

range of 4.8 to 4.9 will be deliverable at a price differential equal to the average of the rice differences quoted on the sixth business day prior to the day of delivery by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for such cotton in designated spot markets. If the USDA does not quote price differences for this range of micronaire readings, the futures price differential for cotton having the indicated micronaire levels will be zero. In support of this proposal, the Exchange states that, "the purpose of the change is to improve the contract by discounting less desirable, high micronaire cotton in delivery."

The Exchange is proposing to amend the current strength requirement for deliverable cotton of 22 grams per tex. Under the proposal, the minimum strength requirement will be raised to 25 grams per tex. According to the Exchange, "the purpose of the change is to improve the contract by eliminating certain low-strength cotton from delivery."

The Exchange also is seeking to establish a discount for the delivery of "old crop" cotton. The proposed discount would be in addition to the futures contract's existing age-based discounts. Under the proposal, "old crop" cotton delivered on or after January 1 of the next marketing season that follows the marketing season in which the cotton was grown will be assessed a discount of 2 cents per pound per "old crop" crop year. For example, cotton grown in the 2000 crop year will be deliverable at par until December 31, 2001. If such "old crop" cotton is delivered on January 1, 2002, it would be subject to a discount of 2 cents per pound and, if it was delivered on January 1, 2003, this same cotton would be subject to a discount of 4 cents per pound. The discount for delivery of the same cotton would increase by two cents per pound for each subsequent year (i.e., six cents per lb. in 2004, eight cents per lb. in 2005, etc.) elapsed since the marketing season in which the cotton was grown. The Exchange states that the proposal will "improve the contract by adding to the cost of delivering older cotton."

Finally, the Exchange is clarifying its requirement that the Warehouse Bale Tag Coupon accompanying each sample of tendered cotton shall be "an *official* Warehouse Bale Tag Coupon *issued by the warehouse*" (emphasis added).

The Exchange intends to implement the proposed amendments upon Commission approval for all existing cotton No. 2 futures contract months that have no open interest at the time of

approval and for all newly listed cotton No. 2 futures contracts.

The Commission is requesting comments on the proposed amendments.

Copies of the proposed amendments will be available for inspection at the Office of the Secretariat, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 21st Street NW., Washington, DC 20581. Copies of the proposed amendments can be obtained through the Office of the Secretariat by mail at the above address, by phone at (202) 418-5100, or via the Internet at secretary@cftc.gov.

Other materials submitted by the Exchange in support of the proposal may be available upon request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Commission's regulations thereunder (17 CFR part 145 (2000)), except to the extent they are entitled to confidential treatment as set forth in 17 CFR 145.5 and 145.9. Requests for copies of such materials should be made to the FOI, Privacy and Sunshine Act Compliance Staff of the Office of Secretariat at the Commission's headquarters in accordance with 17 CFR 145.7 and 145.8.

Any person interested in submitting written data, views, or arguments on the proposed amendments, or with respect to other materials submitted by the Exchange, should send such comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 21st Street NW., Washington, DC 20581 by the specified date.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 14, 2001.

**Richard Shilts,**  
*Acting Director.*

[FR Doc. 01-6868 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 6351-01-M

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Air Force

#### Federal Advisory Committee for the End-to-End Review of the U.S. Nuclear Command and Control System

**AGENCY:** Department of the Air Force, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given of a forthcoming meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee for the End-to-End Review of the U.S. Nuclear Command and Control System (NCCS). The purpose of the meeting is to begin conduct of a comprehensive and

independent review of the NCCS positive measures to assure authorized use of nuclear weapons when directed by the President while assuring against unauthorized or inadvertent use. This meeting will be closed to the public.

**DATES:** April 5, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Pentagon, Room 3D912.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. William L. Jones, U.S. Nuclear Command and Control System Support Staff (NCCS), Skyline 3, 5201 Leesburg Pike, Suite 500, Falls Church, Virginia 22041, (703) 681-8681.

**Janet A. Long,**

*Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.*  
[FR Doc. 01-6875 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-05-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### Meeting of the Ocean Research Advisory Panel

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP) will meet to discuss National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) activities. All sessions of the meeting will remain open to the public.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 26, 2001, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In order to maintain the meeting time schedule, members of the public will be limited in their time to speak to the Panel. Members of the public should submit their comments one week in advance of the meeting to the meeting Point of Contact.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at The Doubletree Hotel Park Terrace, Consulate Room, 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Steven E. Ramberg, Office of Naval Research, 800 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22217-5660, telephone number: (703) 696-4358.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice of open meeting is provided in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2). The purpose of this meeting is to discuss NOPP activities. The meeting will include discussions on ocean observations, current and future NOPP activities, and other current issues in the ocean sciences community.

