

ADDRESSES: Public hearings will be held during the month of October for those individuals who would like to provide oral comments on the DEIS or the Draft CAA Conformity Determination. An open information session will precede the scheduled public hearing at each of the locations listed below and will allow individuals to review the data presented in the DEIS. Navy representatives will be available during the information session to answer questions and/or clarify information related to the DEIS. The open information session is scheduled from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., followed by the public hearing from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Public hearings have been scheduled at the following times and locations: Monday, October 20, 1997, Technical College of the Low Country, Building 12, Main Auditorium, 921 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, South Carolina; Tuesday, October 21, 1997, Havelock Middle School, 102 High School Drive, Havelock, North Carolina; Wednesday, October 22, 1997, Pamlico County Courthouse, 202 Main Street, Bayboro, North Carolina; Thursday, October 23, 1997, North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, Airport Road, Manteo, North Carolina; Monday, October 27, 1997, Virginia Beach Pavilion Convention Center Auditorium, 1000 19th Street, Virginia Beach, Virginia; Tuesday, October 28, 1997, Butts Road Intermediate School, 1571 Mt. Pleasant Road, Chesapeake, Virginia.

Federal, state and local agencies and interested parties are invited and urged to be present or represented at the hearing. Oral statements will be heard and transcribed by a stenographer; however, to ensure the accuracy of the record, all statements should be submitted in writing. All statements, both oral and written, will become part of the public record on the DEIS and Draft CAA Conformity Determination and will be responded to in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Equal weight will be given to both oral and written statements.

In the interest of available time and to ensure all who wish to give an oral statement have the opportunity to do so, each speaker will be asked to limit comments to three (3) minutes. If a longer statement is to be presented, it should be summarized at the public hearing and submitted in writing either at the hearing or mailed or faxed to Mr. Dan Cecchini at: Commander, Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Attn: Mr. J. Dan Cecchini (Code 2032DC), 1510 Gilbert Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23511; Fax: (757) 322-4894. All written comments postmarked by November 18, 1997, will become a

part of the official public record and will be responded to in the FEIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Additional information concerning this notice may be obtained by contacting Mr. Cecchini or one of the following individuals: Mr. Fred Pierson, Community Planning Liaison Officer, NAS Oceana, (757) 433-3158; LtCol Blackiston, Community Planning Liaison Officer, MCAS Cherry Point, (919) 466-4196; LtCol Keverline, Community Planning Liaison Officer, MCAS Beaufort, (803) 522-7390, or Capt Mason, Public Affairs Officer, MCAS Beaufort, (803) 522-7201.

Dated: September 29, 1997.

Darse E. Crandall,

LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Advisory Council on Education Statistics, (ACES)

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of partially closed meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of the forthcoming meetings of the Advisory Council on Education Statistics (ACES). Notice of these meetings are required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This document is intended to notify the general public of their opportunity to attend.

DATES: October 9-10, 1997.

TIMES: October 9, 1997—Full Council, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., (open); 11:30 to 1:15 p.m., (closed); Management Committee, 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m., (open); Statistics Committee, 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (open), Strategy/Policy 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (open). October 10, 1997—Full Council 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. (open); Statistics Committee, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon (open); Strategy/Policy Committee, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon (closed); and Management Committee, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon (open).

LOCATION: The Phoenix Park Hotel, 520 North Capitol Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Barbara Marenus, National Center for Education Statistics, 555 New Jersey Ave. NW., Room 400j, Washington, DC 20208-5530. Telephone (202) 219-1828.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Council on Education

Statistics (ACES) is established under Section 406(c)(1) of the Education Amendments of 1974, Public Law 93-380. The Council is established to review general policies for the operation of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the Office of Educational Research and Improvement and is responsible for advising on standards to insure that statistics and analyses disseminated by NCES are of high quality and are not subject to political influence. In addition, ACES is required to advise the Commissioner of NCES and the National Assessment Governing Board on technical and statistical matters related to the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP). The meetings of the Council are open to the public.

The proposed agenda for the full Council includes the following:

- A status report from the NCES Commissioner on major Center initiatives;
- New member swearing -in;
- The presentation of Committee reports;
- A discussion on the development of an NCES periodical;
- A discussion of strategic issues in technology facing NCES; and
- A status report on the NAEP redesign and the development of a new request for proposal (RFP) for NAEP.

Since the full Council's discussion on the implementation of the NAEP redesign includes reporting on plans for an upcoming procurement, this session must be closed to the public. The premature release of this information would result in the disclosure of information that would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of the agency's proposed action. Such matters are protected by exemption (9)(B) of Section 552b (c) of title 5 U.S.C.

Individual meetings of the three ACES subcommittees will focus on specific topics:

- The agenda for the Management Committee includes discussion on the results from the 1996 Customer Service Survey and plans for the 1997 survey, plans for the development of partnerships with external organizations, and a discussion of "capacity building" activities for NCES.
- The agenda for the Statistics Committee focuses on the development of a research agenda on the NAEP achievement level setting process.
- The agenda for the Strategy/Policy Committee includes discussion of NCES procurement initiatives for 1999 and beyond, a new NCES database for budgeting and planning, and a discussion of design options for the redesign of the Schools and Staffing

Survey. Because the discussion will include information on planned procurements, this session must be closed to the public. The public disclosure of this information would be likely to significantly frustrate the implementation of planned agency action if conducted in open session. Such matters are protected by exemption (9)(B) of Section 552b (c) of Title 5 U.S.C.

