

SUMMARY: In accordance with Public Law 101-510 (as amended), the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission recommended the relocation of the U.S. Army Defense Ammunition School and Center (USADACS) from Savanna Army Depot Activity (SVAD), Illinois to McAlester Army Ammunition Plant (MCAAP), Oklahoma.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the environmental impacts associated with the transfer of 228 civilian jobs from SVAD to MCAAP. It also involves the construction of MCAAP of a new headquarters/administration building, a new applied instruction facility, a new transportability text complex, and renovation of two existing structures for classroom and training aids space to support the USADACS.

The EA, which is incorporated into the Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI), examines potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives on 13 resource areas and areas of environmental concern: Land use, air quality, noise, water resources, geology, infrastructure, training areas, hazardous and toxic materials, biological resources and ecosystems, cultural resources, the sociological environment, economic development, and quality of life.

Based on the analysis found in the EA, which is hereby incorporated in this FNSI, it has been determined that the implementation of these realignments at MCAAP would have no significant or cumulatively significant impacts on the quality of the natural or human environment. Because no significant environmental impacts would result from implementation of the proposed action, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and will not be prepared.

DATES: Inquiries will be accepted until January 27, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the EA and FNSI can be obtained by contacting Mr. Glen Coffee at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, ATTN: CESAM-PD-E, P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001 or by telephone at (334) 690-2729.

Dated: December 20, 1996.

Raymond J. Fatz,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army,
(Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA (IL&E).*

[FR Doc. 96-33008 Filed 12-27-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.163A]

Library Services to Indian Tribes and Hawaiian Natives Program—Basic Grants (Library Services and Construction Act, Title IV); Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1997

PURPOSE OF PROGRAM: Provides noncompetitive basic grants to eligible Indian tribes and to eligible Hawaiian native organizations to establish or improve public library services for Indian tribes and Hawaiian natives.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: The Secretary makes grant awards to eligible applicants that have submitted approved applications for authorized activities under Title IV of the Library Services and Construction Act. Eligible applicants are—

(a) Indian tribes recognized by the Secretary of the Interior to be eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians;

(b) Alaska Native villages or regional or village corporations as defined in or established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; however, two or more Alaska Native villages, regional corporations, or village corporations may not receive basic grant allocations to serve the same population; and

(c) Organizations primarily serving and representing Hawaiian natives and recognized by the Governor of Hawaii.

DEADLINE FOR TRANSMITTAL OF APPLICATIONS: February 24, 1997.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE: January 6, 1997.

AVAILABLE FUNDS: \$966,518 for Indian Tribes; \$644,345 for Hawaiian Natives.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE SIZE OF AWARDS: \$4,602 for Indian Tribes; \$644,345 for Hawaiian Natives.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF AWARDS: 210 for Indian Tribes; 1 for Hawaiian Natives.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

PROJECT PERIOD: 12 months.

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR Parts 74 and 82 (for grants to Hawaiian native organizations); 80 (for grants to Indian tribes); 75, 77, 81 and 85 (for grants to both Hawaiian natives and Indian tribes).

FOR APPLICATIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Price, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Ave. N.W., Room 300, Washington, DC 20208-5571. Telephone: (202) 219-

1670. Internet Address: (kathy_price@ed.gov).

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260-9950; on the Internet Gopher Server (at gopher://gcs.ed.gov); or on the World Wide Web (at http://gcs.ed.gov). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the Federal Register.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 351c(c)(2), 361(d), 364.

Dated: December 20, 1996.

Sharon P. Robinson,
Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

[FR Doc. 96-32941 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Draft Request for Proposals for Waste Acceptance and Transportation Services

AGENCY: Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Request for comments on a draft request for proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) is responsible under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended, for accepting and transporting spent nuclear fuel (SNF) from commercial nuclear reactor sites to a Federal facility for storage or disposal. The Standard Contract for Disposal of Spent Fuel and/or High Level Waste (10 CFR Part 961) details the arrangements between the Department (DOE) and the owners and generators of SNF (Purchasers) for the Department to accept the SNF at the Purchasers' sites for transport to a Federal facility. Section 137(a)2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended, requires the utilization of private industry to the "fullest extent possible" in the transportation of SNF.

OCRWM anticipates seeking competitive proposals for commercial SNF acceptance, transportation and delivery services, including the provision of storage equipment, in accordance with the final version of this

draft Request for Proposals (RFP). In May 1996, OCRWM published in the Federal Register (61 FR 26508) and Commerce Business Daily, a Request for Expression of Interest and Comments on a previous draft Statement of Work (SOW) for these services. In July 1996, comments were sought from interested parties at a presolicitation conference. DOE is now requesting comments on all aspects of its proposed contracting approach embodied in this draft RFP. This version of the draft SOW, Section C, of this draft RFP has been changed, but the changes do not radically alter the approach or work scope.

