

and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR parts 217–227).

Issuance of this permit, as required by the ESA, was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: December 9, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush, Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Opportunity for Leadership Entity: Beijing Energy-Efficiency and Renewable Energy Demonstration Building

AGENCY: Office of Policy and International Affairs, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Energy recently entered into an agreement with the People's Republic of China Ministry of Science and Technology to determine the feasibility of jointly constructing an energy efficient, mid-size office building demonstration project in downtown Beijing, China. The Department is interested in identifying an entity which will volunteer to work directly with the building's primary intended occupant, The Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21, which reports to the Ministry of Science and Technology and the State Development and Planning Commission, in leading and being responsible for the execution of this demonstration project. If the project proves feasible, this entity would be responsible for bringing together the necessary financial, technical, and other components and resources for the bidding, constructing and commissioning of the final design of the energy efficient and renewable aspects of the building, and for monitoring the reductions of energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions. The entity would also develop and provide for the operation of a Demonstration Center in the building illustrating the potential contribution of U.S. technologies and building design practices to reduced energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions of similar buildings

throughout China. Interested parties are asked to provide the Department with their approach to leading this effort, and their capability and relevant experience.

DATES: Response to Notice must be postmarked no later than January 15, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Respond to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency, Alternative Fuels and Oil Analysis, PO–62; Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

O. Cleveland Laird, Jr., Phone (202) 586–0979, FAX (202) 586–4447, E-mail: Cleveland.Laird@hq.doe.gov; or Mary Beth Zimmerman, Phone (202) 586–7249, FAX (202) 586–4447, E-mail:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This section is subdivided into: *Project Description*, *Background and Status*, *Role of the Entity*, and *Funding*.

Documents and other information referenced in this notice (denoted italicized & emboldened here, but to be shown in hypertext in the DOE website version of this document) may be obtained from the contacts in the section above, or can be downloaded from the Department's Office of Policy & International Affairs Internet Website: <http://www.doe.gov/policy/featured.html>.

Project Description: The project consists of three phases. Phases one and two are covered by the agreement'' the Statement of Work described under *Background and Status* section below. Phase one provides for the development of economic energy design criteria, and a project plan, including engineering and financial feasibility analyses. Phase two, provides for the assessment of this plan by each country. If the project proves feasible, phase three provides for the implementation of the project plan including the construction and monitoring of the building, and the establishment and operation of the Demonstration Center.

The Department is funding phase one, currently being undertaken by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), in cooperation with an architectural and engineering firm working for The Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21. This effort is based on typical or expected construction costs and market prices for energy and energy services in Beijing to ensure that the resulting plan incorporates design strategies and technologies that are likely to be economically attractive in China.

The identified entity will be responsible for the phase two assessment and, if appropriate, phase three construction. Any costs of phase two will be borne by the entity (see *Funding* section below). Costs associated with phase three are to be allocated between China and the United States so that the identified entity would contribute only any additional costs associated with energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements, while China would pay the basic land and building costs.

Background and Status: The Department of Energy signed a Statement of Work (SOW) with the Ministry of Science and Technology of China on July 9, 1998 to develop the energy efficient design criteria and a project plan for a mid-size commercial office building at a site in downtown Beijing. [July 9, 1998 DOE News press release] The building would provide office space (nine stories, approximately 130,000 square feet) for China government environmental agencies, including the Centre for China's Agenda 21 offices, as well as for non-governmental organizations that work in the areas of science and the environment, and for a Demonstration Center.

The project plan will provide for multiple ways to demonstrate and promote the contribution of U.S. energy and greenhouse gas savings design know-how and technologies to buildings in China: first, the building design will incorporate currently available energy efficient and renewable energy building technologies appropriate to its location and use; second, the energy and carbon savings will be carefully monitored and reported to potential users of the technologies; third, the building will house a "hands-on" Demonstration Center that will provide direct exposure to U.S. buildings technologies to the buildings industry in China, as well as to policy makers and others who work with the Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 and related agencies; and fourth, Chinese government and buildings industry representatives will be directly involved throughout the design, construction, and operation of this project to provide a strong capacity-building framework for the future use of these design strategies.

The building is to be outfitted with the energy monitoring equipment needed to document energy and greenhouse gas savings potentials for both U.S. and Chinese suppliers and users. The project plan would include means of measuring the energy and greenhouse gas reductions achieved that

would be consistent with Decision 5/CP.1 of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The demonstration of commercially available, cost-effective building energy savings opportunities is part of the Priority Programme for China's Agenda 21 and could potentially be a project of the Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ) under the Pilot Phase of the UNFCCC. Reported energy savings will provide both valuable information to the buildings profession in China and on energy savings calculations needed for climate change projects. There is a potential market opportunity for participants should "trading" in greenhouse gas emission reductions be allowed in the future under the UNFCCC.

