

Washington (Simpson). The Permit application includes: (1) the proposed Habitat Conservation Plan; and (2) the proposed Implementing Agreement. Direct mailings have been sent to affected State and local agencies, Federal agencies, Tribes, Federal and State legislators, public interest groups, and other interest parties, informing them of the reopening.

**DATES:** Written comments on the permit application, DEIS, Plan, and Implementing Agreement must be received from interested parties no later than January 14, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for documents on CD ROM should be made by calling the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (360)534-9330. Hardbound copies are also available for viewing, or partial or complete duplication, at the following libraries:

Olympia Timberland Library, Reference Desk, 313 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Olympia, WA, (360)352-0595;

William G. Reed Library, Reference Desk, 710 West Alder Street, Shelton, WA, (360)426-1362;

Hoodport Timberland Library, 40 North Schoolhouse Hill Road, Hoodport, WA, (360)877-9339;

Elma Timberland Library, Information Desk, 118 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Elma, WA, (360)482-3737;

W.H. Abel Public Library, Information Desk, 125 Main Street South, Montesano, WA, (360)249-4211; and,

Aberdeen Timberland Library, Reference Desk, 121 East Market Street, Aberdeen, WA, (360)533-2360.

The documents are also available electronically on the World Wide Web at <http://www.r1.fws.gov/>.

Comments and requests for information should be directed to Linda Saunders, Project Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, 510 Desmond Drive, SE., Suite 102, Lacey, Washington, 98503-1273, (telephone: 360/753-5826; facsimile: 360/534-9331), and Mike Parton, Project Biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service, 510 Desmond Drive, SE., Suite 103, Lacey, Washington, 98503-1273 (telephone: 360/753-4650; facsimile: 360/753-9517). Comments and materials received will also be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours by calling (360) 534-9330.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 29, 1999 (64 FR 57630), the Services published a document in the **Federal Register** announcing the receipt of an application from Simpson for a Permit, and opening a comment period for the project. That document stated that comments would be accepted

through December 27, 1999. The Services are reopening the comment period in order to provide additional review and comment time, recognizing that the traditional holiday season during the latter part of December may have affected interested parties' ability to perform a thorough and comprehensive review of the documents.

Dated: December 28, 1999.

**Thomas J. Dwyer,**

*Acting Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*

Dated: December 30, 1999.

**Craig Johnson,**

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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BILLING CODE 3510-22-F, 4310-55-F

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Notice Inviting Financial Assistance Applications

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Energy Technology Lab (NETL).

**ACTION:** Notice Inviting Financial Assistance Applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy announces that it intends to conduct a competitive Program Solicitation and award financial assistance (cooperative agreements) for the program entitled "Development and Demonstration of Black Liquor/Biomass Gasification in the Forest Products Industry." Through this solicitation, NETL seeks to support applications to improve the processing of Black Liquor and Biomass from the forest industry using Gasification Systems. 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 SOLICITATION INFORMATION

**CONTACT:** William Mundorf, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, Acquisition and Assistance Division, PO Box 10940, MS 921-143, Pittsburgh PA 15236-0940, Telephone: (412) 386-4483, FAX: (412) 386-6137, E-mail:

[mundorf@NETL.doe.gov](mailto:mundorf@NETL.doe.gov). The solicitation (available in both WordPerfect 6.1 and Portable Document Format (PDF)) will be released on DOE's NETL World Wide Web Server Internet

System (<http://www.NETL.doe.gov/business/solicit>) on or about January 3, 2000.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title of Solicitation:** "Development and Demonstration of Black Liquor/Biomass Gasification in the Forest Products Industry."

**Objectives:** Through Program Solicitation No. DE-PS26-00FT40772, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) seeks applications for cost-shared demonstration of technologies which will enhance economic competitiveness, improve energy efficiency, and reduce environmental impacts while providing quality products within the forest products industry. The focus of the research will address research priorities identified by the forest products industry in the Agenda 2020 The Path Forward: An Implementation Plan.

Approximately \$14,000,000 fiscal year 2000 (FY 2000) federal funds are expected to be available to support the first year of a multi-year effort. DOE is looking for a path forward to demonstrate cost-effective, energy efficient, gasification technologies for integrated gasification combined cycle or gasification/cogeneration applications. Competitive development of combined cycle, gasification technologies (for both black liquor and biomass feedstocks) are well underway. However, large-scale pilot plant or demonstrations are needed to promote widespread adoption of advanced gasification technologies in the Forest Products industry. DOE anticipates awarding multiple cooperative agreements. Projects will be limited to eight years or less, but it is expected that successful demonstrations will be achieved in as early as three years. Proposals for projects which will both develop and demonstrate existing technologies will require a minimum 50% cost share of the total estimated project cost.