DATES: Comments in response to this Notice should be received by the Department no later than March 31, 1997. It is anticipated that a presolicitation conference will be held in Washington, D.C. in February 1997 to discuss the draft RFP. A separate Notice will be issued identifying the date and exact location.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to: Michelle Miskinis, Contracting Officer, U. S. Dept. of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW., Attention: HR-561.21, Draft RFP Number DE-RP01-97RW00320, Washington D.C. 20585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Michelle Miskinis (DOE/HR-561.21), 202-634-4413 or Ms. Beth Tomasoni (DOE/HR-561.21), 202-634-4408, (fax) 202-634-4419.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following describes key features of the draft RFP:

Scope of Services:

Under the approach described in this draft RFP, DOE will purchase waste acceptance, transport and delivery services from a contractor-owned, contractor-operated operation. The contractor must: finance the project; acquire the transportation and storage system hardware needed to support the specified SNF delivery rates; apply for and receive required permits, licenses and approvals; interact with State, Tribal and local governments regarding institutional activities such as routing and prenotification; and provide any facilities needed to support the acquisition, transport and delivery operations of the system (unless provided otherwise) and deliver the SNF to a Federal storage or disposal facility. The contractor also will be required to deactivate facilities and equipment no longer required and dispose of all scrap and waste materials, including any hazardous and low level radioactive waste, generated through the performance of this contract. All costs

for disposal of deactivated items, unused materials and waste materials will be the responsibility of the contractor.

The continental United States has been divided into four service regions for purposes of this procurement. To maximize competition, offerors will be expected to submit proposals to service each region in Phase A, but only one contractor per region will be authorized to proceed to Phase B. Offerors will be eligible to receive authorizations to proceed to Phase B for up to two regions. Contractors awarded contracts for a service region will be referred to as Regional Servicing Agents (RSA).

Project Risks

It is the intention of DOE's privatization approach to allocate the financial, regulatory, performance, and operational risks between DOE and the contractor in an equitable manner that both protects the interests of the Government and encourages industry participation. The draft RFP includes provisions for economic price adjustments and allowable financing costs in the event of a termination for convenience by the Government.

Because of the nature of the SNF, the contractor must operate in a strict regulatory environment. DOE's proposed approach is to rely, to the maximum extent practicable, on established and functioning external regulatory authorities while minimizing DOE involvement. The contractor must comply with all Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Transportation rules and regulations governing the acquisition and operational phases of the procurement activity (Phases B and C, respectively). To the extent permitted by law, the contractor will be responsible for obtaining in its own name, and will be solely responsible for compliance with, all necessary permits, authorizations and approvals from Federal, state and local regulatory agencies and Tribal nations, and will assume the financial liability for any fines and penalties.

Contract Description

The draft RFP calls for a three-phased approach to the private sector's provision of the required services. In Phase A, which lasts one year, contractors will be required to develop four regional plans necessary for contractor acceptance and transportation of SNF and delivery of storage containers to a designated Federal facility. In Phase B, which lasts eight years, a contractor will develop the capability to implement the plans it prepared in Phase A. Phase B

encompasses pre-operational start-up preparations prior to accepting SNF for transportation and delivery. It includes development and acquisition of required hardware and facilities, mobilization of resources and provision of initial storage systems and supporting hardware. Phase B would also include the production and delivery of storage equipment prior to the start of Phase C. Phase C, which will last five years, puts the contractor's plans into operation to accept and transport SNF. Initiation of Phase C is dependent on DOE establishing SNF receiving capability at a yet to be designated Federal facility. After receiving DOE authorization to begin Phase C, the contractor will commence waste acceptance and transportation operations and delivery of the SNF to the Federal facility.

DOE believes that there may be limited capacity to receive uncanistered SNF at initiation of Federal facility operations. It is expected that this capacity will increase as the Federal facility and RSA deployments progress during the first several years of operation and beyond. The RSA should consider use of canistered SNF shipments or some method of repackaging to the maximum extent practical during this transitional period. The site servicing plans prepared during Phase A should identify specific site applications where use of truck shipments (i.e., shipments of uncanistered SNF) may provide a clear advantage to the Department.

Contract Type

DOE intends to award one or more contracts in Phase A. DOE has structured the initial phase (Phase A) of the contract to be "cost-shared". DOE intends to offer the same ceiling fixed-price for work to all contractor(s) awarded Phase A contracts. Upon satisfactory completion of all Phase A deliverables, the contractor will receive the specified fixed-price irrespective of actual contractor costs. Certain of the Phase A contractors, based on delivered products, may be authorized to proceed with Phase B and C work.

