

ADDRESSES: General questions concerning the TA-18 Project can be asked by calling 1-800-832-0885, ext. 6-5484, or by writing to: Mr. Jay Rose, Document Manager, TA-18 Relocation EIS, U.S. Department of Energy/NNSA, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on the NNSA National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, please contact: Mr. Henry Garson, NEPA Compliance Officer for Defense Programs, U.S. Department of Energy/NNSA, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585; or telephone 1-800-832-0885, ext. 30470. For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585, telephone 202-586-4600, or leave a message at 1-800-472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 11, 2000, Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson announced that the NNSA would begin preparation of an EIS on the proposed transfer to another location of TA-18's capabilities and up to approximately 2 tons of special nuclear materials. In the Notice of Intent, published on May 2, 2000, the NNSA solicited comments on the proposed scope of the TA-18 EIS from the public and conducted public scoping meetings as follows: May 18, 2000, in Albuquerque, New Mexico; May 23, 2000, in North Las Vegas, Nevada; May 25, 2000, in Idaho Falls, ID; and May 30, 2000, in Espanola, New Mexico.

Due primarily to budget constraints, funding for the TA-18 EIS was not available during the summer of 2000 and the schedule for completing the TA-18 EIS began to slip. The events associated with the Cerro Grande fire at LANL (see 65 FR 120, June 21, 2000) further disrupted TA-18 planning activities and added to the schedule slip. The revised EIS schedule is as follows:

Issue Draft EIS—May 2001

Draft EIS Public Hearings—June 2001

Issue Final EIS—August 2001

Record of Decision—September 2001

There have been no significant changes to the TA-18 EIS scope or alternatives, as described in the original TA-18 EIS Notice of Intent.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 18th day of January 2001.

T.J. Glauthier,

Deputy Secretary of Energy, Department of Energy.

[FR Doc. 01-2469 Filed 1-26-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Competitive Financial Assistance Solicitation

AGENCY: Idaho Operations Office, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of competitive financial assistance solicitation.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Idaho Operations Office (ID) is seeking applications for innovative cost-shared research, development and demonstration of technologies that will enhance economic competitiveness, reduce energy consumption and reduce environmental impacts in the emerging renewable bioproducts industry. The proposed research and development (R&D) applications must address priorities of at least three out of the four key barrier areas; Plant Sciences, Production, Processing, and Utilization, as identified in the *Technology Roadmap for Plant/Crop-Based Renewable Resources 2020*.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of applications is 3:00 p.m. MST March 28, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The formal solicitation document will be disseminated electronically as Solicitation Number DE-PS07-01ID14039, Agriculture Industry of the Future Program, through the Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) located at the following URL: <http://e-center.doe.gov>. 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. Individuals who have the authority to enter their company into a legally binding contract/agreement and intend to submit proposal/applications via the IIPS system must register and receive confirmation that they are registered prior to being able to submit an application on the IIPS system. An IIPs "User Guide for Contractors" can be obtained by going to the IIPS Homepage at the following URL: <http://e-center.doe.gov> and then clicking on the "Help" button. Questions regarding the operation of IIPS may be e-mailed to the IIPS Help Desk at IIPS_Help_Desk@e-center.doe.gov

center.doe.gov or call the help desk at (800) 683-0751.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elaine Richardson, Contract Specialist, at richarem@id.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The statutory authority for this program is the Federal Non-Nuclear Energy Research & Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-577). The applications must link the R&D in each of the barrier areas selected, in an integrated and crosscutting approach, to achieve overall project objectives. (Two examples of such crosscutting efforts can be found on p. 25 and p. 26 overlaid on Figures 13 and 14 in the *Technology Roadmap for Plant/Crop-Based Renewable Resources 2020*.) This will require a multi-disciplinary collaboration. Multi-partner collaborations between industrial companies, growers, universities, non-profit groups and National Laboratories are encouraged. A minimum of two partners is required, with at least one being an industrial company. DOE anticipates making approximately 3 to 5 awards with total estimated DOE funding of up to \$1.5 M per award per year, each with a duration of approximately 3-5 years.

Issued in Idaho Falls on January 16, 2001.

R. Jeffrey Hoyles,

Director, Procurement Services Division.

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BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

National Energy Technology Laboratory

Notice of Availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation

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

ACTION: Notice inviting financial assistance applications.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy announces that it intends to conduct a competitive Program Solicitation, DE-PS26-01NT41114, and award financial assistance (Cooperative Agreements) for the program entitled "Supporting Science and Enabling Technologies for Clean Fuels." Through this solicitation, the DOE/NETL seeks applications on behalf of the DOE's Office of Fossil Energy.

The DOE/NETL, by way of the Federal Financial Assistance application process, is seeking proposals for cost-shared research and development projects that will lead to advanced clean