out a world wide web site on the Internet. However, nearly three years have passed since that initial estimate and OASIS is now in full operation. Therefore the Commission will only consider costs for the continued operation of OASIS. (Operations and Maintenance costs include the use of staff to maintain the web site plus human resources

necessary for developing and handling data for OASIS. The Commission has assumed that 4.5 personnel are necessary for staffing and using a total personnel cost of \$109,889, the result is \$494,501. To get the total cost, add annual ongoing costs of \$110,000 plus staffing costs for a total of \$604,501 divided by 4 = \$151,125. The estimated total cost of the OASIS requirement is 140 respondents x \$151,125 or \$21,157,500.

The reporting burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain,

disclose, or provide the information including: (1) Reviewing instructions; (2) developing, acquiring, installing, and utilizing technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, verifying, processing, maintaining, disclosing and providing information; (3) adjusting the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; (4) training personnel to respond to a collection of information; (5) searching data sources; (6) completing and reviewing the collection of information;