

reliability, and lower costs will be felt as an aging utility industry faces deregulation. Advanced power systems, such as a Vision 21 plant, and environmental systems will come into play as older plants are retired and utilities explore new ways to meet the growing demand for electricity.

Innovative research in the coal conversion and utilization areas will be required if coal is to continue to play a dominant role in the generation of electric power. Topics, like the ones that follow, will need to be addressed. Technical topics like the ones that follow, will need to be answered but are not intended to be all-encompassing. It is specifically emphasized that other subjects for coal research will receive the same evaluation and consideration for support as the examples cited.

Innovative Concepts Technical Topics

Development of Membranes for CO₂ Separation

Possible applications of membranes to coal-based systems include the separation of CO₂ from the flue gas effluent of coal-fired power plants. Inorganic membranes are preferred because of their refractory behavior and the possibility of improving their resistance to environmental attack through a suitable choice of ceramic material and associated fabrication process. Since the kinetic diameters of CO₂ and N₂ molecules are relatively close to each other (0.36 nm and 0.40 nm, respectively), an enhanced separation of the two gases can only be accomplished via selective interactions between the molecules and the membrane surface. Molecular modeling would aid the synthesis of membranes for the selective separation of CO₂, while kinetic modeling would establish the potential flux of gases in membrane systems.

Applications are sought to investigate inorganic membranes, including novel synthetic methods that are technically and economically feasible. Large separation factor and high permeability are essential to achieve desired results in a single stage. A target performance that combines a permeability of 3×10^{-7} mol/(m² s Pa) and CO₂/N₂ selectivity of 100 is an approximate guideline. The proposed work should be consistent with the Vision 21 concept, novel in nature, and may include, but must not be limited to a review of prior research related to this focus area.

Identification of Promising Vision 21 Configurations

The Vision 21 concept encompasses the idea of interchangeable modules that

can be assembled into various configurations that may co-produce power, fuels, or high-value chemicals. Configurations may include a gasifier and a power-generating facility with a specific fuel or chemical production capability. However, many different configurations are possible.

Novel concept grant applications are being sought to examine the feasibility of advanced central station energy plants that produce some combination of power, fuels, and chemicals from fossil fuel feedstocks, perhaps with biomass and/or opportunity feedstocks (e.g., petroleum coke, municipal solid waste, etc.). Process heat and steam may also be produced. Configurations may use internally generated wastes, combustion byproducts, or low-grade heat in ways that improve environmental performance, efficiency, and/or economics. The study should include mass and heat balance calculations along with sensitivity studies of the economics of the proposed processes.

Efficient Power Cycles

The thermal efficiency of a conventional coal-fired steam (Rankine) cycle is 33–35% from coal's heating value to electricity. The other 65–67% of the energy is lost during the conversion process of power generation. By increasing the operating temperatures and pressures over the supercritical condition of steam, the cycle efficiency can be increased to 42–45% (based on coal's higher heating value). However, there are limitations in materials for high-temperature applications. On the other hand, a system with a binary working fluid of ammonia and water has shown an improved cycle efficiency of 45–50% by extracting heat from hot streams at variable boiling temperatures of the ammonia-water mixtures. The cost has been a concern for commercializing this binary system.

Grant applications are being sought for:

A. Binary fluid cycles that demonstrate the potential for a higher cycle efficiency than the conventional system. Also, working fluids other than steam are of interest (e.g., CO₂ is an interesting possibility).

B. Concepts for a bottoming cycle to extract the low-temperature heat from the flue gas of a coal-fired plant in an economical way. By reducing a typical stack gas temperature of 350–380°F to 180–200°F, the plant efficiency can be increased by 3–5%. The cost has been an issue for the low-temperature heat recovery system.

C. New concepts that could be drastically different from the conventional system using a gas or steam turbine (e.g., fuel cells) to generate electricity from coal.

Awards. DOE anticipates awarding a financial assistance grant for each project selected. Approximately \$3 million will be available for the Program Solicitation. An estimated \$2.5 million is budgeted for the UCR Core Program and should provide funding for approximately one to three (1–3) financial assistance awards in each of the eight (8) focused areas of research. The maximum DOE funding for individual colleges/universities applications in the UCR Core Program varies according to the length of the proposed performance period as follows:

Performance period	Maximum funding
0–12 months	\$80,000
13–24 months	140,000
25–60 months	200,000

The maximum DOE funding for UCR Core Program joint applications is \$400,000, requiring a performance period of 36 months.

Approximately \$0.5 million is budgeted for the UCR Innovative Concepts Program and should provide support for approximately ten (10) financial assistance awards. The maximum DOE funding for UCR Innovative Concepts Program awards is \$50,000, with 12-month performance periods.

Issued in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on October 25, 1999.

