

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 726 Jackson Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20503. (Comments should also be addressed to the Office of Statistical Standards at the address below.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Herbert Miller, Office of Statistical Standards, (EI-70), Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20585. Mr. Miller may be telephoned at (202) 426-1103, FAX (202) 426-1081, or e-mail at hmilller@eia.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The energy information collection submitted to OMB for review was:

1. EIA-887, "DOE Customer Surveys"
2. Department of Energy; OMB No. 1901-0302; Extension of Currently Approved Collection; Voluntary
3. DOE-887 will be used to contact users and beneficiaries of DOE products or other services to determine how the Department can better improve its services to meet their needs. Information is needed to make the Department's products more effective, efficient, and responsive and at a lesser cost. Respondents will be users and beneficiaries of the Department's products and services.
4. Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Farms; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government
5. 12,500 hours (.25 hrs. per response \times 1 response per year \times 50,000 respondents)

Statutory Authority

Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13).

Issued in Washington, D.C., April 21, 1997.

Jay H. Casselberry,

Agency Clearance Officer, Office of Statistical Standards, Energy Information Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-10856 Filed 4-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Research

Energy Research Financial Assistance Program Notice 97-14; Advanced Computational Testing and Simulation Software Activities

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Mathematical, Information, and Computational

Sciences (MICS) Division of the Office of Computational and Technology Research (OCTR), Office of Energy Research (ER), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces its interest in receiving applications for research grants in Advanced Computational Testing and Simulation Software Activities.

DATES: Formal applications submitted in response to this notice must be received not later than 4:30 p.m. E.D.T., July 16, 1997, to permit timely consideration for award early in fiscal year 1998.

ADDRESSES: Formal applications, referencing Program Notice 97-14, should be forwarded to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Research, Grants and Contracts Division, ER-64, 1901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290, Attn: Program Notice 97-14. The above address also must be used when submitting formal applications by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail, any commercial mail delivery service, or when hand-carried by the applicant.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Mary Anne Scott, Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy, OCTR/MICS, ER-31, 1901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290. Tel: (301) 903-6368; E-mail: scott@er.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The vision of the DOE 2000 Initiative is to accelerate DOE mission accomplishments through advanced collaboration and simulation. Objectives include improved ability to solve DOE's scientific problems, an increased R & D productivity and efficiency, and enhanced access to DOE resources by R & D partners.

One of the two major thrusts for addressing these objectives is the Advanced Computational Testing and Simulation (ACTS) Toolkit. This toolkit will provide an integrated set of software tools, algorithms, and environments that accelerate the adoption and use of advanced computing by DOE programs for mission-critical problems. The toolkit will include capabilities for representing complex geometries, solving diverse numerical equations, simplifying multi-language parallel execution, evaluating and enhancing code performance, and dynamically steering calculations during execution. The strategy for building this toolkit is to select a base set of existing successful tools, provide support to make them interoperable, and then add new tools and interfaces to make the entire toolkit robust for diverse application needs.

In FY 1997, the founding efforts for the ACTS Toolkit were begun—the Scientific Template Library (SciTL). SciTL concentrates on three areas of tool development: interoperable numeric libraries, object-oriented libraries and capabilities for modular code development, and runtime libraries for efficient parallel execution (including dynamic load-balancing). All portions of the SciTL work are tied to specific DOE applications (Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative (ASCI) codes and ER Grand Challenges) and initially targeted to specific computing platforms (ASCI machines). The FY 1997 SciTL project description, including detailed plans, deliverables, and participants, can be found via the Internet at the following URL: <http://www.acl.lanl.gov/SciTL>.

In FY 1998, the ACTS Toolkit efforts will begin to expand. Applications are solicited to build on the SciTL to further advance the strategies of the ACTS Toolkit. Technical areas of interest include, but are not limited to: additional application-specific data structures required for scientific codes, additional numerical solvers, parallel and distributed data structures to support numerical techniques; high-performance parallel input/output components, language interoperability (primarily Fortran, C, and C++), tools for enhancing fault tolerance, tools for easily saving and restoring complex pointer-based structures and objects, tools for debugging and performance analysis/tuning; and toolkit components required for new domains of use. Applications are also encouraged for expanding the use of the ACTS Toolkit to a wider range of DOE applications and for expanding the types of computing platforms on which the Toolkit can be used.

