

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy announces that it intends to conduct a competitive Program Solicitation and award financial assistance (cooperative agreements) for the program entitled "A Development of On-Line Temperature Measurement Instrumentation for Gasification Process Control". Through this solicitation, FETC seeks to support applications addressing the development and testing of temperature measurement instrumentation capable of functioning in a sustained and reliable manner in the high temperature section of slagging gasification systems operating at elevated pressures. Applications will be subjected to a review by a DOE technical panel, and awards will be made to a limited number of applicants based on a scientific and engineering evaluation of the responses received to determine the relative merit of the approach taken in response to this offering by the DOE, and funding availability.

FOR FURTHER SOLICITATION INFORMATION

CONTACT: Martin Byrnes, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Technology Center, Acquisition and Assistance Division, P.O. Box 10940, MS 921-143, Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940, Telephone: (412) 892-4486, FAX: (412) 892-6216, E-mail: byrnes@fetc.doe.gov. The solicitation (available in both WordPerfect 6.1 and Portable Document Format (PDF)) will be released on DOE's FETC World Wide Web Server Internet System (<http://www.fetc.doe.gov/business/solicit>) on or about April 16, 1999.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Solicitation

A Development of On-Line Temperature Measurement Instrumentation for Gasification Process Control.

Objectives

Through Program Solicitation No. DE-PS26-99FT40565, the Department of Energy seeks applications for innovative technical approaches to develop an accurate, reliable, robust and cost-effective real-time temperature monitoring system capable of measuring temperatures in the high temperature (typ. ranging from 2000-2600F) section of pressurized, coal-fired slagging gasifiers.

Eligibility

Eligibility for participation in this Program Solicitation is considered to be full and open. All interested parties may apply. The solicitation will contain a complete description of the technical evaluation factors and relative importance of each factor. While

national laboratories may not participate as a prime they may participate as a sub-contractor.

Areas of Interest

The Department of Energy is interested in obtaining applications offering thirty month projects for the bench-scale development of real-time temperature measurement instrumentation for high temperature, high pressure coal-fired slagging gasification systems. A variety of approaches, including the use of thermocouple- or optically-based techniques, are acceptable as long as they offer the clear potential to meet the aforementioned objectives. Furthermore, all proposed temperature measurement instrumentation must be suitable for use on large-scale slagging gasification systems and applications must address issues such as laboratory scale-up, potential placement and method of mounting on actual operating systems.

Awards

DOE anticipates issuing financial assistance (cooperative agreements) for each project selected. DOE reserves the right to support or not support, with or without discussions, any or all applications received in whole or in part, and to determine how many awards may be made through the solicitation subject to funds available. Approximately \$1 million of DOE funding is planned for this solicitation. The estimated funding by the DOE is planned to be approximately \$0.33 million per award. Cost sharing by the applicant is required, and details of the cost sharing requirement are contained in the solicitation.

Solicitation Release Date

The Program Solicitation is expected to be ready for release on or about April 16, 1999. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions and forms contained in the Program Solicitation

Dale A. Siciliano,

Contracting Officer, Acquisition and Assistance Division.

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Board (64 FR 14714). In that notice, the meeting was scheduled for April 22-23, 1999. Today's notice is announcing that the meeting will only take place on April 22, 1999, at 8:30am to 3:00pm.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on April 8, 1999.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Environmental Management

Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel Fee Policy

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Clarification of the Fee Policy for Acceptance of Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel.

SUMMARY: On May 13, 1996, DOE, in consultation with the Department of State, issued a Record of Decision (ROD) on a Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Policy Concerning Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel (61 FR 25092), which established the foreign research reactor spent nuclear fuel acceptance program. Under this program, DOE will accept until 2009 foreign research reactor spent nuclear fuel and target material containing uranium enriched in the United States. The ROD stated that DOE would announce the fee policy that would apply to the spent fuel acceptance program in a separate **Federal Register** notice, so that the fee policy could be changed as necessary to reflect changes in cost or new information relevant to the policy.

The ROD acknowledged that, if the United States were to charge all foreign research reactors a full-cost recovery fee for the acceptance of eligible spent fuel, some reactor operators would not have the financial resources to participate in the program. This, in turn, could reduce the amount of spent fuel brought to the United States for management, thereby increasing the risk of diversion of highly enriched uranium (HEU) into a foreign nuclear weapons program. Accordingly, DOE and the Department of State decided that the fee charged for participation in the acceptance program should be based in part on whether the country from which the spent fuel is transported to the United States is categorized as one having a "high-income economy" or one having an "other-than-high-income economy." For countries with other-than-high-income

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Advisory Board; Notice of Open Meeting Correction

On March 26, 1999, the Department of Energy published a notice of open meeting announcing a meeting of the Environmental Management Advisory

economies, the United States will subsidize receipt of the spent fuel to maximize participation in the acceptance program.

