

Agreement (MOA) that sets forth the specific actions to be performed by the show organizer and the Department of Commerce. The show organizer must be willing to cooperate with the Commercial Service and the International Buyer Program to further the program's goals and adhere to the target dates listed in the MOA and in the event timetables. Past experience of show organizers who have participated in the IBP is taken into account in evaluating the current application to the program.

**How to Apply:** Interested show organizers [**Note:** should capitalize or not capitalize "show organizer" consistently.] can obtain information and application materials from the point of contact listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** at the beginning of this notice. Anyone requesting application information will be sent a sample copy of the MOA along with the application and a copy of this **Federal Register** Notice. *Applications should be sent via express mail to avoid delays due to the irradiation of regular mail addressed to the DOC Herbert Clark Hoover Building (HCHB) location.*

All applications must be received by 5 p.m. local time on November 6, 2006. For deadline purposes, facsimile or e-mail applications will be accepted; however, paper copies of the signed original applications must be received within five business days after the deadline date. Late applications will not be considered.

**Legal Authority:** The Commercial Service is authorized to conduct the International Buyer Program under 15 U.S.C. 4724. The Commercial Service has the legal authority to enter into MOAs with show organizers (partners) under the provisions of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (MECEA), as amended (22 U.S.C. Sections 2455(f) and 2458 (c)). MECEA allows the Commercial Service to accept contributions of funds and services from firms for the purposes of furthering its mission.

**Information Collection Requirements:** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements of the application to this program under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) (OMB Control No. 0625-0151). Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of

information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Signed: August 3, 2006.

**Todd Thurwachter,**

*Director, Office of Trade Event Programs, U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.*

[FR Doc. E6-14652 Filed 9-5-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-FF-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Minority Business Development Agency

[Docket No: 000724218-6233-10]

#### Solicitation of Applications for the Native American Business Enterprise Center (NABEC) (formerly Native American Business Development Center (NABDC))

**AGENCY:** Minority Business Development Agency, DOC.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Executive Order 11625 and 15 U.S.C. Section 1512, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting for competitive applications from organizations to operate a Native American Business Enterprise Center (NABEC) (formerly Native American Business Development Center (NABDC)). This is not a grant program to help start a business. Applications submitted must be to operate a Native American Business Enterprise Center (NABEC) and to provide business consultation to eligible clients. Applications that do not meet these requirements will be rejected. The NABEC will provide services in the outlined geographic areas (refer to **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this Notice).

**DATES:** The closing date for receipt of applications for the NABEC program is October 18, 2006. Completed applications must be received by MBDA no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time at the address below for paper submission or at <http://www.grants.gov/> for electronic submission. The due date and time is the same for electronic submissions as it is for paper submissions. The date that applications will be deemed to have been submitted electronically shall be the date and time received at Grants.gov. Applicants should save and print the proof of submission they receive from Grants.gov. Applications received after the closing date and time will not be considered. Anticipated time for processing of the NABEC program is

approximately ninety days (90) days from the date of publication of this Announcement. MBDA anticipates that awards for the NABEC program will be made with a start date of January 1, 2007.

**Pre-Application Conference:** A pre-application teleconference will be held for the NABEC program on October 3, 2006, in connection with this solicitation Announcement. The pre-application conference information will be available on MBDA's Portal (MBDA Portal) at <http://www.mbda.gov/>. Interested parties to the pre-application conference must register at MBDA's Portal at least 24 hours in advance of the event.

#### ADDRESSES:

1 (a) *Paper Submission—If Mailed:* If the application is mailed/shipped overnight by the applicant or its representative, one (1) signed original plus two (2) copies of the application must be submitted. Completed application packages must be mailed to: Office of Business Development—NABEC Program, Office of Executive Secretariat, HCHB, Room 5063, Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230. U.S. Department of Commerce delivery policies for Federal Express, UPS, and DHL overnight services require the packages to be sent to the address above.

