

FORMAT VERSION OF THE SOLICITATION.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This solicitation supports two of the 1998 Comprehensive National Energy Strategy (CNES) goals, which are (1) to ensure against energy disruptions and (2) to promote energy production and use in ways that reflect human health and environmental values. The focus is to reduce U. S. vulnerability to supply disruptions by expanding the domestic oil supply. Petroleum reservoirs have been classified based on the geology of the reserve and the environment of deposition. Depositional environments of the fluvial dominated deltaic type (Class I), shallow shelf carbonates (Class II), and slope and basin clastics (Class III), support these goals because they contain 50% of the domestic remaining oil in place. Further background material is given in the DOE Oil and Gas R & D Programs (DOE/FE-0359, March 1997) document. The strategy targets three groups of depositionally similar reservoirs based on the premise that demonstrated methodologies and technologies that overcome specific producibility problems in representative reservoirs have a higher probability of being applicable to other members of that same class than to non-class reservoirs. This solicitation addresses program goals of preserving access to reservoirs with high potential for increased productivity. These goals will be accomplished by conducting technology transfer activities that motivate operators to identify producibility problems and apply underutilized technologies to overcome these problems.

These reservoirs represent the higher priority reservoir classes. An assessment of about 2000 domestic reservoirs in the Total Oil Recovery Information System (TORIS) showed these classes to have a large volume of remaining oil, a large potential for additional recovery using conventional recovery technologies, and a high risk of abandonment of the resource in the next five years.

Advanced recovery technologies represent a significant improvement in process effectiveness (i.e., greater sweep efficiencies, improved economics, or evaluation techniques) or applicability over currently available technologies or represent a new or innovative technology not successfully demonstrated in the field.

Advanced technologies, as defined in this PON, include advanced reservoir characterization techniques, advanced recovery technologies and advanced reservoir management techniques. The understanding of the interaction of the

reservoir architecture is essential to these advanced technologies. These technologies should not have been previously addressed in the same region and reservoir class. DOE discourages repeating the same suite of technologies in the same plays as the previous class programs.

Some examples of advanced technologies or some combination of technologies are:

Advanced Reservoir Characterization Technologies or Tools:

- New geophysical imaging or interpretation techniques.
- Three-dimensional simulation.
- Advanced or high resolution 3-D seismic.
- Geochemical techniques.
- Advanced well and tracer tests.
- Advanced logging techniques such as borehole imaging or permeability logging.

Advanced Recovery Technologies:

- Mobility control agents.
- Steam processes.
- Gas processes.
- Horizontal & lateral(s) (radial) wells.
- Miscible solvents.
- Chemical processes.
- In-situ combustion.

Advanced Reservoir Management Techniques

- Reservoir modeling/simulation.
- Fracture stimulation.
- New geostatistical methodologies.
- Novel or innovative recompletions.
- Injection strategies and pressure maintenance.
- Material balance decline curve techniques.

Note: Pure tool development is excluded under this solicitation.

DOE currently has available \$8.3 million for this Program Opportunity Notice (PON) and intends to bring total DOE support to \$18 million for this solicitation. Projects must include: reservoir characterization (Budget Period 1), demonstration/field activities (Budget Period 2), continued project monitoring activities (Budget Period 3); moreover, technology transfer should be a major component of all Budget Period activities and should aim to motivate operators toward broader application of cost-effective technologies/methodologies. It is anticipated that between 10-20 cost-shared awards, with a *total* project value estimated at \$1.5 million to \$10.0 million each (i.e., DOE share of project costs estimated at between \$500K-\$3,000K), will be made under this solicitation. The proposer

must cost share at least 55 percent of the total allowable cost of Budget Period 1 for reservoir characterization, at least 65 percent of the total allowable cost of Budget Period 2 for the demonstration phase, and at least 90 percent of the total allowable cost of Budget Period 3 for continued project monitoring activities. Each project is expected to have a period of performance of approximately five (5) to six (6) years.

Issued in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on December 2, 1998.

Dale A. Siciliano,

Contracting Officer, Acquisition and Assistance Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice Inviting Financial Assistance Applications

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

ACTION: Notice of Restricted Eligibility.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy announces that it intends to conduct a competitive Program Solicitation and award financial assistance (cooperative agreements) to small independent oil production operators, operating on shore in the lower contiguous 48 states. Small independent oil-producing operators are defined as companies employing less than 50 full time employees; and those having no affiliation with a major oil or gas producer (domestic or foreign). The program seeks solutions to oil production problems. Applications will be subjected to a review by a DOE technical panel, and awards will be made to a limited number of applicants based on a scientific and engineering evaluation of the responses received to determine the relative merit of the approach taken in response to this offering by the DOE, and funding availability.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Beth Pearse, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Technology Center, Acquisition and Assistance Division, P.O. Box 10940, MS 921-143, Pittsburgh PA 15236-0940, Telephone: (412) 892-4949, FAX: (412) 892-6216, E-mail: pearse@fetc.doe.gov. The solicitation (available in both Word 97 and Portable Document Format (PDF)) will be released on DOE's FETC World Wide Web Server Internet System (<http://www.fetc.doe.gov/business/solicit>) on or about December 15, 1998.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

Title of Solicitation: "Research and Development with Small Independent Oil Operators".

