

The scope of the proposed action is detailed in an interagency MOA between DOE-SR; the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District; the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region IV); the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service; the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service; the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. The U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service will continue to coordinate with SRS wetland impact and mitigation issues, but legally was prohibited from becoming a signatory party to this MOA. The MOA established the basic components and inner workings of the SRS wetland mitigation bank. The MOA also established the mitigation banking review team, an interagency group designated to review and consult with DOE-SR regarding compensation proposals. This team consists of representatives of the same agencies which signed the MOA and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The SRS wetland mitigation bank would involve the restoration and enhancement of small isolated wetlands, as well as major wetland systems scattered throughout the site's nonindustrialized area. The primary goal of the bank would be the restoration and enhancement of degraded Carolina bays and stream-side bottomland hardwood forest on SRS. Mitigation opportunities within the industrialized area may also be explored to provide mitigation sites where feasible.

During implementation of the proposed action, potential activities that could take place in floodplain and wetland areas might include grading, timber harvest (e.g., removal of overstory upland trees in drained Carolina bays), placement of soils (e.g., plugging of drainage ditches or restoration of hydric soils), planting of hydrophytic vegetation, and monitoring and maintenance efforts. Some of these activities would require temporary construction access during certain restoration/enhancement projects. A number of mitigation activities would be implemented to minimize potential impacts to the floodplain and wetland areas. Operation of construction equipment in the wetland and floodplain areas would be minimized. Depending upon the type of mechanized construction equipment to be employed, the use of platform support mats may be required to minimize the impacts to the wetland soils in the project area. Silt fences and other erosion control

structures as needed would be installed to ensure there is no deposition in the downslope wetland areas. Best management practices would be employed during construction and maintenance activities associated with this proposed action.

In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetland environmental review requirements (title 10 CFR Part 1022), DOE-SR will prepare a floodplain and wetlands assessment for this proposed DOE action. The assessment will be included in the environmental assessment (EA) being prepared for the proposed action in accordance with the requirements of NEPA. A floodplain statement of findings will be included in any finding of no significant impact that is issued following the completion of the EA or may be issued separately.

Issued in Aiken, SC, on April 2, 1998.

Lowell E. Tripp,

*Director, Engineering and Analysis Division,
Savannah River Operations Office.*

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Intent to Solicit Inventions and Innovation Program Grants

AGENCY: The Department of Energy (DOE), Golden Field Office.

ACTION: Notice of intent to issue a solicitation.

SUMMARY: The DOE's Office of Industrial Technologies (DOE) is funding a competitive grant program entitled the Inventions and Innovation (I&I) Program. The goals of the I&I Program are to improve energy efficiency through the promotion of innovative ideas and inventions that have a significant potential energy impact and a potential future commercial market. These goals are consistent with the mission of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, which is to develop and promote the adoption of cost-effective renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies within the building, industrial, transportation, and utility sectors for the benefit of economic competitiveness, energy security, and environmental quality of the nation. The following focus industries, which are the dominant energy users and waste generators in the U.S. manufacturing sector, are of particular interest to the DOE program: Aluminum, Chemicals, Forest Products, Glass, Metal-Casting, and Steel.

DATES: DOE expects to issue the solicitation on or about May 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: To obtain a copy of the solicitation, eligible parties may write to the U.S. Department of Energy Golden Field Office, Attention: Jennifer Squire, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden, Colorado 80401, or obtain an electronic copy through the Golden Field Office Home Page at <http://www.eren.doe.gov/golden/solicit.htm> beginning May 1, 1998.

Only written request for the solicitation will be honored. For convenience, requests for the solicitation may be faxed to Ms. Squire at (303) 275-4788.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE has revised the process of financial assistance under the I&I Program. Formerly the program had two distinct programs: The Energy-Related Inventions Program (ERIP) and the Innovative Concepts Program (InnCon). Proposals for each program were submitted through an unsolicited application process to DOE through the National Institute of Standards and Technology, formerly the National Bureau of Standards for ERIP and directly to DOE/OIT for InnCon. DOE is now combining these two programs under one competitive solicitation process. DOE intends to issue a new solicitation annually. The Golden Field Office has been assigned the responsibility to issue the solicitation and administer the awards for OIT. Ideas that have a significant energy savings impact and future commercial market potential are chosen for financial support through the competitive solicitation process. The new I&I Program will provide financial assistance at two levels, up to \$40,000 or up to \$100,000 depending on the stage of development of an idea. In addition to financial assistance this program offers technical guidance and commercialization support to successful applicants.