1 (b) *Paper Submission—If Hand-Delivered:* If the application is hand-delivered by the applicant or his/her representative, one (1) signed original plus two (2) copies of the application must be delivered to: U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency, Office of Business Development—NABEC Program (extension 1940), HCHB, Room 1874, Entrance #10, 15th Street, NW., Washington, DC (Between Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues). U.S. Department of Commerce "hand-delivery" policies state that Federal Express, UPS, and DHL overnight services submitted to the address listed above (Entrance #10) cannot be accepted. These policies should be taken into consideration when utilizing their services. MBDA will not accept applications that are submitted by the deadline but rejected due to Departmental hand-delivery policies. The applicant must adhere to these policies in order for his/her application to receive consideration for award.

(2) *Electronic Submission:* Applicants are encouraged to submit their proposal electronically at <http://www.Grants.gov>. Electronic submissions should be made

in accordance with the instructions available at Grants.gov (see <http://www.grants.gov/ForApplicants> for detailed information). MBDA strongly recommends that applicants not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process through Grants.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information, please visit MBDA's Minority Business Internet Portal at <http://www.mbda.gov>. Paper applications and Standard Forms may be obtained by contacting the MBDA National Enterprise Center (NEC) for the area where the Applicant is located (See Agency Contacts section) or visiting MBDA's Portal at <http://www.mbda.gov>. Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, and SF-LLL can also be obtained at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants>, or <http://www.Grants.gov>. Forms CD-511 and CD-346 may be obtained at [www.doc.gov/forms](http://www.doc.gov/forms).

Responsibility for ensuring that applications are complete and received by MBDA on time is the sole responsibility of the Applicant.

#### Agency Contacts

1. Office of Business Development, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Room 5073, Washington DC 20230. Contact: Efrain Gonzalez, Program Manager at 202-482-1940.

2. San Francisco National Enterprise Center (SFNEC) is located at 221 Main Street, Suite 1280, San Francisco, CA 94105. The designated project for the SFNEC is the North-West NABEC. This region, under the NABEC program covers the states of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, California and Alaska. Contact: Linda Marmolejo, Regional Director, SFNEC at 415-744-3001.

3. Dallas National Enterprise Center (DNEC) is located at 1100 Commerce Street, Suite 7B-23, Dallas, TX 75242. The designated project for the DNEC is the South-West NABEC. This region, under the NABEC program, covers the states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. Contact John Iglehart, Regional Director, Dallas NEC at 214-767-8001.

4. Atlanta National Enterprise Center (ANEC) is located at 401 W. Peachtree Street, NW., Suite 1715, Atlanta, GA

30308-3516. The designated project for the ANEC is the Eastern NABEC. This region, under the NABEC program, covers the states of Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and the District of Columbia. Contact John Iglehart, Acting Regional Director, ANEC at 404-730-3300.

5. Chicago National Enterprise Center (CNEC) is located at 55 E. Monroe Street Suite 1406, Chicago, IL 60603. The designated project for the CNEC is the Mid-West NABEC. This region, under the NABEC program, covers the states of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. Contact Eric Dobyne, Regional Director, CNEC at 312-353-0182.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Geographic Service Areas

The NABEC Program will provide services in the following revised geographic areas:

NABEC name	Location of NABEC	Geographic service area
Eastern NABEC .....	Nashville, TN .....	States of Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and the District of Columbia.
Mid-West NABEC .....	Minneapolis, MN .....	States of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.
South-West NABEC .....	Tulsa, OK .....	States of Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona.
North-West NABEC .....	Billings, MT .....	States of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, California and Alaska.

**Electronic Access:** A link to the full text of the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) Announcements for the NABEC Program can be found at <http://www.Grants.gov> or by downloading at <http://www.mbda.gov> or by contacting the appropriate MBDA representative identified above. The FFO contains a full and complete description of the NABEC Program requirements. In order to receive proper consideration, applicants must comply with all information and requirements contained in the FFO. Applicants will be able to access, download and submit electronic grant applications for the NABEC Program in this announcement at Grants.gov. MBDA strongly recommends that applicants not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process through

Grants.gov. The date that applications will be deemed to have been submitted electronically shall be the date and time received at Grants.gov. Applicants should save and print the proof of submission they receive from Grants.gov. Applications received after the closing date and time will not be considered.

