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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1128a.

Dated: August 16, 1999.

Claudio R. Prieto,

Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 99-21630 Filed 8-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science; Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 99-23: Outstanding Junior Investigator Program

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Division of High Energy Physics of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy, hereby announces its interest in receiving grant applications for support under its Outstanding Junior Investigator (OJI) Program. Applications should be from tenure-track faculty investigators who are currently involved in experimental or theoretical high energy physics or accelerator physics research, and should be submitted through a U.S. academic institution. The purpose of this program is to support the development of individual research programs of outstanding scientists early in their careers. Awards made under this program will help to maintain the vitality of university research and assure continued excellence in the teaching of physics.

DATES: To permit timely consideration for award in fiscal year 2000, formal applications submitted in response to this notice should be received before November 2, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Completed formal applications referencing Program Notice 99-23 should be forwarded to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Grants and Contracts Division, SC-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290, ATTN: Program Notice 99-23. The above address must also be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail, any other commercial mail delivery service, or when hand carried by the applicant. An original and seven copies of the application must be submitted. Due to the anticipated number of reviewers, it would be helpful for each applicant to submit an additional four copies of the application.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Jeffrey Mandula, Division of High Energy Physics, SC-221 (GTN), U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290. Telephone: (301) 903-4829. E-Mail: jeffrey.mandula@science.doe.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Outstanding Junior Investigator program was started in 1978 by the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Research. A principal goal of this program is to identify exceptionally talented new high energy physicists early in their careers and assist and facilitate the development of their research programs. Eligibility for awards under this notice is therefore restricted to non-tenured investigators who are conducting experimental or theoretical high energy physics or accelerator physics research. Since its debut, the program has initiated support for between five and ten new Outstanding Junior Investigators each year. The program has been very successful and contributes importantly to the vigor of the U.S. High Energy Physics program. Applicants should request support under this notice for normal research project costs as required to conduct their proposed research activities. The full range of activities currently supported by the Division of High Energy Physics is eligible for support under this program.

The DOE expects to make five to ten grant awards in fiscal year 2000 to meet the objectives of this program. It is anticipated that approximately \$400,000 will be available in fiscal year 2000, subject to availability of appropriated funds. In the past, awards have averaged \$50,000 per year, with the number of awards determined by the number of excellent applications and the total funds available for this program. Multiple year funding of grant awards is

expected, with funding provided on an annual basis subject to availability of funds. Renewal beyond the initial project period is normal so long as the recipient's tenure status is unchanged.

Applications will be subjected to scientific merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following criteria, which are listed in descending order of importance as set forth in 10 CFR 605.10 (d):

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.

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. Electronic access to the application guide and required forms is available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.er.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>

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 August 13, 1999.

John Rodney Clark,

Associate Director of Science for Resource Management, Office of Science.

[FR Doc. 99-21651 Filed 8-19-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC99-423-000, FERC Form No. 423]

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

August 16, 1999.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the

specific aspects of the information collection described below.

DATES: Consideration will be given to comments submitted on or before October 19, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from, and written comments may be submitted to, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Attn: Michael Miller, Office of the Chief Information Officer, CI-1, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at (202) 208-2425 and by E-mail at mike.miller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collected under the requirements of FERC Form No. 423, "Monthly Report of Cost and Quality of Fuels for Electric Plants" (OMB No. 1902-0024) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Section 205, of the Federal Power Act,

as amended by Section 208 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (49 Stat. 851; 16 U.S.C. 824d). The Commission describes Form 423 filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR Part 141.61.

FERC Form No. 423 gathers basic cost and quality of fuels for electric plants. The Commission staff uses the Form 423 information to conduct fuel reviews under Section 205(a) and (e) of the FPA, rate investigations, and to track wholesale market changes and trends under emerging competitive forces. Other government agencies use Form 423 to track the supply, disposition and prices of fuel on national and regional levels and for environmental assessments. Electric utilities and other wholesale electric participants use the Form 423 data to assess the competitive marketplace.

Action

The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration

date. The Commission staff is currently exploring the filing of Form 423 information electronically (using a web-based application) in lieu of the present system of mailing paper filings to the Commission. If the Commission proposes to convert to electronic filing of Form 423 data, a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will be issued proposing to amend the Commission's regulations to provide for the electronic filing of FERC 423. Such a proposal may also seek to eliminate the current signature requirement and simply require the identification of a representative at each utility responsible for submitting the data electronically. The representative will be given a password and identification code to ensure system integrity.

Burden Statement

Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

Number of respondents	Annual responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total annual burden hours
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)×(2)×(3)
702	12	1.5	12,636

The reduction in the number of annual respondents (plants) from 735 to 702 is due to mergers and dispositions of various utilities generating assets and plants that have retired in the last three years. Estimated cost burden to respondents: 12,636 hours/2080 hours per year × \$109,889=\$667,576; (i.e., 12,636 hours divided by 2,080 hours per full time employee per year multiplied by \$109,889 per year equals \$667,576). Reporting burden includes the total time, effort and financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide the information including: (1) Reviewing instructions; (2) developing, acquiring, installing, and utilizing technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, verifying, processing, maintaining, disclosing and providing information; (3) adjusting the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; (4) training personnel to respond to a collection of information; (5) searching data sources; (6) completing and reviewing the collection of information; and (7) transmitting, or otherwise disclosing the information. The estimate of respondent cost is based upon salaries for professional and clerical support, as well as direct and indirect

overhead costs. Direct costs include all costs directly attributable to providing this information, such as administrative costs and the cost for information technology. Indirect or overhead costs are costs incurred by an organization in support of its mission. These costs apply to activities which benefit the whole organization rather than any one particular function or activity.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have practical applications; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utilization and clarity of the information to be collected; (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection on respondents, including the proposed electronic submission of responses; (5) the magnitude of the impact of the conversion to electronic filing on respondents; (6) the proposed elimination of signature requirement; (7) any existence of a competitive disadvantage caused by publicly providing information in Form 423 to

which competitors would have access (without a corresponding obligation on its competitors not subject to the Commission's reporting requirements); and (8) the relevancy of the information currently collected given the current transition from cost-based to a fully competitive wholesale electric market.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,
Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC99-714-000, FERC Form No. 714]

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

August 16, 1999.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), the Federal Energy