Dated: March 9, 2001.

**J.L. Roth,**

*Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate  
General's Corp, U.S. Navy, Federal Register  
Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-6876 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.184H]

### Office of Elementary and Secondary Education—Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities—National Programs

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice reopening application deadline date.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary reopens the deadline date for the submission of applications for the Grant Competition to Prevent High-Risk Drinking and Violent Behavior Among College Students. The Secretary takes this action because certain potential applicants may have been affected by severe weather-related occurrences that precluded them from submitting their applications before the originally announced application deadline date. The reopening is intended to help these potential applicants compete fairly with other applicants under this program.

*Background:* On December 27, 2000, the Department published a combined notice inviting applications for new awards for direct grant competitions under Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs (65 FR 82222). That notice set February 16, 2001, as the deadline date for the submission of applications under Grant Competition to Prevent High-Risk Drinking and Violent Behavior Among College Students.

**DATES:** The new application deadline date is March 23, 2001. The deadline for intergovernmental review remains April 16, 2001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202-6123. Telephone: (202) 260-3954. Individuals who use a telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at (800) 877-8339.

**Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 7131.

Dated: March 15, 2001.

**Thomas M. Corwin,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Elementary and Secondary Education.*

[FR Doc. 01-6916 Filed 3-19-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### National Energy Technology Laboratory; Notice of Availability of Financial Assistance Solicitation

**AGENCY:** National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a financial assistance solicitation.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the intent to issue Financial Assistance Solicitation No. DE-PS26-01NT41130 entitled "Biomass Research and Development: Advance Biomass Power Generation Technologies". The Office of Biopower and Hydropower Technologies of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is supporting the issuance of this solicitation.

Pursuant to guidance contained in the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000, this Solicitation will support the development of advanced biomass power systems offering to diversify the range of products that can be efficiently and cost-competitively produced from biomass by encouraging the co-production of power and heat as an integrated component of biomass processing. These systems are to be predominantly based on advanced biomass gasification technologies and may incorporate related research in advanced turbine and stationary fuel cell technology for production of electricity from biomass.

The DOE recognizes that technologies which efficiently convert biomass into bio-based industrial products such as heat and power offer outstanding potential benefit to the national interest through: (A) Improved strategic security and balance of payments; (B) promotion of rural economic development; (C) improved environmental quality; (D) near-zero net greenhouse gas emissions; (E) technology export; and (F) diversification of energy resource options. However, key technical challenges remain to be overcome in order for biomass conversion technologies to be cost-competitive. Among these are developing new integrated processes that show promise for reducing cost and increasing efficiency.

The relatively lengthy time and risks associated with the development and integration of new biomass power systems, based on advanced gasification technologies may make it difficult for the private sector to justify the sustained investment necessary. However the National benefits of such systems are

driving the DOE's effort to support pre-commercial R&D directed towards Advanced Biomass Power Systems development.

Since DOE does not intend to issue a draft of the subject solicitation, prospective applicants are invited to e-mail any comments and/or questions associated with the "need" area(s) identified in this announcement. Please submit all comments/questions to Ms. Donna Jaskolka via the Internet at [jaskolka@netl.doe.gov](mailto:jaskolka@netl.doe.gov) by COB March 21, 2001.

**DATES:** The solicitation will be available on the DOE/NETL's Internet address at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business> on or about March 30, 2001. It is anticipated that the closing date for receipt of proposals will be on or about May 31, 2001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Donna J. Jaskolka, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, P.O. Box 109540, MS 921-107, Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940,  
E-mail Address:  
[jaskolka@netl.doe.gov](mailto:jaskolka@netl.doe.gov)

Telephone Number: 412/386-6106

Facsimile Number: 412/386-6137.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A primary objective of the Office of Biopower and Hydropower Technologies is to support pre-commercial research that develops technologies for the production of power, heat and other valuable by-products from biomass. The specific objective of Program Solicitation DE-PS26-01NT41130 is to support new approaches to improve gasification-based technologies for power, heat and co-production. The ultimate intent of the DOE is for the development team to package the advanced power generation systems developed under this solicitation for high volume regional and/or National commercial sales. Program emphasis is on the development of advanced power generation systems that can meet the following program objectives:

*Load:* Baseload power generation with a nominal annual capacity factor of 85%.

*Size:* It is not the intention of DOE to be prescriptive in this area. While studies seem to suggest that a nominal size of 20MW may be well suited to match local biomass resource availability, upper limits on plant size are flexible. A lower limit of 5MW is set to preclude programmatic duplication.

*Costs of Power:* The proposer must demonstrate that the cost of power is competitive in individual circumstances.

*Efficiency:* For plants under 100MW, a total power production efficiency of at