**Funding Priorities:** Preference may be given to applications during the selection process which address the following MBDA funding priorities:

(a) Applicants who submit proposals that include work activities that exceed the minimum work requirements in this Announcement.

(b) Applicants who submit proposals that include performance goals that exceed the minimum performance goal requirements in this Announcement.

(c) Applicants who demonstrate an exceptional ability to identify and work towards the elimination of barriers which limit the access of minority businesses to markets and capital.

(d) Applicants who demonstrate an exceptional ability to identify and work with minority businesses seeking to obtain large-scale contracts and/or insertion into supply chains with institutional customers.

(e) Applicants that utilize fee for service models and those that demonstrate an exceptional ability to charge and collect fees from clients.

(f) Applicants who submit proposals that take a regional approach in providing services to eligible clients.

**Funding Availability:** The total award period is three years. The Federal funding share in each program year

(2007–2009) (January 1–December 31 respectively) is \$1.25 million. MBDA funding availability is subject to Fiscal Year appropriations. MBDA anticipates funding four (4) NABECs from this competitive Announcement.

MBDA requires each award recipient to provide a minimum of ten percent (10%) non-federal cost share. Applicants must submit project plans and budgets for each of the three funding periods. Projects will be funded for no more than one year at a time. Project proposals accepted for funding will not compete for funding in the subsequent second and third budget

periods. Second and third year funding will depend upon satisfactory performance, availability of funds to support continuation of the project, and consistency with Department of Commerce and MBDA priorities. Second and third year funding will be granted at the sole discretion of MBDA and the Department of Commerce.

MBDA is soliciting competitive applications from organizations to operate a MBEC in the designated geographic areas. The maximum Federal Funding Amounts for each year are shown below.

All funding periods are subject to the availability of funds to support the continuation of the project, and the Department of Commerce's and MBDA's priorities. Publication of this Notice does not obligate MBDA or the Department to award any specific cooperative agreement or to obligate all or any part of available funds.

Contingent upon the availability of Federal funds, the cost of performance for each of the program funding years is estimated in the chart below. The application must include a minimum cost share of 10% in non-Federal contributions.

Project name	January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007			January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008			January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009		
	Total cost (\$)	Federal share (\$)	Non-Fed- eral share (\$) (10% min.)	Total cost (\$)	Federal share (\$)	Non-Fed- eral share (\$) (10% min.)	Total cost (\$)	Federal share (\$)	Non-Fed- eral share (\$) (10% min.)
Eastern NABEC .....	347,100	312,500	34,600	347,100	312,500	34,600	347,100	312,500	34,600
Mid-West NABEC .....	347,100	312,500	34,600	347,100	312,500	34,600	347,100	312,500	34,600
South-West NABEC ...	347,100	312,500	34,600	347,100	312,500	34,600	347,100	312,500	34,600
North-West NABEC ....	347,100	312,500	34,600	347,100	312,500	34,600	347,100	312,500	34,600

**Authority:** Executive Order 11625 and 15 U.S.C. 1512.

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA):** 11.801 Native American Business Enterprise Center Program (NABEC) (formerly Native American Business Development Center (NABDC) Program).

**Eligibility:** For-profit entities (including sole-proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations), and non-profit organizations, state and local government entities, American Indian Tribes, and educational institutions are eligible to operate NABECs. Applicants receiving three (3) consecutive funding award cycles (beginning 2007 through 2015) will not be eligible to receive an award in 2016 (and thereafter).

**Program Description:** In accordance with Executive Order 11625 and 15 U.S.C. Section 1512, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting applications from organizations to operate a Native American Business Enterprise Center (NABEC) (formerly Native American Business Development Center).

