

modeling/simulation tools necessary to understand, predict, and control nanoscale phenomena.

Two recent reports prepared by the BES program, which address both NSET research and broader program goals that are dependent on nanoscale understanding, are available on the internet. These reports are Complex Systems: Science for the 21st Century (1999) available at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/bes/complexsystems.htm> and Nanoscale Science, Engineering and Technology Research Directions (1999) available at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/bes/nanoscale.html>. These reports detail current topics supported by BES in the area of NSET, describe future research directions, and should be used as a guide to appropriate proposal topics. Applications in these areas will be accepted from individual investigators or groups of 2–4 investigators.

Program Funding

It is anticipated that up to \$18 million will be available for grant awards during FY 2001, contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Multiple year funding of grant awards is expected, also contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds, progress of the research and continuing program need. Applications received by the Office of Science, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, under its current competitive application mechanisms may be deemed appropriate for consideration under this notice and may be funded under this program.

Preapplications

A brief preapplication may be submitted. The preapplication should identify on the cover sheet the institution, principal investigator name, address, telephone, fax and e-mail address, title of the project, and the field of scientific research. The preapplication should consist of no more than a three-page narrative describing the research project objectives and methods of accomplishment. These will be reviewed relative to the scope and research needs of the Nanoscale Science, Engineering, and Technology initiative and DOE programmatic needs. Preapplications are strongly encouraged but not required prior to submission of a formal application. Please note that notification of a successful preapplication is not an indication that an award will be made in response to the formal application.

Merit Review

Applications will be subjected to scientific merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following evaluation criteria listed in descending order of importance as codified at 10 CFR Part 605.10(d) (www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/605index.html):

1. Scientific and/or technical merit of the project;
2. Appropriateness of the proposed method or approach;
3. Competency of applicant's personnel and adequacy of proposed resources; and
4. Reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget.

The evaluation will include program policy factors such as the relevance of the proposed research to the terms of the announcement and an agency's programmatic needs. Note, external peer reviewers are selected with regard to both their scientific expertise and the absence of conflict-of-interest issues. Non-federal reviewers may be used and submission of an application constitutes agreement that this is acceptable to the investigator(s) and the submitting institution. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with researchers in other institutions, such as universities, industry, non-profit organizations, federal laboratories and Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), including the DOE National Laboratories. A parallel invitation with a similar potential total amount of funds has been sent to DOE FFRDCs. All projects will be evaluated using the same criteria, regardless of the submitting institution.

Information about the development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluation, selection process, and other policies and procedures may be found in 10 CFR Part 605 and in the Application Guide for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program. Electronic access to the Guide and required forms is available via the World Wide Web at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>. On the grant face page, form DOE F 4650.2, block 15, provide the principal investigator's phone number, fax number and e-mail address. The research description must be 20 pages or less, exclusive of figure illustrations, and must contain an abstract or summary of the proposed research. Attachments include curriculum vitae, a listing of all current and pending federal support, and letters of intent when collaborations are part of the proposed research.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program is

81.049, and the solicitation control number is ERFAP 10 CFR Part 605.

Issued in Washington, DC on November 17, 2000.

John Rodney Clark,

Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 00–30640 Filed 11–30–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa

AGENCY: Office of International Affairs, DOE.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) announce the creation of the U.S.-Africa Sustainable Energy Program. Using \$400,000.00 in grants and loans to U.S. not-for-profit entities, non-governmental organizations, and small businesses, the program will facilitate investment in sustainable energy projects in Africa. Interested parties should submit applications to OPIC. Applications will be reviewed by OPIC and DOE and applicants that meet OPIC Requirements and the Program's Selection Criteria, will be considered for the program. Specific information on OPIC Requirements and Program's Selection Criteria is available on the OPIC website (<http://www.opic.gov>).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michelle Billig, IA–32, International Affairs Specialist, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of American and African Affairs, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20585, Phone: (202) 586–3209; Sam Smoots, Investment Development, Overseas Private Investment Corporation 1100 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20527, Phone: (202) 336–8645.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At the DOE-sponsored U.S.-Africa Energy Ministers conference in Tucson, Arizona, in December 1999, U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson and Overseas Private Investment Corporation's President and CEO George Munoz unveiled the U.S. Africa Sustainable Energy Program. This program promotes U.S. clean energy technologies and services in an effort to bring private capital and skills to Africa in a partnering relationship. Using \$400,000.00 in grants and loans to U.S. not-for-profit entities, non-governmental organizations, and small businesses, the program will facilitate investment in sustainable energy projects in Africa. Interested parties should submit

applications to OPIC. Applications will be reviewed by OPIC and DOE and applicants that meet OPIC Requirements and the Program's Selection Criteria, will be considered for the program. Specific information on OPIC Requirements and Program's Selection Criteria is available on the OPIC website (<http://www.opic.gov>).