Objectives: Through Program Solicitation No. DE-PSS26-99FT15146, The Department of Energy seeks applications from small independent oil producing operators for research and development, advocating solutions for production problems experienced by small independent oil producers.

Eligibility: Eligibility for participation in this Program Solicitation is restricted to small independent oil producing operators. The solicitation will contain a complete description of the technical evaluation factors and relative importance of each factor.

Areas of Interest: The Department is interested in innovative field technologies which increase production, reduce operating costs, reduce environmental concerns, or combinations thereof.

Awards: DOE anticipates issuing financial assistance (cooperative agreements) 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 and the first quarter of fiscal year 2000. Approximately \$600,000 is planned for this solicitation. The estimated funding or cost sharing by the DOE is \$75,000 per award, or less. Cost sharing by the applicant is to be not less than 50% of the total proposed amount, which may consist of in-kind contributions.

Solicitation Release Date: The Program Solicitation is expected to be ready for release on or about December 15, 1998. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions and forms contained in the Program Solicitation. To be eligible, the designated DOE office must RECEIVE applications by the closing time and date specified in the Program Solicitation (anticipated to be on or about December 31, 1999, at 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time).

Richard D. Rogus,

Contracting Officer, Acquisition and Assistance Division.

[FR Doc. 98-32995 Filed 12-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Planning Guidance for Contractor Work Force Restructuring

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of final planning guidance.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy publishes Final Planning Guidance that it has issued to its field organizations, which are responsible for planning and implementing contractor work force restructuring at defense nuclear facilities and other Department of Energy facilities. The Final Planning Guidance supercedes interim guidance published for comment in the **Federal Register** on March 5, 1996.

DATES: The changes made by the Final Planning Guidance will take effect January 11, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terence L. Freese, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Worker and Community Transition, WT-1, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585; phone: 202-586-5907.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (AEA), the Department of Energy (DOE) owns defense nuclear facilities in various locations in the United States. These facilities are operated for DOE by management and operating contractors. As a result of the end of the Cold War, many DOE defense nuclear facilities are undergoing work force downsizing and restructuring as the result of changes in the activities at these facilities.

Section 3161 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993, 42 U.S.C. 7274h, requires DOE to develop a site-specific plan for restructuring the work force at any defense nuclear facility where DOE determines that a change in the work force is necessary. Defense nuclear facilities within the meaning of section 3161 include (1) facilities conducting atomic energy defense activities involving the production or utilization of special nuclear material, (2) nuclear waste storage or disposal facilities, (3) testing and assembly facilities, and (4) atomic weapons research facilities. The actual execution of any work force restructuring plan is subject to the availability of funds for that purpose.

On March 5, 1996, DOE published a notice of Interim Planning Guidance in the **Federal Register** and invited comments from stakeholders and the general public (61 FR 8593). The Interim Planning Guidance set forth procedures and policies for coordinating work force restructuring activities by DOE field organizations, pursuant to section 3161 and the DOE's broad authority under the AEA (42 U.S.C. 161(i)(3) and 2201(p)) to

develop generally applicable policies covering all aspects of defense nuclear facilities. The Interim Planning Guidance was preceded by use of preliminary guidance and extensive consultation with various stakeholders, including DOE and DOE contractor employees, representatives of bargaining units of employees, interested Federal, State and local government agencies, educational institutions, and groups in the communities that would be affected by restructuring at DOE defense nuclear facilities.

DOE received written comments covering fifty issues from twelve commenters on the Interim Planning Guidance. These commenters included DOE employees, DOE contractors and contractor unions. DOE also sought comments on the Interim Planning Guidance at a national stakeholder meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 13-15, 1996. In response to concerns raised with respect to the process for reviewing and approving work force restructuring plans from DOE field organizations and other stakeholders, a team of DOE Headquarters and field organization representatives developed recommendations for streamlining the process for plan review and providing additional flexibility for development of such plans. Comments on subsequent revised drafts of the guidance based on these comments and recommendations were sought at national stakeholder meetings in Oakland, California, on April 9-11, 1997, and Alexandria, Virginia, on June 17-18, 1998.

II. Discussion of Stakeholder Comments and Final Planning Guidance

The Final Planning Guidance is intended to streamline the process for review and approval of work force restructuring plans, and to provide increased flexibility for defense sites to meet the objectives of section 3161 consistent with changing missions, new contract mechanisms and business efficiencies. In addition, this document also reflects revised Congressional direction with respect to funding limitations for enhanced benefits under section 3161. Separate guidance on implementing this Congressional direction was provided to field organizations by the Office of Worker and Community Transition on March 2, 1998.

The Final Planning Guidance calls on each defense nuclear facility to develop a work force restructuring plan that will establish general strategies for work force restructuring as it may occur at a given site. This new emphasis on a general strategy instead of a detailed