The fee policy announced in 1996 (61 FR 26507) did not address explicitly how, during the course of the acceptance program, a change in the economic status of the country from which spent fuel is shipped would affect the fee charged for participation in the program. DOE will initially determine whether a foreign research reactor operator is located in a country with a "high-income economy" or "other-than-high-income economy" based on the most current edition of The World Bank Development Report (The Report) at the time the contract between the foreign research reactor operator and DOE is signed. This notice clarifies that, during the term of the contract, if the most current edition of The Report, which is published annually in October, reflects a change in the status of the economy of the country from which the spent fuel is to be shipped from other-than-high-income to high-income, a fee will be charged to the reactor operator for any shipment arriving in the United States in the next fiscal year (starting October 1) following the fiscal year in which such change is published. The fee charged for any shipment arriving in the United States in the same fiscal year in which such change in economic status is published in The Report will be based on the country's status prior to such publication. In the event that the most current edition of The Report reflects a change in the status of the economy of the country from which the spent fuel is to be shipped from high-income to other-than-high-income, DOE's subsidy of shipments would apply to any shipments initiated after publication in The Report of such a change.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth Chacey, Director, Office of Spent Fuel Management (EM-67), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20585, telephone (202) 586-0671.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 13, 1996, DOE issued a ROD on a Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Policy Concerning Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel (61 FR 25092). The ROD announced that over a 13-year period (1996-2009) the United States will accept for management approximately 19.2 metric tonnes of heavy metal (MTHM) foreign research reactor spent fuel and approximately 0.6 MTHM of target material containing uranium enriched in the United States. Because HEU can be used directly in the

production of nuclear weapons, the goal of the acceptance program is to reduce the availability of HEU in civil commerce worldwide.

The ROD specifies that, to encourage foreign research reactor operators in countries with other-than-high-income-economies to participate in the acceptance program, the United States will subsidize receipt of their spent fuel. DOE and the Department of State jointly determined in the ROD that many, if not all, countries with other-than-high-income-economies would not have the financial resources to participate in the acceptance program if the United States were to charge a fee for the acceptance of spent fuel from such countries. Limited participation by such countries would reduce the amount of spent fuel accepted in the United States, thereby increasing the risk of diversion of HEU into a foreign nuclear weapons program.

Whether a country has a high-income economy or other-than-high-income economy is initially determined when a contract between a foreign research reactor operator and DOE is signed. The determination is based on the most current edition of The Report, which is published annually during October. If, during the term of the contract, The Report reflects a change in the status of the economy of the country which the spent fuel is to be shipped from other-than-high-income to high-income, a fee will be charged to the reactor operator for any shipment arriving in the United States in the next fiscal year (starting October 1) following the fiscal year in which such change is published. This period of approximately one year has been established to allow time for reactor operators in countries with changed economic status to renegotiate their contracts with DOE and, as applicable, identify funding to transport the spent fuel to the United States and to pay the associated fee.

Although this fee policy clarification is designed to ensure that reactor operators who are able to bear costs do so, DOE recognizes that fiscal arrangements to support shipments must be made in advance. Countries with newly changed economic status from other-than-high-income economy to high-income economy will not necessarily be in a position to bear these costs in the year of their changed status. Thus, no fee will be charged for any shipment arriving in the United States in the same fiscal year in which the change in economic status from other-than-high-income to high-income is published. DOE will not subsidize any shipment arriving in the United States in the next fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the changed status

is published in The Report. Further, DOE would not subsidize shipments in subsequent years unless the economy of the country in question were again reclassified as having an other-than-high-income economy by a new edition of The Report.

For those countries whose economic status changes from high-income economy to other-than-high-income economy, as published in The Report, DOE's subsidy of shipments would apply to any shipment initiated after publication in The Report of such a change.

This clarification will be effective on October 1, 1999. This notice is being published well in advance of the effective date to provide ample time for potentially affected foreign research reactor operators to plan for any financial arrangements that may become necessary. For those reactor operators planning with DOE for a shipment scheduled to arrive in the United States prior to October 1, 1999, any applicable fee will be based upon the respective country's economic status as reported in the ROD that was issued in May 1996.

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 6, 1999.

David G. Huizenga,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Material and Facility Stabilization, Office of Environmental Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP99-273-000]

ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

April 7, 1999.

Take notice that on March 31, 1999, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, the following tariff sheet to become effective May 1, 1999:

Twenty-Fifth Revised Sheet No. 17

ANR states that the above-referenced tariff sheets are being filed to eliminate the Upstream Pipeline Surcharge filed in Docket No. RP98-177-000 due to the expiration of the amortization period for the recovery amount.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Sections