No payments are expected to be made to the contractors during Phase B. Costs of Phase B work are expected to be recovered in the prices for Phase C services. Pricing of Phase C deliveries and pricing of potential Phase B and estimated Phase C termination costs will be developed and delivered during Phase A. Accordingly, after the successful completion of Phase A, DOE will not make payments to the contractor until commencement of SNF delivered at a designated Federal facility (Phase C). It is anticipated that payment

will be made at a fixed unit price per metric ton of SNF delivered. This price may vary by service region.

Contract Award Period and Performance

This overall waste acceptance, transportation and storage project is anticipated to last approximately forty years. DOE therefore anticipates periodically seeking competitive proposals from potential offerors on a regional basis over the forty-year period. DOE's current plans call for the Phase A contract award(s) to be made in April 1998 based on a July 1997 RFP release date and up to five months for evaluation by DOE of Phase A deliverables. Phase B would begin approximately seventeen months after the award of Phase A contract(s), subject to completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. Phase C is anticipated to commence at the end of the third year of Phase B, (i.e., year 2002) after Congress has designated a Federal storage location. Thereafter, waste acceptance and transportation services would be recompeted in five-year increments.

Comments

OCRWM is interested in receiving comments relating to the draft RFP regarding the acquisition of waste acceptance and transportation services, especially with regard to the following issues:

1. Creative approaches for RSAs to interact with State, Tribal and local governments and interested parties in addressing key institutional issues such as routing and prenotification.
2. Structuring the procurement to provide sufficient financial incentive and other appropriate risk allocating mechanisms between DOE and contractors in order for industry to provide waste acceptance and transportation services.
3. Appropriate financial safeguards for delay in commencement of Phase C as a result of a delay in the start of operations of a Federal facility.
4. Other possible approaches for the RSA's to maximize their ability to service purchasers who cannot accommodate large rail canisters.
5. Any other regulatory requirements, terms or conditions that DOE should consider in formulating this acquisition.

DOE will consider and may utilize all information, recommendations, and suggestions provided in response to this notice. Respondents should not provide any information that they consider to be privileged or confidential or which the respondent does not want disclosed to

the public. DOE does not intend to respond to comments, either to individual commentors or by publication of a formal notice. Copies of all comments will be placed in the DOE Forrestal Building Public Reading Room. Each submittal should consist of one original and three photocopies.

This notice should not be construed (1) as a commitment by the Department to enter into any agreement with any entity submitting comments in response to this Notice, (2) as a commitment to issue any RFP concerning the subject of this Notice, or (3) as a request for proposals.

The solicitation will be available for downloading on the internet from the "Current Business Opportunities at Headquarters Procurement Operations" Home Page located at address <http://www.pr.doe.gov/solicit.html>. It is also available on the OCRWM Home Page located at <http://www.rw.doe.gov/>. Interested parties that do not have the electronic capability to download the solicitation shall submit a written request to the Contracting Officer at the address listed above.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on December 18, 1996.

Daniel A. Dreyfus,

Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.

[FR Doc. 96-32939 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-194-000]

El Paso Natural Gas Company, Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

December 20, 1996.

Take notice that on December 17, 1996, pursuant to Subpart C of Part 154 of the Commission's Regulations Under the Natural Gas Act, El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso) tendered for filing following tariff sheets, to become effective April 1, 1997:

Second Revised Volume No. 1-A

Original Sheet No. 210A
First Revised Sheet No. 211
Second Revised Sheet No. 217
Original Sheet No. 217A

El Paso states that these sheets are being tendered to modify El Paso's proposed pooling and intra-day scheduling tariff provisions that were originally proposed at Docket No. RP97-20-000.

El Paso requests waiver of the notice requirement of Section 154.207 of the

Commission's Regulations to permit the tariff sheets to become effective April 1, 1997, when El Paso is scheduled to implement the GISB Standards.

El Paso states that copies of the filing were served upon all interstate pipeline system customers of El Paso and interested state regulatory commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 and 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests should be filed on or before January 7, 1997. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-32894 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. CP97-155-000]

Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

December 20, 1996.

Take notice that on December 16, 1996, Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company (Panhandle), P.O. Box 1642, Houston, Texas 77251-1642, filed in Docket No. CP97-155-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.212 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.212) for authorization to construct, own and operate an additional meter and appurtenant facilities at its existing metering station for Lafarge Corporation (Lafarge) in Paulding County, Ohio under Panhandle's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP83-83-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Panhandle's proposed facilities will consist of a two-inch turbine meter, approximately 60 feet of 2-inch pipe and appurtenant facilities. Panhandle states that the facilities will increase the capacity of the metering station from 17 Mcf per hour to 62 Mcf per hour and