Some former selected projects that the I&I Program has funded are:

(1) Thermefficient 100[®]—a high efficiency fired heater that extracts heat from exhaust gases to raise the temperature of incoming water to be heated. The thermal efficiency of the technology is nearly 100% and reduces fossil fuel use.

(2) Brandon Rings—prevent damage and energy loss that occur over time with start-up, thermal distortion, and shaft vibration in turbines. These have been used in commercial turbine systems in the U.S. saving over 110 trillion BTU since 1986.

(3) Electro-Optic Inspection of Heat Exchangers—is a laser based, nondestructive evaluation system for

inspecting heat exchanger tubing for internal corrosion, erosion, scale buildup, and deformation. The benefits are reduced downtime and increased efficiency for fossil and nuclear power plants, pulp and paper, and petrochemical plants.

Solicitation Specifics

There are no restrictions, however, small businesses, individual inventors, and entrepreneurs are especially encouraged to participate. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number assigned to this program is 81.036. Cost sharing is not required but encouraged by applicants and/or cooperating participants. In addition to direct financial contributions, cost sharing can include beneficial services or items such as manpower equipment, consultants, and computer time that are allowable in accordance with applicable cost principles.

Availability of Funds in FY 1999

With publication, DOE is announcing the availability of up to \$3 million dollars in grant agreement funds for fiscal year 1999. The awards will be made through a competitive process. Each award may cover a project period of up to two (2) years. DOE anticipates awarding grants at two levels. The first level will fund up to \$40,000 for Category 1 proposals, which fall within the first two stages of development. The second level will fund up to \$100,000 for Category 2 proposals, which fall within the last three stages of development. Refer to Appendix 1 of the Solicitation for definitions. DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the proposals submitted in response to this notice.

Issued in Golden, CO, on April 8, 1998.

John W. Meeker,

Chief, Procurement, Golden Field.

[FR Doc. 98-9955 Filed 4-14-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Advisory Committee on Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) notice

is hereby given of a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards. The Department will consider the information and comments received at this meeting in the conduct of its appliance standards program.

DATES: May 5, 1998, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

ADDRESS: Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C Street, SW, Washington DC 20024, (202) 479-4000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sandy Beall, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Forrestal Building, Mail Station EE-43, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586-7574, or Brenda Edwards-Jones, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Forrestal Building, Mail Station EE-43, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586-2945.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Purpose of the Committee: The Advisory Committee on Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards was established to provide input on the appliance standards rulemaking process. The Committee serves as the focal point for discussion on the implementation of the procedures, interpretations, and policies set forth in the rule on "Procedures for Consideration of New or Revised Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Products," 61 FR 36973 (July 15, 1996), and on cross cutting analytical issues affecting all product standard rulemakings.

Tentative Agenda

9:00 am Chairman's Remarks
 9:15 am Introductions and Agenda Review
 • Introduction
 • Agenda Review
 9:55 am FY 1999 Proposed Priority Setting
 • Overview
 • Comments/Discussion
 10:10 am Analysis Accomplishments
 • Engineering Analysis
 • Life Cycle Cost Methodology
 • Energy Forecasting
 • Manufacturing Impact
 11:10 pm Break
 11:30 am DOE Response to Advisory Committee Recommendation
 11:50 am Public Comment
 12:10 pm New Business
 12:30 pm Action Items and Deliverables for Next Meeting
 12:45 pm Chairman's Closing Remarks

1:00 pm Adjourn

Please note that this draft agenda is preliminary. The times and agenda items listed are guidelines and are subject to change. A final agenda will be available at the meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 1998.

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. Please notify either Brenda Edwards-Jones, (202) 586-2945, or Sandy Beall, (202) 586-7574, if you plan to attend the Advisory Committee meeting. Written statements may be filed either before or after the meeting. In order to have your written comments distributed at the Advisory Committee meeting, please provide 10 copies to the contacts listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section at least 7 days prior to the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements should contact the Office of Codes and Standards at the address or telephone numbers listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Requests must be received 7 days prior to the meeting, and a reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. Such presentations may be limited to five minutes. The Designated Federal Official is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

Minutes: Copies of the Committee's charter, minutes of the Committee meetings held on January 8, 1997, June 23, 1997, and December 12, 1997, this notice, and other correspondence regarding the Committee may be viewed at the U.S. Department of Energy, Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-6020, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. A copy of the Committee's meeting transcript will be available in the DOE public reading room approximately 10 days after the meeting. Minutes will also be available 60 days after the meeting by writing to Brenda Edwards-Jones or Sandy Beall at the address listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 9, 1998.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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