

this meeting was published in the **Federal Register** on August 4, 2003. The Advisory Committee will receive and consider only written comments submitted by the deadline specified in that **Federal Register** notice.

#### How Do I Request To Present Comments Regarding General Issues Rather Than Specific Accrediting Agencies?

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee, at its discretion, may invite attendees to address the Committee briefly on issues pertaining to the functions of the Committee, which are listed earlier in this notice. If you are interested in making such comments, you should inform Ms. LeBold before or during the meeting.

#### How May I Obtain Access to the Records of the Meeting?

We will record the meeting and make a transcript available for public inspection at the U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K St., NW., Washington, DC 20006 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. It is preferred that an appointment be made in advance of such inspection.

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**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. appendix 2.

Dated: October 1, 2003.

**Wilbert Bryant,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.*

[FR Doc. 03-25289 Filed 10-3-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice DE-FG01-04ER04-04; Plasma Physics Junior Faculty Development Program

**AGENCY:** U.S. 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), hereby announces its interest in receiving grant applications for support under its Plasma Physics Junior Faculty Development Program. Applications should be from tenure-track faculty investigators who are currently involved in experimental or theoretical plasma physics research and should be submitted through a U.S. academic institution. The purpose of this program is to support the development of the individual research programs of exceptionally talented scientists and engineers early in their careers.

**DATES:** To permit timely consideration for awards in Fiscal Year 2004, formal applications in response to this notice must be received on or before December 9, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** We require formal applications in response to this solicitation to be submitted electronically 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 Web site. 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. *IIPS offers the option of submitting multiple files—please limit submissions to only one file within the volume if possible, with a maximum of no more than four 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 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](mailto: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>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Darlene Markevich, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, Research Division, SC-55/ Germantown Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-1290. Telephone: (301) 903-4920. E-mail: [Darlene.markevich@science.doe.gov](mailto:Darlene.markevich@science.doe.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Plasma Physics Junior Faculty Development Program was started in Fiscal Year 1997. A principal goal of this program is to identify exceptionally talented plasma faculty members early in their careers and assist and facilitate the development of their research programs. Eligibility for awards under this notice is, therefore, restricted to tenure-track regular academic faculty investigators who are conducting experimental or theoretical plasma physics research. Those Junior Faculty members presently holding career development awards will not be considered under this announcement.

Applications from Junior Faculty involved in any areas of plasma physics research, not only magnetic fusion, are welcomed and encouraged. Emphasis is to be placed on basic plasma science research. For applications to be considered for funding, certification of the status of the applicant as a tenure-track regular academic faculty member by the head of the applicant's academic department or other university/college certifying official will be required before the grant is awarded. Awards made under this program will help to maintain the vitality of university plasma physics research and assure continued excellence in the teaching of plasma physics and related disciplines.

It is anticipated that annual funding levels up to \$150,000 per award may be made available for grants under this notice during Fiscal Year 2004, contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Funding for equipment above this level will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The number of awards during Fiscal Year 2004 will depend on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds. Multiple-year funding of grant awards is expected, with funding provided on an annual basis subject to availability of funds. The usual duration of these grants is three years and they will not be renewed under the Plasma Physics Junior Faculty Development Program after the project period is completed. It

is anticipated that at the end of the grant period, grantees will submit new grant applications to continue their research to the Department of Energy or other Federal funding agencies. For the Office of Science, these applications should follow the usual application process.

Applications will be subjected to scientific merit review and will be evaluated against the following criteria, which are listed in descending order of importance as set forth in 10 CFR part 605:

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.

An additional review criterion will address educational aspects of the proposed work including the involvement of graduate and undergraduate students. These aspects should be discussed in the application.

General information about development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluations and selection processes, and other policies and procedures are contained in the Application Guide for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program and 10 CFR part 605, which is available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>. DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of applications if an award is not made.

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 September 26, 2003.

**John Rodney Clark,**

*Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.*

[FR Doc. 03-25269 Filed 10-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC03-121-000, FERC Form 121]

#### Commission Information Collection Activities, Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension

September 29, 2003.

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

#### **ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the requirements of section 3506(c)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specifics of the information collection described below.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due by December 1, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from Michael Miller, Office of the Executive Director, ED-30, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. Comments may be filed either in paper format or electronically. Those parties filing electronically do not need to make a paper filing.

For paper filings, the original and 14 copies of such comments should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426 and refer to Docket No. IC03-121-000.

Documents filed electronically via the Internet must be prepared in WordPerfect, MS Word, Portable Document Format, or ASCII format. To file the document, access the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> and click on "Make an E-filing," and then follow the instructions for each screen. First time users will have to establish a user name and password. The Commission will send an automatic acknowledgment to the sender's E-mail address upon receipt of comments.

All comments may be viewed, printed or downloaded remotely via the Internet through FERC's homepage using the eLibrary link. For user assistance, contact [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll-free at (866) 208-3676 or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202)502-8415, by fax at (202)273-0873, and by e-mail at [michael.miller@ferc.gov](mailto:michael.miller@ferc.gov). Copies of FERC Form 121 are available from Mr. Miller.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The information collected under the requirements of FERC Form 121 "Application for Determination of the Maximum Lawful Price Under the Natural Gas Policy Act" (OMB Control No. 1902-0038) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Section 503 of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA), 15 U.S.C. 3413. In Order No. 616, (July 14, 2000) the Commission reinstated

provisions for making well category determinations under Section 503 of the Natural Gas Policy Act for certain categories of high cost gas.

When the determinations are made, natural gas producers can claim tax credits as provided for under section 29 of the Internal Revenue Code (Section 29 tax credit). Section 29 as amended by the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990, allows taxpayers to claim a tax credit for certain qualified fuels which (1) are produced from wells drilled after December 31, 1979, and before January 1, 1993, and (2) sold before January 1, 2003. The qualified fuels include high cost gas as defined in NGPA section 107(c)(2)-(4) (gas produced from geopressured brine, coals seams and Devonian shale), as well as some gas the Commission defined as tight formation gas pursuant to NGPA section 107(c)(5). In 1999, the *United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in True Oil Co. v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue (True Oil)* (170 F.3d 1294) (10th Cir. 1999), held that, in order to obtain the tax credit, there must be a formal determination under the procedures provided for by section 503 of the Natural Gas Policy Act. Section 503 of the NGPA, set forth procedures used for determining whether gas qualified as section 107(c) "high-cost natural gas." Under that section the agency having regulatory jurisdiction with respect to the production of natural gas in question (a jurisdictional agency) makes the initial determination, and submits it to the Commission. The Commission can affirm, reverse, remand, make a preliminary finding either on, or simply takes no action regarding the agency's determination. If the Commission takes no action within 45 days after receipt of the agency's determination, the determination is final. Judicial review is available under Section 503 only if the Commission remands or reverses the determination. In Order No. 616, the Commission limited its actions to reviewing determinations by jurisdictional agencies for qualifying recompletions in already designated tight formations. Well determinations for recompletions in coal seams and Devonian shale are also accepted. The Commission estimated that there are probably at least 4,131 recompletions that were performed during the years 2000-2003 for which a determination may be sought under the Commission's regulations. FERC Form 121 (Form) is used by a natural gas producer as an application for a determination. Form 121 identifies the producer filing the application, the type of determination