

instructional staff in two ways—allowing comparisons to be made over time and examining critical issues surrounding faculty that have developed since the first two studies. This clearance request covers field test and full scale activities for the second phase of the study—collection of information from a nationally representative sample of faculty and instructional staff at postsecondary institutions. This information, together with information collected in the first phase of the study (1850-0665) on the institutions themselves, will provide a source of descriptive, analytical, trend and policy relevant research on the way postsecondary education functions.

Office of the Under Secretary

Type of Review: NEW.

Title: Guidance for Reporting on Waivers Granted by the U.S. Department of Education.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 20.

Burden Hours: 100.

Abstract: The Department is required by statute to collect reports from state education agencies on the uses of waivers in their states. The purpose of this guidance is to assist states in meeting the statutory requirements. Information from this collection will be used to monitor the progress of waiver recipients in improving teaching and learning and to inform the Department's annual report to Congress on waivers. [FR Doc. 97-31495 Filed 12-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Idaho Operations Office; Notice of Intent To Solicit Comments for Financial Assistance Awards

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of intent to solicit comments for financial assistance awards.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Geothermal Technologies, Advanced Drilling Systems Research Program, via the Idaho Operations Office (DOE-ID), is soliciting comments on its draft solicitation for cost-shared cooperative agreements, industry-government Research & Development projects to develop advanced drilling technologies and transfer the results to industry. These new developments can then be

used by the U.S. geothermal industry to solve technical problems.

Comments regarding the draft solicitation are welcome from potential developers, owners and operators of geothermal facilities, including utilities, as well as from manufacturers, universities, and other non-industry groups.

DATES: Comments to the draft solicitation should be sent to the point of contact shown below by January 8, 1998. A copy of the draft solicitation in its full text can be found at the following internet address: <http://www.inel.gov/doiid/solicit.html> under Current Solicitations.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding the draft solicitation or requests to be placed on the final solicitation mailing list shall be submitted in writing to: Ms. Peggy Brookshier, U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, 850 Energy Drive, Mail Stop 1220, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563, e-mail: brookspa@inel.gov, Tele: (208) 526-1403, Fax: (208) 526-5964.

It is the agency preference that all submitted comments be received by e-mail. All written comment responses must include name, title, organization, address, phone number, fax number, e-mail address.

A **Federal Register** notice soliciting applications will be published at a later date upon issuance of the final solicitation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael K. Barrett, Contracting Officer at (208) 526-5743 or Peggy Brookshier, Program Manager at (208) 526-1403; U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, 850 Energy Drive, Mail Stop 1221, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The solicitation will be issued pursuant to 10 CFR 600.6(a) with no eligibility restrictions. The statutory authority for the issuance of this solicitation is Pub. L. 93-410, the Geothermal Energy Research, Development & Demonstration Act of 1974. The catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program is 81.087.

This notice is also intended to promote the formation of industry partnerships, to stimulate interaction among potential participants, and to encourage organizations to investigate creative solutions. Funding for phase I will be available to support several awards for a period of approximately six to twelve months. Funding for phase II will be available to support one or more awards, for a period of 12-24 months. Applications may include Federally Funded Research and Development

Centers, but only as lower tier participants with funding for their expected costs provided through their existing arrangements with the Government.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE IS TO SOLICIT COMMENTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL ISSUANCE OF THE SOLICITATION. PLEASE DO NOT SEND APPLICATIONS AT THIS TIME.

Issued in Idaho Falls, ID, November 24, 1997.

B.G. Bauer,

Acting Director, Procurement Services Division.

[FR Doc. 97-31555 Filed 12-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Revised Draft Request for Proposals for Waste Acceptance and Transportation Services

AGENCY: Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Request for Comments on a Revised Draft Request for Proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) is responsible under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended (NWPAct), for accepting and transporting spent nuclear fuel (SNF) from commercial nuclear reactor sites to a federal facility for storage or disposal. The Standard Contract for Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and/or High-Level Radioactive Waste (10 CFR part 961) details the arrangements between the Department of Energy (DOE) and the owners and generators of SNF (Purchasers) for the Department to accept the SNF at the Purchasers' sites for transport to a federal facility. Section 137(a)(2) of the NWPAct requires the utilization of private industry to the "fullest extent possible" in the transportation of SNF.

