

Ventron site in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The Ventron site is currently an inactive facility and is being cleaned up by the current owner, Morton International, in a separate but related action.

Risks from exposure to radioactive materials at the Ventron site for future workers and residents at the site exceed DOE's public dose limit (100 mrem/yr), thereby meeting DOE's criteria for conducting removal actions to prevent potential future exposures to nearby humans under the no-action alternative. Although sediment and soil with elevated levels of uranium-238 at the Ventron site pose no immediate threats to human or ecological health, the remediation of the site could proceed to prevent radiation exposure to workers involved in Morton's remedial activities.

The implementation of the remedial action alternatives at the Ventron site would involve activity in a floodplain and a tidal wetland, a floodplain and wetland buffer zone, and the Massachusetts coastal zone. In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR 1022), DOE will prepare a floodplain and wetland assessment for this proposed DOE action. DOE will evaluate remedial options affecting two media at the site: harbor sediment and on-site soil and furnace ash. Remedial action for the affected harbor sediment may include: no action, or complete removal of sediment containing uranium levels above DOE guidelines. Remedial action for on-site soil and furnace ash may include: no action or, complete removal of soil and furnace ash containing uranium levels above DOE guidelines. Access to affected sediment and soil may require decontamination and demolition of structures in the floodplain and wetland buffer zone and Massachusetts coastal zone. DOE would temporarily store excavated material onsite before transport offsite to an approved, licensed waste disposal facility. A floodplain and wetlands assessment that incorporates the values of the National Environmental Policy Act will be included in the engineering evaluation and cost analysis being prepared for the proposed project. Upon completion and approval of the assessment DOE will publish a floodplain Statement of Findings in the Federal Register that describes the proposed action and measures DOE would implement to prevent

environmental damage to floodplain resources at the Ventron site.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on March 8, 1996.

James L. Elmore,

Alternate NEPA Compliance Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-6838 Filed 3-20-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Floodplain Statement of Findings For West Tributary Surface Water Monitoring Improvements

AGENCY: Office of Environmental Management, Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Floodplain statement of findings.

SUMMARY: This Floodplain Statement of Findings for the West Tributary Surface Water Monitoring Improvements Project has been prepared in accordance with 10 CFR Part 1022. DOE proposes to replace an existing V-notched, contracted, weir that is located within the 100-year floodplain of White Oak Creek in Roane County, Tennessee with a complex-shaped critical flow flume. A Floodplain Assessment (available from the Oak Ridge address below) describing the potential effects of the action and alternatives to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain was prepared. DOE will allow 15 days of public review after publication of this Statement of Findings before implementing the proposed action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bryan Westich, Waste Management Technology Development Division, U.S. Department of Energy, 3 Main Street, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830, Telephone (615) 241-2160, FAX (615) 576-5333.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON GENERAL DOE FLOODPLAIN/WETLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

CONTACT: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a Floodplain Statement of Findings for the West Tributary Surface Water Monitoring Improvements Project prepared in accordance with 10 CFR Part 1022. A Notice of Involvement for the proposed action was published in the Federal Register on October 4, 1993. This action is part of the Surface Water Monitoring Program at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to enhance the accuracy of flow measurement and contaminant mass flux monitoring by

upgrading or replacing existing flow measurement structures or devices. One such flow measurement structure is located in a tributary (West Tributary) to White Oak Lake. The structure is also located within the 100-year floodplain of White Oak Creek. The site is located in an area that is not accessible to the general public.

DOE is proposing to replace an existing V-notched, contracted, weir with a complex-shaped critical flow flume which will facilitate a larger range of flow measurement. As part of this action it would be necessary to demolish the existing V-notched weir structure and recontour the streams side slopes and bed to accommodate the installation of the new flume. Stream flow would be diverted during demolition and construction activities.

Three alternatives were considered in addition to the proposed action. The first was the no-action alternative. This alternative would not meet the program objective for enhanced accuracy of stream flow measurement and contaminant mass flux monitoring. The second alternative would be the restoration or upgrading of the existing weir structure. This action would not result in a significant increase in measurable flow range and would not meet the program objectives. The third alternative would be to replace the weir with a commercially available H-flume in lieu of the critical flow flume. The use of an H-flume would result in a greater upstream water depth to accommodate the desired flow range. Additional topographic contouring would be required in the area of the H-flume. Therefore the use of the H-flume would be less practical than the use of the critical flow flume. There is no practicable alternative to the location of this action in the floodplain.

The Floodplain Assessment concluded that the replacement of the V-notched weir with the critical flow flume would have no significant effect on the 100-year floodplains of White Oak Creek, White Oak Lake, or the West Tributary. Risks to individuals, property, or the environment will not be increased as a result of this action. DOE will allow 15 days of public review after publication of the Statement of Findings before implementing the proposed action.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on March 11, 1996.

James L. Elmore,

Alternate NEPA Compliance Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-6839 Filed 3-20-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Morgantown Energy Technology Center; Climate Change Fuel Cell Program

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE), Morgantown Energy Technology Center.

ACTION: Solicitation for financial assistance applications.