The NABEC Program requires NABEC staff to provide standardized business assistance services to eligible Native American, tribal entities, Alaska Native Corporations and minority firms with \$500,000 or more in annual revenues and/or "rapid growth potential" minority businesses ("Strategic Growth Initiative" or "SGI" firms) directly; to develop and maintain a network of strategic partnerships; to provide

collaborative consulting services with other MBDA funded programs and/or strategic partners; to provide strategic business consulting; to work closely with MBDA's Office of Native America Entrepreneurship and Trade; and, to provide referrals for client transactions. These requirements will be used to generate increased results with respect to financing and contracts awarded to minority-owned firms and thus, are a key component of this program.

Eligible clients are SGI minority firms including Native American business enterprises, tribal entities and Alaska Native Corporations capable of generating significant employment and long-term economic growth. However, eligible clients do not have to be tribal members. A significant emphasis for the NABEC Program is to support Native American communities through entrepreneurship.

The NABEC Program shall leverage all available MBDA resources including the (a) Office of Native American Entrepreneurship and Trade, (b) Office of Business Development, and (c) National Enterprise Centers. In addition the NABEC Program shall leverage available telecommunications technology, including the Internet, and a variety of online computer-based resources to increase the level of service that the NABEC can provide to the targeted markets and communities within the defined geographic service area.

The NABEC will place special emphasis on providing access to Federal contracting and procurement opportunities; and, providing collaborative support to the existing network of other MBDA funded projects and/or strategic partners that result in client outcomes.

The NABEC program incorporates an entrepreneurial approach to building market stability and improving the quality of services delivered. This strategy expands the reach of the NABEC by requiring project operators to develop and build upon strategic alliances with public and private sector partners, and MBDA itself, as a means of serving the targeted markets and communities within the Center's defined geographic service area.

MBDA will establish business consulting training programs to support the NABEC client assistance services. These NABEC training programs are designed specifically to foster growth assistance to its clients. The NABEC will also encourage increased collaboration and client/non-client referrals among the MBDA-sponsored networks. This will provide a comprehensive approach to serving the emerging sector of the minority business community.

The NABEC will operate through the use of trained professional business consultants who will assist minority entrepreneurs through direct client engagements. Entrepreneurs eligible for assistance under the NABEC Program

are Native Americans, Native American tribes, Alaska Natives, Alaska Native Corporations, African Americans, Puerto Ricans, Spanish-speaking Americans, Aleuts, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, Asian Indians, and Hasidic Jews.

As part of its strategy for continuous improvement, the NABEC shall expand its delivery capacity to all minority firms (as defined above), with greater emphasis on Native American SGI firms. MBDA wants to ensure that NABEC clients are receiving a consistent level of service throughout its funded network. To that end, MBDA will require NABEC consultants to attend training courses designed to achieve standardized services and quality expectations.

Further programmatic information can be found in the FFO.

**Match Requirements—Alabama MBE:** Cost sharing of at least 10% is required. Cost sharing is the portion of the project cost not borne by the Federal Government. Applicants must meet this requirement through one or more of the following means or a combination thereof: (1) Client fees (if proposed); (2) cash contributions; (3) non-cash applicant contributions; and/or (4) third party in-kind contributions. Bonus points will be awarded for cost sharing exceeding 10 percent that is applied on the following scale: more than 10%—less than 15%—1 point; 15% or more—less than 20%—2 points; 20% or more—less than 25%—3 points; 25% or more—less than 30%—4 points; and, 30% or more—5 points. Applicants must provide a detailed explanation of how the cost-sharing requirement will be met. The NABEC may charge client fees for services rendered. Client fees, if charged, shall be used towards meeting cost share requirements. Client fees applied directly to the award's cost sharing requirement must be used in furtherance of the program objectives.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Proposals will be evaluated and applicants will be selected based on the following criteria. An application must receive at least 70% of the total points available for each evaluation criterion, in order for the application to be considered for funding. The maximum total of points that can be earned is 105 including bonus points for related non-federal cost sharing, except when oral presentations are made by applicants. If oral presentations are made (see paragraph 5 below), the maximum total of points that can be earned is 115.