Raymond D. Johnson,

Contracting Officer, Acquisition and Assistance Division.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6468–5]

National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology, (NACEPT) Standing Committee on Compliance Assistance

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notification of public advisory NACEPT standing committee on compliance assistance meeting; open meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L.

92-463, notice is hereby given that the Standing Committee on compliance assistance will meet on the date and time described below. The meeting is open to the public. Seating at the meeting will be a first-come basis and limited time will be provided for public comment. For further information concerning this meeting, please contact the individual listed with the announcement below. NACEPT Standing Committee on Compliance Assistance; November 18 and 19, 1999. Notice is hereby given that the Environmental Protection Agency will hold an open meeting of the NACEPT Standing Committee on Compliance Assistance on Thursday, November 18, 1999 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and November 19, 1999 from 8:30-5. The meeting will be held at the AED Conference Center, 1825 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009. The agenda for the first day of the meeting will be focused primarily on organizational issues. The second day will focus specifically on the development of the compliance assistance clearinghouse, national forum and the annual agency plan. A formal Agenda will be available at the meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NACEPT is a federal advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463. NACEPT provides advice and recommendations to the Administrator and other EPA officials on a broad range of domestic and international environmental policy issues. NACEPT consists of a representative cross-section of EPA's partners and principal constituents who provide advice and recommendations on policy issues and serve as a sounding board for new strategies.

EPA recently issued a new report, "Aiming for Excellence." This report commits EPA to take a number of actions to enhance our reinvention programs, including several to improve our compliance assistance efforts. The report was developed based on extensive external outreach to a broad range of stakeholders through a variety of forums. It is available on EPA's Reinvention home page (www.epa.gov/reinvent/).

In connection with this effort, the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) has recently completed work on an action plan, "Innovative Approaches to Enforcement and Compliance Assurance." This action plan includes the compliance assistance activities identified in the Task Force report as well as additional OECA commitments. The action items described in the OECA report (available

at www.epa.gov/oeca/innovative/approaches.html) will change fundamental aspects of the Agency's compliance assistance planning and programs.

To ensure that the compliance assistance activities in the action plan are implemented in a way that continues to reflect stakeholder needs, the National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) is creating a new Standing Committee on Compliance Assistance. This will provide a continuing Federal Advisory Committee forum from which the Agency can continue to receive valuable stakeholder advice and recommendations on compliance assistance activities.

For further information concerning the NACEPT Standing Committee on Compliance Assistance, including the upcoming meeting, contact Gina Bushong Designated Federal Officer (DFO), on (202)564-2242, or E-mail: bushong.gina@epa.gov.

Inspection of Subcommittee Documents: Documents relating to the above topics will be publicly available at the meeting.

Dated: October 27, 1999.

Gina Bushong,

Designated Federal Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-28636 Filed 11-1-99; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting Notice

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Federal Maritime Commission.

TIME AND DATE: 10 a.m.—November 9, 1999.

PLACE: 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., First Floor Hearing Room, Washington, D.C.

STATUS: A portion of the meeting will be open to the public and the remainder of the meeting will be closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

The Open Portion of the Meeting:

1. Docket No. 99-10—Ocean Common Carriers Subject to the Shipping Act of 1984—Consideration of Comments.

The Closed Portion of the Meeting:

1. Docket No. 98-14—Shipping Restrictions, Requirements and Practices of the People's Republic of China.

2. Fact Finding Investigation No. 23—Ocean Common Carriers Practices in the Transpacific Trades—Consideration of the Record.

3. Docket No. 99-05—ANERA and its Members—Opting Out of Service Contracts—Consideration of the Record.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Bryant L. VanBrakle, Secretary, (202) 523-5725.

Bryant L. VanBrakle,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-28733 Filed 10-29-99; 1:05 pm]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-M

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

[Docket No. R-1049]

Publication Activities Review

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

ACTION: Request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Federal Reserve Board (Board) is conducting a review of its publication activities. As part of this effort, the Board is asking the public to comment on how the Board's publications are individually and collectively meeting their information needs and to offer suggestions for improving or possibly eliminating some publications or adding new ones.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before December 17, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments, which should refer to Docket No. R-1049, may be mailed to Ms. Jennifer J. Johnson, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20551. Comments addressed to Ms. Johnson may also be delivered to the Board's mailroom between 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. and to the security control room at all other times. Both the mailroom and the security control room are accessible from the courtyard entrance on 20th Street between Constitution Ave. and C Street, NW. Comments may be inspected in Room MP-500 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., except as provided in § 261.12 of the Board's Rules Regarding Availability of Information, 12 CFR 261.12 and 261.14.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Zacharias (202/973-5016). For the hearing impaired only, contact Diane Jenkins, Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), (202/452-3544).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of the Board's Publications Program

The Board's publications program supports the various missions of the Board by making information about the Federal Reserve System accessible to other parts of the U.S. Government,