SUMMARY: In the Defense Appropriations Conference Report, dated September 26, 1994, Congress agreed to provide funding to the Department of Defense (DoD) for a competitive, cost-shared, near-term, Climate Change Fuel Cell Program. The responsibility for procurement, program management, and contract administration for these funds has been delegated to the Department of Energy, Morgantown Energy Technology Center (METC). The objectives of the "Climate Change Fuel Cell Program" are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the efficient use of fossil fuels, to accelerate fuel cell commercialization for U.S. manufacturers, and to satisfy the DoD goals for the environment, readiness, and economy, through activities which would stimulate end-user applications. Successful offerors will demonstrate, through their applications, a commitment to purchase, install, operate, and maintain, fuel cell power plant(s) with a combined capacity rated between 100 and 3,000 kW. This project will culminate with a summary report after one year of power plant operation. Grants will be awarded consistent with the amounts defined in the Funding Availability section of this document.

DATES: Applications may be submitted at any time after the issuance date of this solicitation up to and including one year after the issue date. The issue date is the date on which this notice appears in the Federal Register. Applications must state an acceptance period of at least 120 days. Applications will be evaluated in at least two rounds based on the evaluation factors set forth herein. Selections for the first round will be made by July 30, 1996, and awards made by September 30, 1996. The second round of selections and awards will be made after September 30, 1996, contingent upon availability of appropriated funds.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Identification Number, Authority for Issuance, and Title

- a. DE-PS21-96MC33099.
- b. The use of Financial Assistance is authorized by 10 CFR 600.
- c. Title of Financial Assistance: "Climate Change Fuel Cell Program."
- d. Type of award instrument: Grant.

e. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 81.089.

f. Expected Duration of Support: Thirty-six months.

g. Statutory Authority: Public Law 95-224 (as codified at 31 U.S.C. 6301-6306).

h. Qualification Requirements: An Applicant's chosen fuel cell power plant(s) must be substantially manufactured in the U.S. (i.e., at least 50 percent of the value of the components must be produced in the U.S. and the unit (a fuel cell power plant) must be assembled in the U.S.); and the unit must not have been delivered to the installation site prior to this solicitation. The applicant must be an energy service provider, utility, or end user and cannot be a fuel cell manufacturer or developer. The application must identify an installation site and contain proof of a signed contract, firm or contingent, for purchase of fuel cell power plant(s), dated no earlier than publication of the Congressional language authorizing this program (September 26, 1994). The proposed project must be between 100 and 3,000 kilowatts in size and must be operational (providing electric and/or thermal energy to an end user) within three calendar years after award.

Submission, Withdrawal, and Unsuccessful Applications

1. The Application/Information Package includes application forms to be submitted, the 1994 Conference Report language, and other information needed for preparation of applications. The Application/Information Package will be available on the Internet [<http://www.metc.doe.gov/business/solicita.html>] after March 27, 1996. If Internet access is not available, a 3.5" diskette in WordPerfect, version 5.2, may be requested from the contract specialist referenced below by mail or by telecopy ((304) 285-4683). The contract specialist may also be reached by telephone at (304) 285-4086. The Application/Information Package may also be obtained from the DOE Business Communication Center at [john.bashista@hq.doe.gov].

2. Applications are to be submitted to the following address: U.S. Department of Energy, Morgantown Energy Technology Center, Attn: R. Diane Manilla, M.S. 107, 3610 Collins Ferry Road, Morgantown, WV 26505.

Mark the outside package of each application with the solicitation number: DE-PS21-96MC33099.

3. Applications may be withdrawn by the offeror at any time prior to award by written notice to the individual identified in item 2 above.

4. Unsuccessful applications will be retained by the receiving office and will not be returned to unsuccessful applicants. Unsuccessful applicants will be given an opportunity for a debriefing which will describe the evaluation process and discuss the major strengths and weaknesses found in their application.

Funding Availability

The amount of money available for awards through September 30, 1996, is approximately \$15,000,000. Grant values will be \$1,000/kW, provided that the grant shall not exceed a third of the total project costs (unit cost, delivery, installation, and one year of precommercial operation).

Evaluation Factors and Application Preparation Instructions

1. Evaluation Factors

Applications will be evaluated in accordance with the following criteria with priority given to power plants servicing DoD installations:

- *Firmness of Financial Commitment*
Firmness of the applicant's proposed funding sources for the project as evidenced by the commitment of the organizations providing funding assistance to the program and the estimated contribution of each.

- *Site Information*
Intended use of thermal and electrical energy, type of operation (grid connected or grid independent), Environmental, Safety and Health issues, construction/installation issues and arrangements, firmness of site selection (letter of intent from end user and installation site authority).

- *Project Plans and Schedule*
Reasonableness and adequacy of project plans (schedules and milestones) as evidenced by the planned completion date for key milestones for the installation and operation of the fuel cell power plant.

2. Relative Importance of the Evaluation Criteria

The criteria are listed in descending order of importance. Criterion 1 is of greater importance than Criteria 2 and 3. Criterion 3 is of less importance than 1 and 2. Criterion 3 is approximately half the importance of Criterion 1. Criterion 2 is slightly less important than Criterion 1.

