

DATES: Comments regarding this collection of information should be sent on or before April 3, 2003. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the OMB Desk Officer of your intention to do so as soon as possible. The Desk Officer may be telephoned at (202) 395-3087. (Also, please notify the DOE contact listed in this notice.)

ADDRESSES: Address comments to DOE Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. Comments should also be addressed to the Records Management Division, Office of the Chief Information Officer, at the address listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Susan L. Frey, Director, Records Management Division, Office of Business and Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer, IM-11/GTN Building, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20585-1290, (301)-903-3666, or E-mail susan.frey@hq.doe.gov. (Also notify Jacqueline D. Rogers, Office of Environment, Safety and Health, EH-5/270CC, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20585-1290 (301-903-5684).)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: (1) *Current OMB Control Number:* 1910-5112 (2) *Package Title:* Chronic Beryllium Disease Prevention Program (3) *Summary:* A three-year extension is requested to provide DOE employers with the information needed to manage chronic beryllium disease prevention programs, provide information to employees, and permit oversight of their programs by DOE management. (4) *Purpose:* This collection provides the Department with the information needed to reduce the number of workers currently exposed to beryllium in the course of their work at DOE facilities managed by DOE or its contractors; minimize the levels and potential exposure to beryllium; and provide medical surveillance to ensure early detection of disease. (5) *Type of Respondents:* DOE and DOE contractor employers of workers exposed or potentially exposed to beryllium; current workers. (6) *Number of respondents:* 1,703 annually; (7) *Total annual burden hours:* 32,952 hours.

Statutory Authority: Atomic Energy Act of 1954, 42 U.S.C. 2201.

Issued in Washington, DC on February 25, 2003.

Susan L. Frey,

Director, Records Management, Office of Business and Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-4992 Filed 3-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[Docket No. EA-196-B]

Application To Export Electric Energy; Minnesota Power, Inc.

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: Minnesota Power, Inc. (Minnesota Power) has applied for renewal of its authority to transmit electric energy from the United States to Canada pursuant to section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act.

DATES: Comments, protests or requests to intervene must be submitted on or before April 3, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments, protests or requests to intervene should be addressed as follows: Office of Coal & Power Import/Export (FE-27), Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0350 (FAX 202-287-5736).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Xavier Puslowski (Program Office) 202-586-4708 or Michael Skinker (Program Attorney) 202-586-2793.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Exports of electricity from the United States to a foreign country are regulated and require authorization under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. 824a(e)).

On February 11, 1999, the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) issued Order No. EA-196 authorizing Minnesota Power to transmit electric energy from the United States to Canada. Minnesota Power is a Minnesota corporation that owns electric generation and transmission facilities and sells and distributes electricity within its northern Minnesota service territory. That two-year authorization expired on February 11, 2001.

On March 2, 2001, Minnesota Power filed an application with FE for renewal of that export authority for a two-year term. That authorization was issued on May 23, 2001.

On February 3, 2003, Minnesota Power applied for renewal of its

authorization to export electric energy to Canada for a five year term beginning upon the expiration of its current authorization. Minnesota Power proposes to arrange for delivery of electric energy to Canada over transmission facilities owned and operated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bonneville Power Administration, Citizens Utilities, International Transmission, Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative, Joint Owners of the Highgate Project, Inc., Long Sault, Inc., Maine Electric Power Company, Maine Public Service Company, Minnesota Power and Light Co., Inc., Minnkota Power, New York Power Authority, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., Northern States Power, and Vermont Electric Transmission Company.

The electric energy that Minnesota Power proposes to export will be either firm or interruptible. The exported energy will be purchased from other entities voluntarily and, therefore, will be surplus to the needs of the selling entities.

Procedural Matters: Any person desiring to become a party to this proceeding or to be heard by filing comments or protests to this application should file a petition to intervene, comment or protest at the address provided above in accordance with §§ 385.211 or 385.214 of the FERC's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of each petition and protest should be filed with the DOE on or before the date listed above.

Comments on the Minnesota Power request to export to Canada should be clearly marked with Docket EA-196-B. Additional copies are to be filed directly with Steven W. Tyacke, Esq., Minnesota Power, Inc., 30 West Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802-2092.

DOE notes that the circumstances described in this application are virtually identical to those for which export authority had been granted in FE Order No. EA-196. Consequently, DOE believes that it has adequately satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 through the documentation of a categorical exclusion in the FE Docket EA-196 proceeding.

Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above or by accessing the Fossil Energy Home Page at <http://www.fe.doe.gov>. Upon reaching the Fossil Energy Home page, select "Electricity," from the Regulatory Info menu, and then "Pending Proceedings" from the options menus.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 21, 2003.

Anthony Como,

Deputy Director, Electric Power Regulation, Office of Coal & Power Import/Export, Office of Coal & Power Systems, Office of Fossil Energy.