OCRWM anticipates seeking competitive proposals for commercial SNF acceptance and transportation services, including the provision of storage equipment, in accordance with the final version of this revised draft Request for Proposals (RFP). In May 1996, OCRWM published in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 26508) and the *Commerce Business Daily*, a Request for Expression of Interest and Comments on a previous draft Statement of Work for these services. In July 1996, comments were received from interested parties at a presolicitation conference. In December 1996, OCRWM issued a draft

RFP that requested comments on all aspects of its proposed contracting approach embodied in that draft document. In February 1997, OCRWM held another presolicitation conference to receive additional comments and questions on the first draft RFP. The draft RFP has been extensively revised to reflect the public review and comments received as a result of these activities. Comments and suggestions included input from industry, utilities, and other interested parties.

DOE is seeking further comments on all aspects of the proposed contracting approach embodied in this revised draft RFP to use the innovative powers of the marketplace for meeting DOE's mission objectives.

DATES: Comments in response to this Notice should be received by the Department no later than February 13, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to: Contracting Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Attn: HR-542, Draft RFP Number DE-RP01-98RW00320, Washington, DC 20585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contracting Officer (DOE HR-542), (202) 426-0067 or (202) 426-0076, (fax) 202-426-0168.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments

OCRWM is interested in receiving comments relating to this revised draft RFP, especially with regard to the following areas:

1. Contracting refinements concerning financing and business aspects, as in structuring the procurement to provide sufficient financial incentive and appropriate risk balancing mechanisms between DOE and contractors in order for industry to provide efficient waste acceptance and transportation services.
2. Mitigation of delays which may occur during Phase C that are beyond the control of the contractor and/or the Department.
3. Technical details associated with the logistics of waste acceptance and transportation services.
4. Potential extensions of the contract durations of Phase A and Phase B for up to one year each.
5. Mechanisms and refinements for economic price adjustments over the duration of the contract period.
6. Any other areas, terms or conditions that DOE should consider in formulating this acquisition.

DOE will consider and may utilize all information, recommendations, and suggestions provided in response to this Notice. Respondents should not provide

any information that they consider to be privileged or confidential or which the respondent does not want disclosed to the public. DOE does not intend to respond to comments, either to individual commentors or by publication of a formal Notice. Several RFP reference documents have been placed in the DOE Forrestal Building Public Reading Room that are listed in the revised draft RFP. Also, copies of all comments received as a result of this notice will be placed in the DOE Public Reading Room at the end of the comment period, as were copies of previous comments received on the December 1996 draft RFP. Each submittal should consist of one original and three photocopies.

This Notice should not be construed as: (1) a commitment by the Department to enter into any agreement with any entity submitting comments in response to this Notice, (2) a commitment to issue any RFP concerning the subject of this Notice, or (3) an RFP.

DOE anticipates that the revised draft RFP will be available on the internet within two weeks of the date of this Notice on the "Current Business Opportunities at Headquarters Procurement Operations" Home Page located at address <http://www.pr.doe.gov/solicit.html>. It will also be available on the OCRWM Home Page, Waste Acceptance, Storage and Transportation Section, located at <http://www.rw.doe.gov/>. Interested parties that do not have the electronic capability to download the revised draft RFP may submit a written request to the Contracting Officer at the address listed above. Offerors who have previously submitted written comments on the December 1996 draft RFP or placed their names on the mailing list at the OCRWM Spent Nuclear Fuel Transportation Workshop held on August 12-13, 1997, in Reston, Virginia, will be mailed a copy of the revised draft RFP.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 24, 1997.

Lake H. Barrett,

Acting Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.

[FR Doc. 97-31554 Filed 12-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-80-000]

NorAm Gas Transmission Company, Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

November 20, 1997.

Take notice that on November 14, 1997, NorAm Gas Transmission Company (NorAm), 1600 Smith Street, Houston, Texas 77002, filed in Docket No. CP98-80-000 a request pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) to abandon and construct certain facilities in Union County, Arkansas, under NorAm's blanket certificates issued in Docket Nos. CP82-384-000 and CP82-384-001 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

NorAm states that it would abandon 6,647 ft. of 2-inch plastic pipe on Line HM-2, 7,401 ft. of 2 to 8-inch coupled steel pipe on Line HM-1 and three inactive delivery taps. NorAm states further that it would reconfigure its delivery facilities to Arkla at Smackover, Arkansas and abandon deteriorated and unreliable facilities.

NorAm indicates that the estimated cost of the facilities to be abandoned is \$49,721 and the estimated cost of the new facilities to relocate the delivery meter is \$59,513.

No service, it is said, would be abandoned as a result of the proposal.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-31482 Filed 12-1-97; 8:45 am]

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