

The most important charge of the Advisory Committee is to make recommendations to Congress and the Secretary that will lead to the maintenance and enhancement of access to postsecondary education for low- and middle-income students. In addition to carrying out its ongoing statutory charges, the Committee dedicated itself to articulating the current state of access by developing two reports on the condition of access, *Access Denied: Restoring the Nation's Commitment to Equal Educational Opportunity* and *Empty Promises: The Myth of College Access in America*. The Committee will build upon the findings in its access reports and prepare the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act by conducting follow on research that will assist in formulating recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of Education on student financial aid issues.

The proposed agenda includes round table discussion sessions with nationally recognized scholars focusing on (a) key dimensions of the core access/persistence problem and effective solutions, (b) assuring adequate information, financial access, academic preparation, and simple applications, (c) lowering unmet need and assuring both enrollment and persistence, and (d) implications for reauthorization of the HEA. Space is limited and you are encouraged to register early if you plan to attend. You may register through Internet at ADV.COMSFA@ed.gov or Tracy.Deanna.Jones@ed.gov. Please include your name, title, affiliation, complete address (including internet and e-mail—if available), and telephone and fax numbers. If you are unable to register electronically, you may mail or fax your registration information to the Advisory Committee staff office at (202) 219-3032. Also, you may contact the Advisory Committee staff at (202) 219-2099. The registration deadline is Wednesday, April 16, 2003.

The Advisory Committee will meet in Washington, DC on Tuesday, April 22, 2003, from 9 a.m. until approximately 5 p.m.

Records are kept of all Committee proceedings, and are available for public inspection at the Office of the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, Capitol Place, 80 F Street, NW., Suite 413, Washington, DC from the hours of 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., weekdays, except Federal holidays.

Dated: March 27, 2003.

Dr. Brian K. Fitzgerald,

Staff Director, Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance.

[FR Doc. 03-7941 Filed 4-1-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Floodplain Statement of Findings for the Title Transfer of Parcel ED-1, Oak Ridge Reservation, Oak Ridge, Tennessee

AGENCY: Oak Ridge Operations, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of floodplain statement of findings.

SUMMARY: This is a floodplain statement of findings prepared in accordance with 10 CFR part 1022, Compliance with floodplain/wetlands environmental review requirements. A floodplain assessment was conducted and incorporated in an environmental assessment (EA) addendum that evaluated the potential impacts of transferring title to the developable portions of Parcel ED-1 located on the Oak Ridge Reservation, Roane County, Tennessee. The floodplain assessment describes the possible effects, alternatives, and measures designed to avoid or minimize potential harm to the affected floodplain or its flood storage potential. DOE will endeavor to allow 15 days of public review after publication of the Statement of Findings before implementation of the Proposed Action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David R. Allen, NEPA Compliance Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations Office, P.O. Box 2001, MS-SE-30-1, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, (865) 576-0411.

For Further Information On General DOE Floodplain/Wetlands Review Requirements, Contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Notice of Floodplain and Wetland Involvement was published in the **Federal Register** on June 20, 2002 (67 FR 41970) and a floodplain assessment was incorporated in the EA Addendum. DOE is proposing to transfer title to the developable portions of Parcel ED-1 to Horizon Center LLC for the continued development of an industrial/business park. Parcel ED-1 contains approximately 287 acres of the 100-year

floodplain of East Fork Poplar Creek (EFPC). The portion of the EFPC floodplain within Parcel ED-1 is outside of the limits of the existing City of Oak Ridge Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Limited encroachment into the 100-year floodplain, which was covered under a U.S. Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit (33 CFR part 330), has already occurred during construction activities associated with the initial development of Parcel ED-1 under the lease. No additional adverse direct or indirect impacts to the floodplain are expected except for potential minor encroachments into two small areas of the floodplain in the developable areas. These encroachments would be for construction of a parking area and road and bridge improvements. Alternatives to the proposed action that were considered included no action and mitigation (avoidance and minimization). The proposed action will conform to all applicable floodplain protection standards including regulation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and if required, the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Mitigation of adverse impacts to the floodplain include minimizing the potentially impacted areas to the smallest amount practicable and implementing best management practices, such as sediment controls to reduce or prevent soil erosion and runoff and minimum grading requirements that reduce land disturbance on steep slopes adjacent to the floodplain and stream. The appropriate engineering studies will be completed and the appropriate permits obtained prior to any action in the floodplain. The amount of fill material potentially needed should not adversely impact the floodway or affect flooding conditions. Also, no critical actions, as defined in 10 CFR part 1022 will occur as a result of the proposed action.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, on March 24, 2003.