Role of the Entity. The Department seeks an innovative entity to volunteer to lead and be responsible for phases two and three of the project. Phase two consists of the assessment of this plan by each country, including providing any feedback on the engineering and financial feasibility analysis conducted under phase one; and, if the project is found feasible, phase three would consist of the construction of the building, and establishment and operation of the Demonstration Center.

This entity will enlist interested parties—hereinafter referred to as Suppliers—from industry, including electric utilities, academia, non-government organizations (NGOs), and government agencies to be involved during phases two and three of the project. Further, the entity will enlist building community organizations to help ensure that potential Suppliers are aware of the opportunity.

The Supplier role will be filled by those that plan to bid to provide products (e.g., windows, controls, lighting) and/or services (e.g., design, financing, equipment, installation, construction, commissioning, monitoring). Suppliers also may include others expecting to contribute to the success of the project; for example utilities interested in the AIJ aspects of this project with the potential for greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Suppliers would also provide input on refining the performance and market price assumptions underlying the phase one analysis.

The entity will contract with the Chinese for the products and services that Suppliers will provide for the construction of the energy efficiency and renewables portion of the building. Suppliers will provide those products and services at zero or discounted cost (e.g., controls for no cost if none were

planned or double glazed windows for the cost in China of single glazed windows if only single glazed were planned and the package of improvements increase the building's costs) to gain benefits from being associated with the publicity for the building & its performance, and any laboratory demonstrations of their other products/services. Furthermore, Suppliers will have an unparalleled opportunity in an official Chinese venue to demonstrate their products and services to the world's largest consumer market. In addition to supplying products and services in the building initially, the Demonstration Center, modeled on those operating in the United States, will allow Suppliers the opportunity to provide "hands on" demonstrations for builders, architects, and others in the Chinese buildings community to learn about the latest in proven, available energy-efficient and renewable energy design practices and technologies.

The entity will need to determine and make Suppliers aware of the advantages inherent in donating products and services to efforts such as this as a part of the incentive for Suppliers to support this project. Additionally the entity may locate/create and develop financing mechanisms for subsequent Supplier product/services sales in China.

To ensure appropriate information sharing among the interested parties, the entity will establish and maintain regular communications with the U.S. building community and the public at large as the project progresses. This is to include a home page for the project on the Internet.

Funding: The primary Federal role to date has been to make arrangements between the countries for the project to be undertaken and to fund the phase one technical analysis. Once phase one is complete, Federal involvement will be to ensure an open and technically sound process through the remaining phases. Upon a decision to construct the building, the Department will evaluate the building results to assess whether the design objectives were indeed reached. Private sector support is needed to fulfill all other responsibilities in the project.

The U.S. costs associated with the engineering feasibility analysis are being funded by the Department. If the building is constructed, the Chinese government plans to provide for all expenses associated with the base building. The entity is expected to raise its funding through whatever sources it can develop that support reduced energy usage and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Costs associated with

energy-efficiency and renewables upgrades of the building—whether design, products and/or services—over and above the base building are to be borne by the successful Suppliers, based on their appreciation for the opportunity that opening this market potentially provides for the sale of their products and services. The entity will arrange remuneration for any amounts included in the base building for replacement energy-efficient and renewable energy technologies employed by U.S. Suppliers (e.g., whatever the windows included in the base building would have cost, that amount would be paid by the Chinese to the entity to be passed on to the successful U.S. window Supplier).

The entity will determine if there are normal or any special provisions (e.g., for a non-profit and/or research and development oriented organization) in the U.S. Tax Code under which it can operate that will provide benefits for its functioning in this voluntary capacity, and/or for any donors to its effort.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 8, 1998.

Abraham E. Haspel,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy, Environmental and Economic Policy Analysis.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[FE Docket Nos. 97-70-NG; 98-86-NG; 98-87NG; 98-88-NG; 98-90-NG; 98-91-NG; 89-49-NG; 98-89-NG; 98-95-NG; 93-85-NG; and 86-43-NG]

Office of Fossil Energy; Niagara Mohawk Energy (Formerly Plum Street Energy Marketing, Inc.); Numac Energy (U.S.) Inc.; Pemex Gas Y Petroquimica Basica; Energy West Resources, Inc.; Equitable Energy L.L.C.; Idaho Power Co.; Megan-Racine Associates, Inc.; Tristate Pipeline, L.L.C.; Statoil Energy Services, Inc.; Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc.; Granite State Gas Transmission, Inc.; Orders Granting, Amending, and Vacating Authorizations to Import and/or Export Natural Gas, Including Liquefied Natural Gas

AGENCY: Office of Fossil Energy, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of orders.

SUMMARY: The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy gives notice that it has issued Orders granting, amending, and vacating various natural gas, including liquefied natural gas, import and export authorizations. These