1. **Applicant Capability (40 points).** The applicant's proposal will be evaluated with respect to the applicant firm's experience and expertise in

providing the work requirements listed. Specifically, the proposals will be evaluated as follows:

- **Community**—experience in and knowledge of the Native American community, Native American tribal entities and minority business sector and strategies for enhancing its growth and expansion; particular emphasis shall be on expanding SGI firms and tribal entities. This factor will be evaluated on whether or not the applicant has a physical presence (2 years minimum) in the geographic service area at the time of application (4 points);

- **Business Consulting**—experience in and knowledge of business consulting of SGI firms and tribal entities (5 points);

- **Financing**—experience in and knowledge of the preparation and formulation of successful financial transactions (5 points);

- **Procurements and Contracting**—experience in and knowledge of the public and private sector contracting opportunities for Native American entities and minority businesses, as well as demonstrated expertise in assisting clients into supply chains (5 points);

- **Financing Networks**—resources and professional relationships within the corporate, banking and investment community that may be beneficial to Native American entities and minority-owned firms (5 points);

- **Establishment of a Self-Sustainable Service Model**—summary plan to establish a self-sustainable model for continued services to the Native American and MBE communities beyond the MBDA funding cycle (3 points);

- **MBE Advocacy**—experience and expertise in advocating on behalf of Native American community, Native American tribal entities and minority businesses, both as to specific transactions in which a minority business seeks to engage, and as to broad market advocacy for the benefit of the minority community at large (3 points); and,

- **Key Staff**—assessment of the qualifications, experience and proposed role of staff who will operate the NABEC. In particular, an assessment will be made to determine whether proposed key staff possesses the expertise in utilizing information systems and the ability to successfully deliver services (10 points).

2. **Resources (20 points).** The applicant's proposal will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Resources**—discuss those resources (not included as part of the cost-sharing arrangement) that will be used, including (but not limited to) existing

prior and/or current data lists that will serve in fostering immediate success for the NABEC (8 points);

- **Location**—Applicant must indicate if it shall establish a location for the Center that is separate and apart from any existing offices in the geographic service area (2 points);

- **Partners**—discuss how you plan to establish and maintain the network of five (5) External Strategic Partners and a minimum of four (4) Internal Strategic Partners. The applicant should also describe how these partners will support the NABEC to meet its performance objectives (5 points); and,

- **Equipment**—discuss how you plan to accomplish the computer hardware and software requirements (5 points).

3. **Techniques and Methodologies (20 points).** The applicant's proposal will be evaluated as follows:

- **Performance Measures**—relate each performance measure to the financial, information and market resources available in the geographic service area to the applicant (including existing client list) and how the goals will be met (marketing plan). Specific attention should be placed on matching performance outcomes (as described under "Geographic Service Areas and Performance Goals" of the FFO) with client service hours. The applicant should consider existing market conditions and its strategy to achieve the goal (10 points);

- **Plan of Action**—provide specific detail on how the applicant will start operations. The NABEC shall have thirty (30) days to become fully operational after an award is made. Fully operational means that all staff are hired, all signs are up, all items of furniture and equipment are in place and operational, all necessary forms are developed (e.g., client engagement letters, other standard correspondence, etc.), and the Center is ready to open its doors to the public (5 points); and,

- **Work Requirement Execution Plan**—The applicant will be evaluated on how effectively and efficiently all staff time will be used to achieve the work requirements (5 points).

4. **Proposed Budget and Supporting Budget Narrative (20 points).** The applicant's proposal will be evaluated on the following sub-criteria:

- **Reasonableness, allowability and allocability of costs.** All of the proposed expenditures must be discussed and the budget line item narrative must match the proposed budget. Fringe benefits and other percentage item calculations must match the proposed line item on the budget. (5 points);

- **Proposed cost sharing of 10% is required.** The non-federal share must be

adequately documented, including, how client fees (if charged) will be used to meet the cost-share (5 points); and,

*Performance Based Budget.* Discuss how the budget is related to the accomplishment of the work requirements and the performance measures. Provide a budget narrative that clearly shows the connections (10 points).