Successful applications will relate to the current SciTL structure by one or more of the following:

- Building new ACTS Toolkit capabilities by using the current functionality provided by the SciTL interface,
- Expanding capabilities of the SciTL interface by developing complementary libraries that interoperate with relevant portions of the existing SciTL components,
- Evaluating the current capabilities of the SciTL components for their functionality, performance, and portability in the context of new application and/or computing systems domains,
- Restructuring portions of the existing SciTL components to enhance functionality, improve performance, and/or expand portability,

• Linking the ACTS Toolkit with components in the other DOE 2000 thrust: National Collaboratories (see the Internet web page at URL: <http://www.mcs.anl.gov/DOE2000/>).

Applications may be for up to three years in duration, with second and third year funding subject to progress demonstrated in annual reviews. Based on anticipated available funding and sufficient applications of high merit, approximately 4–6 applications averaging \$250K/year could be supported.

Applications will be subjected to formal merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following criteria listed in descending order of importance as codified for review of applications from the academic and industrial sectors in 10 CFR part 605:

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.

4. Reasonableness and Appropriateness of the Proposed Budget.

Within the Scientific and/or Technical Merit criterion above, the following subcriteria will be used for evaluation purposes (relative to the current SciTL), and will be evaluated equally:

i. Increased functionality.

ii. Enhanced performance.

iii. Improved usability.

iv. Widened scope of applicability.

Within the Appropriateness of Method criterion above, applicants are encouraged to identify opportunities for collaboration with ongoing DOE 2000 projects and other applications important to DOE missions.

External peer reviewers will be selected with regard to both their scientific expertise and the absence of conflict-of-interest issues. Non-federal reviewers will be used, and submission of an application constitutes agreement that this is acceptable to the investigator(s).

Information about the development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluation, selection processes, and other policies and procedures may be found in the Application Guide for the Office of Energy Research Financial Assistance

Program and 10 CFR Part 605. The Application Guide is available from the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Research, OCTR/MICS, ER-31, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290. Telephone requests may be made by calling (301) 903-5800. Electronic access to ER's Application Guide is possible via the Internet at the following URL: <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 April 15, 1997.

John Rodney Clark,

Associate Director for Resource Management, Office of Energy Research.

[FR Doc. 97-10609 Filed 4-23-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments (FERC Form No. 542)

April 23, 1997.

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 June 27, 1997.

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 P. Miller, Information Services Division, ED-12.4, 888 First Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael P. Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at

(202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at mmiller@ferc.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collected under the requirements of FERC Form No. 542 "Gas Pipeline Rates: Rate Tracking (Non-Formal)" (OMB No. 1902-0070) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Title IV of the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA), 15 U.S.C. 3301-3432, and Sections 4, 5, and 16, of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) (15 U.S.C. 717-717w). As a result of the issuance and implementation of Order No. 636, the sales function performed by the interstate pipelines has mostly disappeared. Customers have overwhelmingly chosen to do their own procurement of gas supplies coupled with the use of transportation service on the pipelines rather than buying gas from pipelines. For pipelines to recover a variety of transportation costs they have developed filings to track these expenditures and include such charges as: Costs of obtaining the use of upstream pipeline capacity to fulfill pipeline service obligations; electric power cost filings; gas supply realignment transition cost flowthrough; fuel usage; and Gas Research Institute research fees. Tracking filings are submitted at any time to track upstream cost changes or are filed on a regularly schedule basis as specified in the companies' tariffs establishing the tracking mechanism. Filings can be either: accepted; suspended but not set for hearing; suspended for further review or a technical conference and additional Commission action as deemed necessary; or suspended and set for hearing. Before the Commission allows the rate change to become effective, staff analysis is performed to ensure that the rate change is just and reasonable. The data submitted in the rate tracking filing are used by the Commission to verify the costs proposed to be recovered under those filings. The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR 154.4; 154.7; 154.101; 154.107; 154.201; 154.207-154.209 and 154.401-154.403.

Action: The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date.

Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

Number of respondents annually (1)	Number of responses per respondent (2)	Average burden hours per response (3)	Total annual burden hours (1)×(2)×(3)
60	5	120	36,000.