3. Cost Evaluation

The total project costs which include unit cost, delivery, installation, and one year of precommercial operation will be reviewed for reasonableness and cost realism.

4. Program Policy Factors

a. Descending priority will be given to those projects providing energy service to: DoD installations—U.S., DoD installations—foreign, non-DoD installations—U.S., and non-DoD installations—foreign.

b. It is desirable to select for award projects representing diverse fuel cell power plant sizes, applications, and locations.

5. Application Preparation Instructions

a. Applications must include:

(1) A listing of the organizations providing funding assistance to the program and the estimated contribution of each.

Note: Grant funds will not be dispensed until after the 8-hour test.

(2) Site Description/Installation Information consisting of intended use of thermal and electrical energy, type of operation (grid connected or grid independent), Environmental, Safety and Health issues, construction/installation issues and arrangements, firmness of site selection (letter of intent from end user and installation site authority).

(3) Planned completion date for key milestones for the installation and operation of the fuel cell power plant.

(4) Portions of the fuel cell purchase agreement indicating the product, delivery, price, date of purchase agreement and signatures of buyer and seller.

(5) Letters of intent to participate from the end user (if applicable) and installation site authority.

b. Applicants who include in their application business sensitive or proprietary data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose or used by the Government except for evaluation purposes shall:

1. Mark the title page with the following legend: "This application or quotation includes business sensitive or proprietary data that shall not be disclosed outside of the Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed—in whole or in part—for any purpose other than to evaluate this application or quotation. If, however, a grant is awarded to this applicant as a result of—or in connection with—the submission of this data, the government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting grant. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The business sensitive or proprietary data subject to this restriction are contained in pages

(insert number or other identification of pages)"; and

2. Mark each page of data it wishes to restrict with the following legend: "Use or disclosure of data contained on this page is subject to the restriction on the title page of this application or quotation."

c. Each application will be submitted in an original and six copies to the address given in the summary section, above, designated as the delivery point for applications.

DOE Obligation for Application Preparation

DOE is under no obligation to reimburse the applicant for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of applications.

Application Review and Selection

1. Each application will be objectively reviewed on its own merit against the evaluation criteria stated in the solicitation. A two-step review process will be employed. The initial evaluation will be performed to determine if the application meets the qualification criteria stated in the solicitation. Applications passing the initial evaluation will be subject to a comprehensive evaluation.

2. Groups of applications will be reviewed and selected for award as often as practicable.

3. Selection of application(s) will be made in consideration of the evaluation criteria, program policy factors, and the availability of funds.

Application Evaluation and Award

DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this solicitation.

James J. Grabulis,

Director, Acquisition and Assistance Division.

[FR Doc. 96-6841 Filed 3-20-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Morgantown Energy Technology Center; CRADA Opportunity Announcement

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE), Morgantown Energy Technology Center.

ACTION: Notice of CRADA opportunity announcement.

SUMMARY: The Morgantown Energy Technology Center (METC) is offering partnering opportunities with United States companies in the area of hot gas desulfurization for developers of transport reactor systems, system integrators, and developers of novel sorbents. The vehicle for the partnering

is a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA). CRADAs offer private sector partners the opportunity to share in outcomes of development activities and also offer the option for protection of CRADA-generated data. These agreements do require the partner to share in the cost and do not involve METC funding of the partner's activities.

The Utility Industry and METC agree that IGCC technologies being demonstrated under the CCT program will play a significant role in supplying U.S. electricity during the next century. As the markets for such plants expand to replace today's older plants and to supply demand for additional electricity, the sales of cost-effective, hot gas sulfur removal sorbents, and related process systems could be substantial. The proposed CRADA is expected to accelerate commercial availability of improved, lower-cost, hot gas desulfurization sorbents for transport reactors. By closely linking test planning, operation and analysis as performed by METC with sorbent preparation, and analysis as performed by the CRADA Participant; enhanced R&D effectiveness is achievable.

DATES: Proposals received by March 29, 1996, will be evaluated, in order of importance, for: a) monetary value of industry contribution; b) proposer qualifications; and c) merits of commercialization plan. Any or all proposals may be accepted or rejected as deemed to be in the best interest of the Government. Pending content of proposals received, negotiation with one or more Participant is planned immediately following proposal evaluation. The target date for completion of a negotiated draft agreement is April 12, 1996, such that a final agreement can be executed by May 30, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Parties interested in this CRADA opportunity are requested to submit a proposal by March 29, 1996. Additional information is available on METC's Internet Homepage at "http://www.metc.doe.gov" or by contacting Dr. Rodney J. Anderson, Technology Transfer Program Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Morgantown Energy Technology Center, P.O. Box 880, 3610 Collins Ferry Road, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880; Telephone: (304) 285-4709.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A METC on-site facility—the Transport Reactor Facility—is being commissioned with testing operations to begin by mid-1996. This facility will operate with either simulated or actual gasifier coal gas at high pressure and high temperature to