

numerous research studies to assess directions in science and to identify and assess new and improved approaches to science management.

Program Contact: (202) 586-9942.

#### 7. Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

The objective of the EPSCoR program is to enhance the capabilities of EPSCoR states to conduct nationally competitive energy-related research and to develop science and engineering manpower to meet current and future needs in energy-related fields. This program addresses basic research needs across all of the Department of Energy research interests. Research supported by the EPSCoR program is concerned with the same broad research areas addressed by the Office of Science programs that are described in this notice. The EPSCoR program is restricted to applications, which originate in twenty-one states (Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming) and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico. It is anticipated that only a limited number of new competitive research grants will be awarded under this program subject to the availability of funds.

Program Contact: (301) 903-3427.

Issued in Washington, DC on: December 10, 2001.

**John Rodney Clark,**

*Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.*

[FR Doc. 01-31351 Filed 12-19-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-02-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Nevada

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Nevada Test Site. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Wednesday, January 9, 2002, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Room 4401, Las Vegas, Nevada.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kevin Rohrer, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management, P.O. Box 98518, Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8513, phone: 702-295-0197, fax: 702-295-5300.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Purpose of the Board:* The purpose of the Advisory Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

*Tentative Agenda:* 1. Focus on the results of the recent peer review conducted on the Nevada Test Site Underground Test Area project strategy. Members of the Peer Review Team will be at the meeting to discuss their approach to the review and will be available to address question related to the technical report.

Copies of the final agenda will be available at the meeting.

*Public Participation:* The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Committee either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Kevin Rohrer, at the telephone number listed above. Requests must be received 5 days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of five minutes to present their comments.

*Minutes:* The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585 between 9:00 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to Kevin Rohrer at the address listed above.

Issued at Washington, DC, on December 17, 2001.

**Rachel M. Samuel,**

*Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-31348 Filed 12-19-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Fernald; Open Meeting

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Fernald. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Saturday, January 12, 2002, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Public Environmental Information Center 10995 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, OH.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Doug Sarno, Phoenix Environmental, 6186 Old Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310, at (703) 971-0030 or (513) 648-6478, or e-mail: djsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Purpose of the Board:* The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

*Tentative Agenda:*

8:30 a.m., Call to Order

8:30-8:45 a.m., Chair's Remarks and Ex Officio Announcements

8:45-9:45 a.m., Current Remediation Issues, Silos, Efficiency Efforts

9:45-10:00 a.m., Break

10:00-11:15 a.m., Budget and Priority Issues for FY 2006 Planning

11:15-11:45 a.m., Update and Planning for Public Records Feasibility Study

11:45-12:00 p.m., Public Comments

12:00 p.m., Adjourn

*Public Participation:* The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board chair either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact the Board chair at the address or telephone number listed below. Requests must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Gary Stegner, Public Affairs Office, Ohio Field Office, U.S. Department of Energy, is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Each individual wishing to make public comment will be provided a maximum of five minutes to present their comments.

*Minutes:* The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20585 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, except Federal holidays.

Minutes will also be available by writing to the Fernald Citizens' Advisory Board, % Phoenix Environmental Corporation, MS-76, Post Office Box 538704, Cincinnati, OH 43253-8704, or by calling the Advisory Board at (513) 648-6478.

Issued at Washington, DC, on December 14, 2001.

**Rachel Samuel,**

*Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-31349 Filed 12-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

#### Objective Merit Review of Discretionary Financial Assistance Applications

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of objective merit review procedure.

**SUMMARY:** This Notice establishes the procedure followed by program and regional support offices under the purview of the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in conducting the objective merit review of discretionary financial assistance applications.

**DATES:** Effective date: December 20, 2001.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

LaTonya Poole, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, EE-3.2, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586-3835.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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### I. Introduction

The Department of Energy (DOE) today gives notice of the procedure for the objective merit review of discretionary financial assistance in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). Financial assistance is provided, in the form of a grant or cooperative agreement, when the principal purpose of the transaction is the transfer of money or property to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation as authorized by Federal

statute. Discretionary financial assistance is financial assistance provided under a Federal statute which authorizes DOE to select the recipient and the project to be supported and to determine the amount to be awarded. This differs from a procurement, which refers to instruments used when the principal purpose of the transaction is the acquisition of supplies or services for the direct benefit of the Government. The procedure implements the objective merit review provisions of the DOE Financial Assistance Rules in (10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 600.13).

### II. Applicability of Notice

The procedure covers the evaluation of all discretionary financial assistance applications within the programs of the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and applies to both solicited and unsolicited applications.

### III. Distinction Between Solicited and Unsolicited Proposals

Solicited proposals are direct responses by interested organizations or individuals to published requests issued by DOE for the submission of applications for discretionary financial assistance awards. Solicited proposals are awarded on a competitive basis using the criteria set forth in 10 CFR 600.8. When a proposal is submitted solely on the proposer's initiative and the idea, method or approach which would not be eligible for assistance under a recent, current, or planned solicitation, and if, as determined by DOE, a competitive solicitation would not be appropriate, the proposal is considered an unsolicited proposal. Unsolicited proposals are awarded on a noncompetitive basis using the criteria set forth in 10 CFR 600.6 (c). The two types of proposals are treated differently, as described in paragraph IV. (c), below.

### IV. Objective Merit Review Procedure

(a) *Definition and Purpose.* Merit review is the process of evaluating applications for discretionary financial assistance using established criteria. The review is thorough, consistent and independent and is completed by individuals knowledgeable in the field of endeavor for which support is requested. The purpose of the review is to provide advice on the technical and cost-related merits of applications to the Selection Official with decision-making authority over the award of discretionary financial assistance.

(b) *Basic Review Standards.* (1) *Initial Review.* All discretionary financial assistance applications received by EERE will be assigned to the respective

EERE program official who will initially review the document(s) for conformance with the technical and administrative requirements stated in the program rule, notice or solicitation. Applicants not meeting the technical and administrative requirements of the program rule, notice or solicitation will be considered non-responsive. Non-responsive applications will not receive further consideration for financial assistance. Non-responsive applicants will be notified in writing. (2) *Evaluation.* Solicited applications which pass the initial review will be evaluated in accordance with stated evaluation criteria set forth in the program rule, notice or solicitation. Those applications not meeting the evaluation criteria of the program rule, notice or solicitation may be returned to the sender to be corrected, modified or supplemented by the sender. Those applications judged to be so inadequate that an evaluation is not warranted will not receive further consideration for financial assistance and may be returned to the sender. Unsolicited proposals will be reviewed to determine whether program policy factors would encourage further review of the proposal.

(c) *Criteria for Merit Review.* Applications which pass the initial review and meet the evaluation criteria set forth in the program rule, notice or solicitation are subjected to an objective merit review for discretionary financial assistance. The criteria used for the evaluation of solicited applications must be clearly stated in the solicitation along with the relative importance given to each criterion. The criteria, and other mandatory information specified in 10 CFR 600.8, must be in the solicitation. If an unsolicited proposal is initially favorably evaluated against program policy factors, it should be considered for an objective merit review for discretionary financial assistance. Eligibility requirements for the award of unsolicited proposals are set forth in 10 CFR 600.6 (c).

(d) *The Merit Review Committee.* (1) The Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (ASEE) has the ultimate responsibility for appointments to a merit review committee (the Committee). The ASEE may delegate the appointment authority and decision-making authority (Selection Official function) to Deputy Assistant Secretaries (DAS), Office Directors and Regional Support Office Directors.

(2) The Committee, whether a standing committee or other review committee, will consist of three or more professionally and technically qualified