Proposals with cost sharing which exceeds 10% will be awarded bonus points on the following scale: More than 10%-less than 15%—1 point; 15% or more-less than 20%—2 points; 20% or more-less than 25%—3 points; 25% or more-less than 30%—4 points; and 30% or more—5 points.

5. *Oral Presentation—Optional (10 points).* Oral presentations are held only when determined by MBDA. When the merit review by the panel results in applications scoring 70% or more of the available points for each criterion, MBDA may request all those applicants to develop and provide an oral presentation. This presentation will be used to establish a final evaluation and rating.

*The applicant's presentation will be evaluated on the following sub-criteria:*

(a) The extent to which the presentation demonstrates how the applicant will effectively and efficiently assist MBDA in the accomplishment of its mission (2 points);

(b) The extent to which the presentation demonstrates business operating priorities designed to manage a successful NABEC (2 points);

(c) The extent to which the presentation demonstrates a management philosophy that achieves an effective balance between micromanagement and complete autonomy for its Project Director (2 points);

(d) The extent to which the presentation demonstrates robust search criteria for the identification of a Project Director (1 point);

(e) The extent to which the presentation demonstrates effective employee recruitment and retention policies and procedures (1 point); and,

(f) The extent to which the presentation demonstrates a competitive and innovative approach to exceeding performance requirements (2 points).

#### **Review and Selection Process—Alabama MBEC**

1. *Initial Screening.* Prior to the formal paneling process, each application will receive an initial screening to ensure that all required forms, signatures and documentation are present.

2. *Panel Review.* Each application will receive an independent, objective review by a panel qualified to evaluate the applications submitted. MBDA anticipates that the review panel will be made up of at least three independent reviewers (all Federal employees) who will review all applications based on the above evaluation criteria. Each reviewer will evaluate and provide a score for each proposal. In order for an application to be considered for funding, it shall need to achieve 70% of the available points for each criterion. Failure to achieve these results will automatically deem the application as unsuccessful.

3. *Oral Presentation—Optional.* When the merit review by the panel results in applications scoring 70% or more of the available points for each criterion, MBDA may request all those applicants to develop and provide an oral presentation. The applicants may receive up to 10 additional points based on the presentation and content presented. If a formal presentation is requested, the applicants will receive a formal communication (via standard mail, e-mail or fax) from MBDA indicating the time and date for the presentation. In person presentations are not mandatory but are encouraged; telephonic presentations are acceptable. Applicants will be asked to submit a power point presentation (or equivalent) to MBDA that addresses the oral presentation criteria (see above, Evaluation Criteria, item 5. Oral Presentation—Optional). This presentation must be submitted at least 24 hours before the scheduled date and time of the presentation. The presentation will be made to the National Director (or his/her designee) and/or up to three senior MBDA staff who did not serve on the merit evaluation panel. The oral panel members may ask follow-up questions after the presentation. MBDA will provide the teleconference dial-in number and pass code. Each finalist will present to MBDA staff only; other applicants are not permitted to listen (and/or watch).

All costs pertaining to this presentation shall be borne by the applicant. NABEC award funds may not be used as a reimbursement for this presentation. MBDA will not accept any requests or petitions for reimbursement. The oral panel members shall score each presentation in accordance with the oral presentation criteria. An average score shall be compiled and added to the original score of the panel review.

4. *Final Recommendation.* The National Director of MBDA makes the final recommendation to the

Department of Commerce Grants Officer regarding the funding of applications, taking into account the selection criteria as outlined in this Announcement and the following:

(a) The evaluations and rankings of the independent review panel and the evaluation(s) of the oral presentations, if applicable;

(b) Funding priorities. The National Director (or his/her designee) reserves the right to conduct a site visit (subject to the availability of funding) to applicant organizations receiving at least 70% of the total points available for each evaluation criterion, in order to make a better assessment of the organization's capability to achieve the funding priorities; and,

(c) The availability of funding.

