

also expressed concern about potential harm to manatees during routine delivery of fuel to the plant, and recommended that DOE consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine whether the use of propeller guards should be required to protect manatees.

In regard to the protection of northern right whales from collisions with project-related vessels, approximately 50 to 60 ocean-going vessels are expected to deliver solid fuel, fuel oil, and limestone to Northside Generating Station annually after both units are repowered. In comparison, about 65 vessels delivered fuel oil to the station in 1998. However, some of these vessels were smaller river barges that did not enter into the Atlantic Ocean, which contains critical habitat for northern right whales from the shoreline out to as far as 15 nautical miles. As an upper-bound estimate, the annual increase in traffic in the Atlantic Ocean after both units are repowered would be about 50 vessels, which is less than 2.5% of the 2,047 round-trips made by vessels traveling between the St. Johns River and the Atlantic Ocean in 1999. The ocean-going vessels are not expected to travel at speeds greater than about 12 knots. Because (1) the trips (about 1 per week) would be relatively infrequent, (2) the number of trips would be a small percentage of current traffic, and (3) the vessels would travel slower than the threshold speed of 14 knots above which most serious injuries to whales occur, no mitigation measures would be necessary to protect northern right whales from collisions with project-related vessels. Staff with the National Marine Fisheries Service have concurred with this assessment.

In regard to the use of propeller guards to protect manatees from vessels delivering fuel to Northside Generating Station, currently propeller guards are not used on vessels in the St. Johns River. However, with the implementation of the mitigation measures discussed in the EIS (e.g., the dock design would allow sufficient space between vessels and the dock structure such that manatees could easily avoid being trapped), it is unlikely that the proposed project would cause harm to a significant number of manatees, even without propeller guards on project-related vessels. Staff with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have concurred with this assessment.

The Florida Department of Transportation stated that the project may have a direct impact on the State Transportation System and requested that JEA submit all site plans and access

plans to the Jacksonville permit engineer. JEA has contacted the Jacksonville permit engineer cited in the comment and both parties agree that, because project-related construction would not occur along Heckscher Drive and because the only access for construction personnel would be located at the New Berlin Road entrance to the facility, JEA is not required to submit site plans and access plans for the proposed project to the Florida Department of Transportation.

The Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources stated that the JEA EIS addresses their concerns in regard to the potential impact on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. The Division of Historical Resources also stated their opinion that no historic resources would be affected by the proposed action.

The U.S. EPA, Region 4, stated that their initial comments/concerns on the draft EIS have been satisfactorily addressed and that they appreciate the mitigation measures that JEA has agreed to employ in order to address potential impacts. EPA further stated that they continue to have environmental concerns about potential process releases and project impacts. DOE believes that by implementing the mitigation measures described in this Record of Decision it will address EPA's concerns.

A member of the local community expressed concerns regarding groundwater use, particulate emissions, and construction worker safety. Regarding groundwater use, as discussed above under Water Resources, JEA has committed to a 10% reduction in total annual groundwater consumption at Northside Generating Station after Units 1 and 2 are repowered (as compared to 1996 levels). Similarly for particulate emissions (see Air Quality above), JEA has established a target of a 10% reduction in annual stack emissions of particulate matter from Northside Generating Station (Units 1, 2, and 3), as compared to emissions during a recent typical 2-year operating period (1994–95) of the station (Units 1 and 3). These reductions are to be accomplished while increasing the total annual energy output of the station. In regard to the concerns expressed about construction worker safety, DOE believes that this concern reflects an accident that occurred in July 2000, while JEA was constructing (at its own risk) the solid fuel storage dome associated with the proposed project. In the response to the accident, JEA completed a root cause analysis to

ensure that worker safety is not compromised. The analysis concluded that wind speeds during the incident exceeded the design threshold of the dome anchoring system during construction. Consequently, the construction process has been redesigned to use additional anchors and to delay installation of most of the dome covering until after the entire structural frame is permanently anchored.

### Decision

DOE will implement the proposed action of providing approximately \$73 million in cost-shared federal funding support to design, construct, and demonstrate the CFB technology proposed by JEA. The project is intended to demonstrate the combined removal of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and particulate matter in a promising technology that is ready to be commercialized within the range that is most desired by utilities (250 to 400 MW). The project is expected to generate sufficient data from design, construction, and operation to allow private industry to assess the potential for commercial application of the CFB technology. This decision to provide cost-shared funding for the proposed project was made after careful review of the potential environmental impacts, as analyzed in the EIS.

### Mitigation Action Plan

In accordance with § 1021.331(a) of the DOE NEPA regulations, DOE will prepare a Mitigation Action Plan that addresses mitigation commitments expressed in this ROD. Copies of the Mitigation Action Plan may be obtained from Dr. Jan Wachter, NEPA Document Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, 626 Cochrans Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236, telephone: (412) 386–4809.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on this 29th day of November, 2000.