[FR Doc. 03-4997 Filed 3-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 03-19; Research in Innovative Approaches to Fusion Energy Sciences

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Fusion Energy Sciences (OFES) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), announces its interest in receiving grant applications for research in innovative approaches to fusion energy sciences. All individuals or groups planning to submit applications for new or renewal funding in Fiscal Year 2004 should submit in response to this Notice.

Specifically, projects funded under this Notice should be responsive to the MFE Goal 2 of the Report of the Integrated Program Planning Activity for the DOE OFES Program (IPPA 2000), Report DOE/SC-0028 (<http://vlt.ucsd.edu/IPPAFinalDec00.pdf>). The Goal calls for resolving outstanding scientific issues and establishing reduced-cost paths to more attractive fusion energy systems by investigating a broad range of innovative magnetic confinement configurations, as recommended in the report on "Priorities and Balance within the Fusion Energy Sciences Program" by the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (FESAC), September 1999 (<http://vlt.ucsd.edu/revisedpanel.pdf>). Proposals exploring new and innovative approaches for creating compact plasmas with high β and high temperatures in pulsed or steady state, and for the active control of magnetized plasmas are particularly welcome. Research involving highly innovative experimental approaches to improve our understanding of magnetized plasmas, and exploration of highly innovative plasma operations in support of proof-of-principle and higher performance plasmas in support of the above Goal, may also be considered. Although the main thrust of the research efforts funded under this Notice is experimental, consideration will also be given to applications that are directed at scientific assessment of new concepts

and approaches that are not ready for experimental investigation.

Applications for research on existing large facilities, or initiatives in Inertial Fusion Energy should not be submitted in response to this Notice.

Due to the limited availability of funds, Principal Investigators with continuing grants may not submit a new application in the same area(s) of interest as their previous application(s) which received funding. A Principal Investigator may submit only one application under this Notice.

OFES may also solicit proposals from time to time under separate announcements of Initiatives to support coordinated, goal-directed community efforts. These Initiatives will be funded to achieve specific programmatic and scientific aims and will be subject to requirements that are different from those of this Notice. Such grants, if funded, will be subject to periodic reviews of progress.

DATES: To permit timely consideration for awards early in Fiscal Year 2004, applications submitted in response to this Notice must be received by DOE no later than 4:30 p.m., May 1, 2003. Electronic submission of formal applications in PDF format is required using a minimum number of files.

Applicants are requested to submit a letter-of-intent by April 4, 2003, which includes the title of the application, the name of the Principal Investigator(s), the requested funding, and a one-page abstract. These letters-of-intent will be used to organize and expedite review processes. Failure to submit a letter-of-intent will not negatively prejudice a responsive formal application submitted in a timely fashion. The letters-of-intent should be sent by E-mail to the following E-mail address: john.sauter@science.doe.gov and the Subject line should state: Letter-of-intent regarding Program Notice 03-19.

ADDRESSES: Formal applications in response to this solicitation are to be electronically submitted by an authorized institutional business official through DOE's Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) at: <http://e-center.doe.gov/>. IIPS provides for the posting of solicitations and receipt of applications in a paperless environment via the Internet. In order to submit applications through IIPS, your business official will need to register at the IIPS website. It is suggested that this registration be completed several days prior to the date on which you plan to submit the formal application. The Office of Science will include attachments as part of this Notice that provide the appropriate forms in PDF

fillable format that are to be submitted through IIPS using a minimum number of files. Color images should be submitted in IIPS as a separate file in PDF format and identified as such. These images should be kept to a minimum due to the limitations of reproducing them. They should be numbered and referred to in the body of the technical scientific grant application as Color image 1, Color image 2, etc. Questions regarding the operation of IIPS may be e-mailed to the IIPS Help Desk at: HelpDesk@pr.doe.gov, or you may call the help desk at: (800) 683-0751. Further information on the use of IIPS by the Office of Science is available at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

If you are unable to submit an application through IIPS, please contact the Office of the Director, Grants and Contracts Division, Office of Science, DOE at: (301) 903-5212 in order to gain assistance for submission through IIPS, or to receive special approval and instructions on how to submit printed applications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, Germantown Building, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-1290. Dr. Francis Thio is the Team Leader for the ICC Program. Specific contacts for each area of interest within the ICC program, along with telephone numbers and Internet addresses, are listed below:

1. *Spherical torus:* Dr. Don Priester, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301) 903-3752, or by Internet address: don.priester@science.doe.gov.
2. *Stellarator, electric tokamak, levitated dipole configuration, innovative research in tokamaks:* Dr. Charles Finfgeld, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301) 903-3423, or by Internet address: Charles.Finfgeld@science.doe.gov.
3. *Reversed Field Pinch, field reversed configuration, spheromak, magnetized target fusion, electrostatic confinement, plasma heating:* Dr. Francis Thio, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301) 903-4678, or by Internet address: francis.thio@science.doe.gov.
4. *Configuration with strong shear flow stabilization:* Dr. Curt Bolton, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301) 903-4914, or by Internet address: curt.bolton@science.doe.gov.
5. *Active and passive plasma control:* Dr. Steve Eckstrand, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301)