#### *Intergovernmental Review:*

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

*Limitation of Liability:* Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have yet to be appropriated for this program. In no event will MBDA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if this program fails to receive funding or is cancelled because of other Agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige MBDA or the Department of Commerce to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

*Universal Identifier:* Applicants should be aware that they will be required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering system (DUNS) number during the application process. See the June 27, 2003 (68 FR 38402) **Federal Register** notice for additional information. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or by accessing the Grants.gov Web site at <http://www.Grants.gov>.

*Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements:* The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of December 30, 2004 (69 FR 78389) are applicable to this solicitation.

*Paperwork Reduction Act:* This document contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, SF-LLL, and CD-346 have been approved by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the respective

control numbers 0348-0043, 0348-0044, 0348-0040, 0348-0046, and 0605-0001.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

*Executive Order 12866:* This notice has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

*Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act:* Prior notice for an opportunity for public comment are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act for rules concerning public property, loans, grant, benefits and contracts (5 U.S.C. 533(a)(2)). Because notice and opportunity for comment are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 533 or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C 601 *et seq.*) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required and has not been prepared.

Dated: August 31, 2006.

**Ronald N. Langston,**  
National Director, Minority Business  
Development Agency.

[FR Doc. E6-14758 Filed 9-5-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-21-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 083006A]

#### Endangered Species; File No. 1580

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Dynergy Northeast Generation, Inc. (Dynergy), 992-994 River Road, Newburgh, NY 12550, has applied in due form for a permit to take shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before October 6, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 713-2289; fax (301) 427-2521; and

Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298; phone (978) 281-9300; fax (978) 281-9394.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this application should be mailed to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301)427-2521, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period.

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: File No. 1580.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Malcolm Mohead or Shane Guan. (301) 713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR 222-226).

Dynergy seeks a two (2) year scientific research permit on shortnose sturgeon in its efforts to study the abundance of all of sampled species in the Hudson River estuary from Battery Park (Manhattan) to River Mile 152. Based on previous permitted sampling efforts, Dynergy requests to lethally take up to 40 shortnose sturgeon larvae and to capture, handle, collect, measure, externally tag and release up to 82 juvenile and adult sturgeon obtained by various sampling methods. Dynergy sampling programs will include a Longitudinal River Ichthyoplankton Survey, a Beach Seine Survey, a Fall Juvenile Survey and an Adult Striped Bass Mark/Recapture Survey. Gear associated with the plankton survey are a 1.0-m<sup>2</sup> epibenthic sled, and a 1.0-m<sup>2</sup> Tucker Trawl to be towed by boat against the prevailing current for 5 minutes intervals on a weekly or bi-weekly basis (depending on the season) beginning March 6 and ending on December 1 of each year of the permit. An average of 133 sample trawls will be done per week. The Beach Seine Survey will utilize a 30.5-m total length beach

seine with bag deployed by boat in 450 m<sup>2</sup> semi-circular sweeps to collect YOY fish in the shore zone. The sampling period is bi-weekly from June 12 to October 16 each year of the permit with an average of 100 samples per week. Gear associated with the Fall Juvenile Survey is a 3-m Beam Trawl and Tucker Trawl to be towed by boat on alternating weeks in three separate sampling periods from July 1 to December 1 in each year of the permit with an average of 180 trawls per week. The Adult Striped Bass Mark/Recapture Survey will utilize a 9-m otter trawl with tow duration of typically 10 minutes and with approximately 500 trawls occurring between January and April and then between October and December.

Dated: August 30, 2006.

**P. Michael Payne,**

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 083006E]

#### Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting of the Hawaii members of the Council's Bottomfish Plan Team (BPT).

**DATES:** The meeting of the BPT will be held on September 27, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting of the Hawaii BPT will be held at the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council conference room, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808) 522-8220.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The BPT will meet on September 27, 2006, to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Introductions, approval of draft agenda and assignment of rapporteurs
2. Report on Fishery Independent Research Workshop