**Eligibility:** Eligibility for participation in this Program Solicitation is considered to be full and open. All interested parties may apply. The solicitation will contain a complete description of the technical evaluation factors and relative importance of each factor.

**Program Technology Definition:** The Department is interested in obtaining applications to improve the processing of Black Liquor and Biomass from forest products using gasification systems:

(A) Black Liquor Gasification Systems: Kraft black liquor and semi-chem caustic-carbonate liquor are mixtures of dissolved organic components resulting from the

processing of wood, inorganic cooking chemicals, and water. Though concentrated by multiple effects evaporators, these liquor still contain a high percentage of water and have sufficient heating value to be considered low quality fuels. The technical topic is for safe, integrated gasification systems which can permit the separation and recovery of the inorganic cooking chemicals while concurrently producing a combustible product gas from the organics. This product gas after cleaning must be a viable low-to-medium caloric value fuel. Key technical gaps that require demonstration include: materials of construction with known life expectancy, gas clean-up and demonstration of integrating gasification, power cycle and pulp mill systems. For systems employing cold gas clean-up, the key gaps are physical scale-up of the gasification processes under development and commercial demonstration. For systems with hot gas clean up, the clean-up system itself must be added as a serious technology gap; and

(B) Forest Products Biomass Gasification Systems: Wood room waste or hog fuel is conventionally burned in specifically designed boilers so as to capture a portion of the valuable energy sources found in Forest Products mills. They suffer from low power-to-steam output ratio and high capital and maintenance costs. The technical topic is for gasification systems which can utilize these fuels being mostly half water by weight and to produce a higher quality fuel gas. Such systems are required to be able to be integrated with gas turbines and steam turbines for electric power generation. These biomass gasification combined cycle systems must be able to offer a positive contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. For systems using low-temperature gasification, destruction/removal of tars and other condensable organic compound clean-up, physical scale-up, and commercial demonstration of the integrated gasification combined cycle systems is an issue and must be proven on a pilot scale.

**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. Approximately \$100 million of DOE funding is planned for this solicitation through the course of the program. The estimated funding by the DOE is

planned to be shared between three to four project awards. A 50% cost share of the total estimated project costs by the applicant is required, and details of the cost sharing requirement are contained in the solicitation.

**Solicitation Release Date:** The Program Solicitation is expected to be ready for release on or about January 3, 2000. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions and forms contained in the Program Solicitation. Two open periods will be used to receive qualifying proposals. Initial proposals will be evaluated and selections made within six months of submittal. The proposal due date for the first evaluation period is February 29, 2000 and June 1, 2000 for the second and final.

**Raymond D. Johnson,**

*Contracting Officer, Acquisition and Assistance Division.*

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BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Savannah River

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Savannah River. Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Monday, January 24, 2000: 3:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.; Tuesday, January 25, 2000: 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** All meetings will be held at: Hilton Oceanfront Resort, 23 Ocean Lane, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gerri Flemming, Office of Environmental Quality, Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office, PO Box A, Aiken, SC 29802 (803) 725-5374.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Purpose of the Board:** The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management and related activities.

#### Tentative Agenda

*Monday, January 24, 2000*

3:30 p.m.—Executive Committee

6:30 p.m.—Public Comment Session

7:00 p.m.—Subcommittee Meetings

9:00 p.m.—Adjourn

*Tuesday, January 25, 2000*

8:30 a.m.

Approval of Minutes, Agency Updates (approximately 15 minutes)

Public Comment Session (5-minute rule, approximately 10 minutes)

Facilitator Update (approximately 15 minutes)

Long Term Stewardship (approximately 30 minutes)

Nuclear Materials Management Subcommittee Report (approximately 45 minutes)

Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Subcommittee Report (approximately 1 1/4 hours)

Public Comment (approximately 10 minutes)

12:00 p.m.

Lunch Break

Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Subcommittee Report continued (approximately 1 hour)

Risk Management and Future Use Subcommittee Report (approximately 30 minutes)

Administrative Subcommittee Report (approximately 30 minutes)

Officer and Subcommittee Chair Elections

Presentation of the year 2000 membership candidates

Board member removal consideration

Outreach Subcommittee Report (approximately 10 minutes)

Public Comments (approximately 10 minutes)

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

If needed, time will be allotted after public comments for items added to the agenda, and administrative details. A final agenda will be available at the meeting.

**Public Participation:** The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Committee either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Gerri Flemming's office at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests must be received 5 days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Official is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of 5 minutes to present their comments.

**Minutes:** The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal