

NW, Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0041, Technical Proposal-Two-Step Sealed Bidding, in all correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph DeStefano, Federal Acquisition Policy Division, GSA (202) 501-1758.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Purpose

Two-step sealed bidding is a method of contracting designed to obtain the benefits of sealed bidding when adequate specifications are not available. An objective is to permit the development of a sufficiently descriptive and not unduly restrictive statement of the Government's requirements, including an adequate technical data package, so that subsequent acquisitions may be made by conventional sealed bidding. This method is especially useful in acquisitions requiring technical proposals, particularly those for complex items. It is conducted in two steps:

(a) Step 1 consists of the request for, submission, evaluation, and (if necessary) discussion of a technical proposal. No pricing is involved. The objective is to determine the acceptability of the supplies or services offered. As used in this context, the word "technical" has a broad connotation and includes, among other things, the engineering approach, special manufacturing processes, and special testing techniques. It is the proper step for clarification of questions relating to technical requirements.

(b) Step 2 involves the submission of sealed price bids by those who submitted acceptable technical proposals in step 1.

The requested information is needed, in the absence of adequate specifications, to develop a sufficiently descriptive and not unduly restrictive statement of the Government's requirements and to determine the acceptability of proposals received. The contracting officer evaluates the acceptability of the information received, based on the criteria in the request for proposals.

B. Annual Reporting Burden

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 8 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The annual reporting burden is estimated as follows: Respondents,

3,225; responses per respondent, 1; total annual responses, 3,225; preparation hours per response, 8; and total response burden hours, 25,800.

OBTAINING COPIES OF PROPOSALS:

Requester may obtain a copy of the justification from the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVRs), Room 4035, 1800 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 208-7312. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0041, Technical Proposal-Two-Step Sealed Bidding, in all correspondence.

Dated: December 22, 1998.

Victoria E. Moss,

Acting Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division.

[FR Doc. 98-34368 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-34-U

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[OMB Control No. 9000-0108]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request Entitled Bankruptcy

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of request for public comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat will be submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a currently approved information collection requirement concerning Bankruptcy. The clearance currently expires on April 30, 1999.

DATES: Comments may be submitted on or before March 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, should be submitted to: FAR Desk Officer, OMB, Room 10102, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, and a copy to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVRs), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035, Washington, DC 20405. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0108, Bankruptcy, in all correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Klein, Federal Acquisition Policy Division, GSA (202) 501-3775.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Purpose

Under statute, contractors may enter into bankruptcy which may have a significant impact on the contractor's ability to perform its Government contract. The Government often does not receive adequate and timely notice of this event. The clause at 52.242-13 requires contractors to notify the contracting officer within five days after the contractor enters into bankruptcy.

B. Annual Reporting Burden

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The annual reporting burden is estimated as follows: Respondents, 1,000; responses per respondent, 1; total annual responses, 1,000; preparation hours per response, 1; and total response burden hours, 1,000.

C. Annual Recordkeeping Burden

The annual recordkeeping burden is estimated as follows: Recordkeepers, 1,000; hours per recordkeeper, .25; and total recordkeeping burden hours, 250.

Obtaining copies of proposals: Requester may obtain a copy of the justification from the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVRs), Room 4035, 1800 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20405, telephone (202) 208-7312. Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0108, Bankruptcy, in all correspondence.

Dated: December 22, 1998.

Victoria E. Moss,

Acting Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division.

[FR Doc. 98-34369 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Pilot Testing Neutralization/ Supercritical Water Oxidation of VX Agent at Newport Chemical Depot, Indiana

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) which assesses the potential environmental impacts of the construction and operation of a facility to pilot test the chemical neutralization process followed by supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) as a potential disposal technology for bulk agent VX stored at Newport Chemical Depot (NECD).

DATES: The public review period will end 30 days following the publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: To obtain copies of the FEIS contact Ms. Mona Harney, Newport Outreach Office, 140 South Main Street, Newport, Indiana 47966.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Catherine Herlinger at (800) 488-0648 or (410) 463-2583.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed facility will be used to demonstrate, as part of a research and development program, the neutralization process followed by SCWO to destroy VX agent currently stored in containers at NECD.

The alternatives considered in this FEIS are the proposed action and no action (continued storage of VX in ton containers). Although the no action alternative is not viable under Pub. L. 99-145, it was analyzed to provide a comparison with the proposed action. In addition, the no action alternative would not comply with Pub. L. 102-484, which specifies that the Army must consider using a technological alternative to incineration.

The FEIS concludes that VX stored in bulk containers can be pilot tested at NECD using the neutralization process, followed by SCWO, in a safe and environmentally acceptable manner. At one time, the option of sending the neutralization hydrolysate to an off-site biotreatment facility was under consideration by the Army. However, technical and programmatic evaluations have concluded that off-site biotreatment is not suitable at this time. Therefore, off-site biotreatment is not addressed further in this EIS.

A Notice of Availability was published on June 12, 1998 (63 FR 32207), which provided notice that the Draft EIS was available for comment. Comments from the DEIS have been considered and responses are included in this FEIS. After a 30-day waiting period the Army will publish a Record of Decision.

Copies of the FEIS may also be obtained by calling the Newport Outreach Office at (765) 492-4445.

Questions may be forwarded to Office of the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, ATTN: SFAE-CD-P) (Ms. Herlinger) Building E4585, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5401; or via e-mail at cherlin@cdra.apgea.army.mil.

Dated: December 22, 1998.

Raymond J. Fatz,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) OASA(I,L&E).

[FR Doc. 98-34111 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Advisory Committee Meeting Notice

AGENCY: U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following meeting:

Name of Committee: Distance Learning/Training Technology Subcommittee of the Army Education Advisory Committee.

Date: 20-22 January 1999.

Place: Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Time: 1400-1630 on 20 January 1999; 0830-1630 on 21 January 1999; and 0830-1130 on 22 January 1999.

Proposed Agenda: Review and discussion of the status of Army Distance Learning.

Purpose of the Meeting: The members will advise the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff (ADCST), HQ Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), on matters pertaining to education and training technologies to be used for Army Distance Learning and resident instruction.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

All communications regarding this subcommittee should be addressed to Mr. Richard Karpinski, at Commander, Headquarters TRADOC, ATTN: ATTG-CF (Mr. Karpinski), Fort Monroe, VA 23651-5000; telephone number (757) 728-5531.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Meeting of the advisory committee is open to the public. Because of restricted meeting space, attendance will be limited to those persons who have notified the Advisory Committee Management Office in writing at least five days prior to the meeting of their intention to attend. Contact Mr. Karpinski (757)

728-5531 for meeting agenda and specific locations.

Any member of the public may file a written statement with the committee before, during, or after the meeting. To the extent that time permits, the committee chairman may allow public presentations or oral statements at the meeting.

Mary V. Yonts,

Alternate Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-34434 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.120A]

Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year 1999 under the Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program.

Purpose of Program

The Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP) is designed to effect long-range improvement in science education at predominantly minority institutions and to increase the flow of underrepresented ethnic minorities, particularly minority women, into scientific careers.

Eligibility for Grants

With the October 7, 1998 enactment of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, Pub. L. 105-244, the criteria for eligibility for grants under MSEIP were amended. Congress also relocated MSEIP from Title X to Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). Under section 361 of the HEA, as now amended, eligibility for grants is now defined as follows:

Eligibility to receive grants under this part is limited to—

- (1) Public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education that:
 - (A) Award baccalaureate degrees; and
 - (B) Are minority institutions;
- (2) Public or private nonprofit institutions of higher education that:
 - (A) Award associate degrees; and
 - (B) Are minority institutions that:
 - (i) Have a curriculum that includes science or engineering subjects; and
 - (ii) Enter into a partnership with public or private nonprofit institutions of higher education that award baccalaureate degrees in science and engineering;
- (3) Nonprofit science-oriented organizations, professional scientific