**Robert S. Kripowicz,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy.*

[FR Doc. 00–31160 Filed 12–6–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

#### **Golden Field Office; Fiscal Year 2001 Broad Based Solicitation for Submission of Financial Assistance Applications Involving Research, Development and Demonstration**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Issuance of the Fiscal Year 2001 Broad Based Solicitation for Submission of Financial Assistance Applications

Involving Research, Development and Demonstration.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is announcing its intention to issue the Fiscal Year 2001 Broad Based Solicitation for Submission of Financial Assistance Applications Involving Research, Development and Demonstration (herein referred to as Broad Based Solicitation), DE-PS36-01GO90000.

**DATES:** Supplemental Announcements to the Broad Based Solicitation will be issued throughout the year. Each Supplemental Announcement will contain technology specific information, anticipated programmatic funding levels, any specific eligibility requirements, any specific application instructions, evaluation criteria, any cost sharing requirements, Program Policy Factors, application deadlines, and any other requirements specific to obtaining Financial Assistance Awards.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Fiscal Year 2001 Broad Based Solicitation, consisting of the first part and all Supplemental Announcements, will be posted on the DOE Golden Field Office Home Page at <http://www.golden.doe.gov/businessopportunities.html>, under "Solicitations."

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under this announcement, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is announcing its intention to issue the Fiscal Year 2001 Broad Based Solicitation for Submission of Financial Assistance Applications Involving Research, Development and Demonstration (herein referred to as Broad Based Solicitation), DE-PS36-01GO90000. The Broad Based Solicitation expresses the Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's (EERE), continuing interest in receiving Applications for Financial Assistance Awards (Grants and Cooperative Agreements) in support of renewable energy and energy efficiency basic research, applied research, cooperative demonstrations, and related activities. The Broad Based Solicitation will consist of two parts: the first part which establishes guidelines and requirements for submitting Applications in response to individual Supplemental Announcements; the second part will consist of individual Supplemental Announcements and will be specific to designated technology areas of interest. These individual Supplemental Announcements will contain technology specific information, anticipated programmatic funding levels, any specific eligibility

requirements, any specific application instructions, evaluation criteria, any cost sharing requirements, application deadlines, and any other requirements specific to obtaining Financial Assistance Awards. The Broad Based Solicitation, consisting of the first part and all Supplemental Announcements, will be posted on the DOE Golden Field Office Home Page at <http://www.golden.doe.gov/businessopportunities.html>, under "Solicitations."

DOE intends to issue Supplemental Announcements to this document throughout Fiscal Year 2001. Each Supplemental Announcement will be posted on the Golden Field Office Home Page. A notice to release Supplemental Announcements will be published in the **Federal Register** and, if appropriate, in the Commerce Business Daily or other publications. Any application that is submitted in response to this Broad Based Solicitation must also be in direct response to a specific Supplemental Announcement.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** All questions concerning the Broad Based Solicitation must be submitted in writing to: Ruth E. Adams, DOE Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden, CO 80401-3393 or transmitted via facsimile to Ruth E. Adams at (303) 275-4788, or electronically to [ruth\\_adams@nrel.gov](mailto:ruth_adams@nrel.gov). Responses to questions will be made by Amendment to this Broad Based Solicitation and posted on the DOE Golden Field Office Home Page. Questions specific to individual Supplemental Announcements should be directed to the point of contact indicated in the Supplemental Announcement, and answers will be posted as Amendments to the Supplemental Announcement on the Golden Field Office Home Page.

Issued in Golden, Colorado, on November 22, 2000.

**Jerry L. Zimmer,**

*Director, Office of Acquisition and Financial Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 00-31161 Filed 12-6-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Science; Continuation of Solicitation for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program—Notice 01-01

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Annual notice of continuation of availability of grants and cooperative agreements.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Science of the Department of Energy hereby announces its continuing interest in receiving grant applications for support of work in the following program areas: Basic Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, Nuclear Physics, Advanced Scientific Computing, Fusion Energy Sciences, Biological and Environmental Research, and Energy Research Analyses. On September 3, 1992, (57 FR 40582), DOE published in the **Federal Register** the Office of Energy Research Financial Assistance Program (now called the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program), 10 CFR part 605, Final Rule, which contained a solicitation for this program. Information about submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluation and selection processes and other policies and procedures are specified in 10 CFR part 605.

**DATES:** Applications may be submitted at any time in response to this Notice of Availability.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications must be sent to: Director, Grants and Contracts Division, Office of Science, SC-64, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290. When preparing applications, applicants should use the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Application Guide and Forms located on the World Wide Web at <http://www.science.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>. Applicants without Internet access may call 301-903-5212 for information.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published annually and remains in effect until it is succeeded by another issuance by the Office of Science, usually published after the beginning of the fiscal year. This annual Notice 01-01 succeeds Notice 00-01, which was published November 5, 1999.

It is anticipated that approximately \$400 million will be available for grant and cooperative agreement awards in FY 2001. The DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of an application. DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this Notice.

In addition, the following program descriptions are offered to provide more in-depth information on scientific and technical areas of interest to the Office of Science:

#### 1. Basic Energy Sciences

The Basic Energy Sciences (BES) program supports fundamental research