James L. Elmore,

Alternate National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-7926 Filed 4-1-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[Number DE-PS07-03ID14488]

Advanced Melting or Innovative Casting Processes for Metal Casting

AGENCY: Idaho Operations Office, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of availability of financial assistance solicitation.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Idaho Operations Office (ID) is seeking applications for advanced melting or innovative casting processes that have the potential to significantly improve energy efficiency in the areas of metal melting and the casting process. DOE is very interested in funding innovative, cost effective ideas that will reduce energy consumption. Crosscutting ideas from other industries or ideas that have crosscutting applications are also strongly encouraged. Advanced aluminum remelting furnace concepts are also of interest in this solicitation. Proposals dealing with product development R&D will not be funded. Proposals must address energy efficiencies in metal casting manufacturing not in the end-use applications.

DATES: The issuance date of Solicitation Number DE-PS07-03ID14488 will be on or about March 31, 2003. The deadline for receipt of applications will be approximately on May 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The solicitation in its full text will be available on the Internet at the following URL address: <http://e-center.doe.gov>. The Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) provides the medium for disseminating solicitations, receiving financial assistance applications and evaluating the applications in a paperless environment. Completed applications are required to be submitted via IIPS. An IIPS "User Guide for Contractors" can be obtained on the IIPS Homepage and then clicking on the "Help" button. Questions regarding the operation of IIPS may be e-mailed to the IIPS Help Desk at IIPS_HelpDesk@e-center.doe.gov

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Seb Klein, Contract Specialist, kleinasm@id.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE anticipates making 1 to 4 cooperative agreement(s) with duration of 3 years or less for these efforts. A minimum 50% non-federal cost share is required for research and development projects over the life of the project. First year cost share can be as low as 30% if subsequent years have sufficient cost share so that non-federal share totals at least 50%. However, it is important to note that in the event a multi-year project is not continued, then the awardee will be required to increase the cost share to meet the 50% requirement. The statutory authority for this program is the Federal Non-Nuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-577). The Catalog of Federal

Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number for this program is 81.086.

Issued in Idaho Falls on March 26, 2003.

Cheryl A. Thompson,

Acting Director, Procurement Services Division.

[FR Doc. 03-7925 Filed 4-1-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Agency information collection activities: proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The EIA is soliciting comments on the proposed Form EIA-902, "Annual Geothermal Heat Pump Manufacturers Survey."

DATES: Comments must be filed by June 2, 2003. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to James Holihan. To ensure receipt of the comments by the due date, submission by FAX to (202) 287-1946 or e-mail to JHolihan@eia.doe.gov is recommended. The mailing address is Office of Coal, Nuclear, Electric, and Alternate Fuels, EI-52, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585-0650. Alternatively, Mr. Holihan may be contacted by telephone at (202) 287-1735.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of any forms and instructions should be directed to Mr. Holihan at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments

I. Background

The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the DOE Organization Act (Pub. L. 95-91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*) require the EIA to carry out a centralized, comprehensive, and unified energy information program. This program collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates information on energy resource reserves, production, demand, technology, and related

economic and statistical information. This information is used to assess the adequacy of energy resources to meet near and longer-term domestic demands.

The EIA, as part of its effort to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35), provides the general public and other Federal agencies with opportunities to comment on collections of energy information conducted by or in conjunction with the EIA. Any comments received help the EIA to prepare data requests that maximize the utility of the information collected, and to assess the impact of collection requirements on the public. Also, the EIA will later seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under section 3507(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The Form EIA-902 collects information on shipments of geothermal heat pumps. The survey tracks shipments of the following three main types of geothermal heat pumps, as classified by the Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Institute (ARI), and the much smaller shipped volume of non-ARI rated systems. A brief description of the ARI-classified system is as follows:

ARI 320—Water-Source Heat Pumps (WSHP)—These systems are installed in commercial buildings, where a central chiller or boiler supplies chilled or heated water, respectively, to heat pumps installed in series. The heat pumps reject building heat to chilled water during the cooling season and, during the heating season, take heat from boiler water.

ARI 325—Ground Water-Source Heat Pumps (GWHP)—The GWHP is an open-Loop system in which ground water is drawn from an aquifer or other natural body of water into piping. At the heat pump, heat is drawn from or dumped to the water through a heat exchanger to the refrigerant in the heat pump. The heated or cooled water returns to its source.

ARI 330—Ground Source Closed-Loop Heat Pumps (GSHP)—A water or water/glycol (antifreeze) solution flows continuously through a closed loop of pipe buried underground. Ground heat is absorbed into or rejected from the solution flowing in the closed loop. At the heat pump, heat is drawn from or dumped to the closed loop solution via heat transfer through a heat exchanger, which passes heat to or removes heat from the refrigerant in the heat pump. Depending on the type of ground and land area, systems can either be installed horizontally or vertically.

Data are collected by model type, heat pump capacity, region of destination,