Dated: November 9, 2000.

Theresa Fariello,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of International Energy Policy, Office of International Affairs.

[FR Doc. 00-30639 Filed 11-30-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Secretary of Energy Advisory Board; Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces an open meeting of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board's Laboratory Operations Board (LOB). The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, 86 Stat. 770), requires that agencies publish these notices in the **Federal Register** to allow for public participation.

NAME: Secretary of Energy Advisory Board—Laboratory Operations Board.

DATES: Thursday, December 7, 2000, 8:30 a.m.–3:15 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

ADDRESSES: Hilton Washington Embassy Row Hotel, 2015 Massachusetts Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20036

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Louise Wagner, Executive Director, or Laurie Keaton, LOB Staff Director, Office of Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (AB-1), US Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-7162 or (202) 586-6279 (fax).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Laboratory Operations Board is to provide independent external advice to the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board regarding the strategic direction of the Department's laboratories, the coordination of budget and policy issues affecting laboratory operations, and the reduction of unnecessary and counterproductive management burdens on the laboratories. The Laboratory Operations Board's goal is to facilitate the productive and cost-effective utilization of the Department's laboratory system and the application of best business practices.

Tentative Agenda

Thursday, December 7, 2000

- 8:30 a.m.–9 a.m.—Co-Chairs Opening Remarks
- 9 a.m.–9:45 a.m.—Budget and Appropriations Update
- 9:45 a.m.–10 a.m.—Break
- 10 a.m.–11 a.m.—Presentation on Hamre Commission: Study of the Science and Security Functions of the Department
- 11 a.m.–12 p.m.—Presentation on Transition Planning at DOE
- 12 p.m.–1 p.m.—Lunch
- 1 p.m.–3 p.m.—LOB Work Plan—Status Reports
 - Implementation of Performance Based Management at DOE
 - LOB Retrospective
 - Laboratory Profile Report Update
- 3 p.m.–3:15 p.m.—Public Comment Period
- 3:15 p.m.—Adjourn

This tentative agenda is subject to change.

Public Participation: In keeping with procedures, members of the public are welcome to monitor the business of the Laboratory Operations Board and to submit written comments or comment during the scheduled public comment period. The meeting will be conducted in a fashion that will, in the Co-Chairs' judgment, facilitate the orderly conduct of business. During its open meeting, the Laboratory Operations Board welcomes public comment. Members of the public will be heard in the order in which they sign up at the beginning of the meeting. The Board will make every effort to hear the views of all interested parties. You may submit written comments to Mary Louise Wagner, Executive Director, Secretary of Energy Advisory Board, AB-1, US Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585. This notice is being published less than 15 days before the date of the meeting due to the late resolution of programmatic issues.

Minutes: A copy of the minutes and a transcript of the meeting will be made available for public review and copying approximately 30 days following the meeting at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190 Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays. Further information on the Laboratory Operations Board is available at the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board's web site, located at <http://www.hr.doe.gov/seab>.

Issued at Washington, DC, on November 28, 2000.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-30681 Filed 11-30-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Bonneville Power Administration

Bonneville Power Administration's Proposed Amendments to 2002 Wholesale Power Rate Adjustment Proposal

AGENCY: Bonneville Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of proposed amendments to 2002 wholesale power rate adjustment proposal: public hearing, and opportunity for public review and comment proposal BPA File No: WP-02.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (Northwest Power Act) provides that Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) must establish and periodically review its rates so that they are adequate to recover, in accordance with sound business principles, the costs associated with the acquisition, conservation, and transmission of electric power, and to recover the Federal investment in the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) and other costs incurred by BPA. By this notice, BPA announces a proposed amendment to the 2002 rate proposal (BPA Docket WP-02), consideration of which has been stayed by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in Docket No. EF00-2012-000. The 2002 rates replace the current 1996 rates, which expire on October 1, 2001, at the same time that most of BPA's current power supply contracts terminate.

DATES: Proposed hearing dates are supplied in the Supplementary Information Section I.C. below. Close of public comments is February 14, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Mr. Michael Hansen, Public Involvement and Information Specialist, Bonneville Power Administration, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212. Documents will be available for public viewing after December 12, 2000, at BPA's Public Information Center, BPA Headquarters Building, 1st Floor; 905 NE. 11th, Portland, Oregon, and will be provided to parties at the prehearing conference to be held on December 12, 2000, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Room 223, 911 NE.