A summary of the activities and related matters, which are informative to the public and consistent with the policy of Title 5 U.S.C. 552b, will be available to the public within 14 days after the meetings. Records are kept of all Council proceedings and are available for public inspection at the Office of the Executive Director, Advisory Council on Education Statistics, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, room 400J, Washington, DC 20208-7575.

Ricky Takai,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.

[FR Doc. 97-26199 Filed 10-2-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Restricted Eligibility in Support of Advanced Coal Research at U.S. Colleges and Universities

AGENCY: Federal Energy Technology Center (FETC), Pittsburgh, Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Issuance of financial assistance solicitation.

SUMMARY: The FETC announces that pursuant to 10 CFR 600.8(a)(2), and in support of advanced coal research to U.S. colleges and universities, it intends to conduct a competitive Program Solicitation and award financial assistance grants to qualified recipients. Proposals will be subjected to a comparative merit review by a Peer Review/DOE technical panel, and awards will be made to a limited number of proposers on the basis of the scientific merit of the proposals, application of relevant program policy factors, and the availability of funds.

DATES: The Program Solicitation is expected to be ready for release by October 15, 1997. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions and forms in the Program Solicitation and must be received by the Department of Energy by November 26, 1997. Upon receipt of the solicitation document, check for any changes (i.e. closing date of solicitation)

and/or amendments, if any, prior to proposal submission.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Debra A. Duncan, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Technology Center, P.O. Box 10940 (MS 921-143), Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940; (Telephone: 412-892-5700; Facsimile: 412-892-6216; E-Mail: duncan@fetc.doe.gov).

ADDRESSES: The solicitation will be posted on the internet at FETC's Home Page (<http://www.fetc.doe.gov/business/solicit/solicit.html>). The solicitation will also be available, upon request, in Wordperfect 5.1 format on 35" double-sided/high-density disk. Requests can be made via letter, facsimile, or by E-mail. Telephone requests will not be accepted for any format version of the solicitation.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through Program Solicitation DE-PS26-98FT98200.000, the DOE is interested in applications from U.S. colleges and universities (and university-affiliated research centers submitting applications through their respective universities). Applications will be selected to complement and enhance research being conducted in related Fossil Energy (FE) programs. Applications may be submitted individually (i.e., by only one college/university) or jointly (i.e., by "teams" made up of: (1) three or more colleges/universities, or (2) two or more colleges/universities and at least one industrial partner. Collaboration, in the form of joint proposals, is *encouraged* but not required.

Eligibility

Applications under this solicitation may be accepted in two subprogram areas: (1) University Coal Research (UCR) Core Program, and (2) University Coal Research Innovative Concepts Program. Applications must address coal research in one of the solicitation key focus areas in the Core Program or as outlined in the Innovative Concepts Program.

Background

A concept called "Vision 21" is being developed as part of the Coal and Power Systems Strategic Plan which will provide DOE's Fossil Energy organization with a clear focus and mission and will be central to the course of fossil energy research. Vision 21 is, in essence, the idea of a modular co-production facility that is designed for facile capture of CO₂. The concept does not define a single, optimum configuration but rather allows for a series of plant configurations, based on common modules, capable of co-producing power, fuels, chemicals, and

other high value products with avoidance or sequestration of CO₂ and with low emissions of SO₂, NO_x, and particulates. It is envisioned that their modular construction will permit the plants to be tailored to fit a geographic location and specific market area by selection of the appropriate combination of modules. The modules will be scaled to operate together and may be available in several size ranges. In summary, the distinguishing features of the definitive Vision 21 fleet would be (1) the capability of producing low cost electricity at efficiencies over 60%; (2) near-zero pollutants, i.e., one-tenth of New Source Performance Standards for criteria pollutants; (3) no net CO₂ emissions; (4) fuel flexibility (coal plus other opportunity fuels); (5) co-production of higher value commodities; and (6) modular design that permits customizing a plant to a given market area.

For purposes of this solicitation, the feedstock may be coal or any carbonaceous material in combination with coal. Gas or biomass could be combined with the coal to reduce or offset fossil carbon emissions in stages of development where CO₂ was not completely sequestered. Petroleum coke could be used near refineries and municipal waste could also be a fraction of any feed. These Vision 21 plants would answer the needs of a deregulated power industry in that they would provide the ability to supply distributed power while producing high value products. The flexibility to shift product distribution with market forces would make the fledgling plants more robust in a competitive market. The capability to readily capture a concentrated CO₂ stream will be an added benefit should a "carbon tax" be levied and would allow market forces to determine whether carbon is sequestered or taxed-on-release. The Power/Fuels/ Chemicals industry will produce environmentally responsible power, fuels, and chemicals that will be the basis for a secure energy future. The high efficiency of the new power systems will allow more efficient use of indigenous resources and further reduce CO₂ emissions. Developments in breakthrough technologies, such as the high temperature hydrogen separation membrane and advanced oxygen production, will be spinoffs that will be beneficial to many industries. The work in three-phase slurry reactors is universally applicable to chemical and petroleum industries, and development of advanced Diesel fuels will increase gas mileage by 50% or more while reducing particulates and CO₂.