

previously authorized by Presidential Permit numbers PP-48 and PP-92, respectively.

Procedural Matters

Any persons desiring to be heard or to protest this application should file a petition to intervene or protest at the address provided above in accordance with §§ 385.211 or 385.214 of the Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Fifteen copies of such petitions and protests should be filed with the DOE on or before the date listed above. Additional copies are to be filed directly with: John T. Stough, Jr., Long, Aldridge & Norman, 701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20004 (Facsimile 202-624-1298) AND Patrick T. Ortiz, Secretary and General Counsel, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Alvarado Square, Albuquerque, NM 87158 (Facsimile 505-241-2368).

A final decision will be made on this application after the environmental impacts have been evaluated pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and a determination is made by the DOE that the proposed action will not adversely impact on the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system.

Copies of this application will be made available, upon request, for public inspection and copying at the address provided above.

Issued in Washington, DC on September 25, 1996.

Anthony J. Como,

Director, Office of Coal & Electricity, Office of Fuels Programs, Office of Fossil Energy.

[FR Doc. 96-24974 Filed 9-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Notice of Restricted Eligibility in Support of Advanced Coal Research at U.S. Colleges and Universities

AGENCY: U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), Pittsburgh Energy Technology Center (PETC).

ACTION: Issuance of Financial Assistance Solicitation.

SUMMARY: The PETC announces that pursuant to 10 CFR 600.8(a)(2), and in support of advanced coal research to U.S. Colleges and Universities, it intends to conduct a competitive Program Solicitation and award financial assistance grants to qualified recipients. Proposals will be subjected to a comparative merit review by a Peer Review/DOE technical panel, and awards will be made to a limited number of proposers on the basis of the scientific merit of the proposal,

application of relevant program policy factors, and the availability of funds.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Mary S. Price, U.S. Department of Energy, Pittsburgh Energy Technology Center, P.O. Box 10940 (MS 921-143), Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940; (Telephone: 412-892-6179; Facsimile: 412-892-6216; E-Mail: MPRICE@petc.doe.gov). The solicitation will be posted on the internet at PETC's Home Page (<http://www.petc.doe.gov/business>). The solicitation will also be available, upon request, in Wordperfect 5.1 format on 3.5" double-sided/high-density disk. Paper copies can be obtained, upon request, only if the above two modes are not attainable. Requests can be made via letter, facsimile, or by E-mail. TELEPHONE REQUESTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY FORMAT VERSION OF THE SOLICITATION.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through Program Solicitation DE-PS22-97PC97200, the DOE is interested in applications from U.S. Colleges and Universities (and university-affiliated research centers submitting applications through their respective university). Applications will be selected to compliment and enhance research being conducted in related Fossil Energy (FE) programs. Applications may be submitted individually (i.e., by only one college/university) or jointly (i.e., by "teams" made up of: (1) Three or more colleges/universities, or (2) a historically black college/university and at least two or more other colleges/universities, or (3) two or more colleges/universities and at least one industrial partner. Collaboration, in the form of joint proposals, is *encouraged* but not required.

Eligibility. Applications under this solicitation may be accepted in two subprogram areas: (1) University Coal Research (UCR) Core Program, and (2) University Coal Research Innovative Concepts Program.

Applications must address coal research in one of the solicitation key focus areas. Details on the UCR Core Program and the Innovative Concepts Program eligibility requirements, budget limitations, and technical topic descriptions are contained in the Program Solicitation.

Focus Areas and Technical Topic(s)

University Coal Research (UCR) Core Program

The DOE is interested in innovative and fundamental research pertinent to coal conversion and utilization *limited* to the following two (2) focus areas: (1) NO_x Control and (2) Catalysts for Coal Conversion and Utilization. The UCR

Core Program is governed by these focus areas. The examples provided under each focus area are not intended to be all-encompassing. Offers on other subjects that fall within the scope of the focus areas will receive the same evaluation and consideration as the examples cited.

NO_x Control

As environmental regulations become more stringent, the restrictions placed upon emissions from coal combustion processes will require either an improved understanding of the combustion process itself or tight post-combustion control or some combination of both.

Currently, significant NO_x control can be achieved both through decreased formation of NO_x and NO_x destruction prior to its exit from the combustion chamber. Further decreases in NO_x emissions and control of the Products of Incomplete Combustion (PICs) from all combustion sources may be achieved with advances in our understanding of the combustion process and an ability to control it. Products of Incomplete Combustion includes: unburnt carbon; formation of trace, complex, organic compounds; and liberation and reaction of trace inorganics.

Additional reductions in NO_x emissions may also be sought through post-combustion control. Direct conversion of NO_x, from dilute flue gas streams, to nitrogen or a saleable/marketable product would be highly desirable. Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) is a commercially available post-combustion control that converts NO_x to nitrogen. One of the limitations to the widespread use of SCR is the possibility that increased toxic emissions, ammonia and carbon monoxide, will occur when NO_x removals greater than 90% (85% by some estimates) are desired. Research is necessary to identify alternate reductants, catalysts, and/or chemical pathways that will not result in the release of toxic emissions when high removals (> 95%) are required.

Examples of research areas of interest include:

- Research to develop the knowledge and understanding of the staged combustion of coal that will allow modifications to existing boilers to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides to below 0.2 pounds per million Btu.
- Development of techniques that would allow measurements to be taken in the combustion zone, thus enhancing our understanding of the combustion process and leading to improved designs for low emissions of nitrogen oxides.

- Examination of the mechanisms of low-grade activated carbon formation under low-NO_x conditions, including the variables that affect carbon pore size distribution and practical means of controlling the pore size distribution.

- Identification of alternatives to the traditional NO_x reductants, catalysts, and/or chemical pathways that will not result in the release of toxic emissions when high NO_x removal efficiencies (>95%) are required.

- Direct conversion of NO_x from dilute flue gas streams to NO_x or a valuable byproduct.

Catalysts for Coal Conversion and Utilization

Catalysts are used in a host of coal conversion and utilization reactions. Although a vast and highly specialized literature exists for catalysts, a thorough understanding of the fundamental nature of catalytic coal conversion and utilization processes is still lacking. Systematic studies focused on understanding these fundamentals would lay the foundation for efficient development of catalysts for application in processes such as gasification, liquefaction, waste minimization, and contaminant control.

New or improved catalysts for controlling product distribution, removing pollutants, upgrading products, and reducing the severity of reaction conditions are needed. Regenerable, poisoning-resistant, and attrition-resistant catalysts for cleaving specific bonds in coals, converting cyclic saturates to branched saturates in coal-derived liquids, or promoting selective conversion of gasification products (into condensable and non-condensable hydrocarbons) and oxygenates are also of interest. Methods focused on the recovery of catalysts and the removal of catalyst-deactivating species would also be valuable.

Examples of research areas of interest include:

- Develop a structure-reactivity relationship for supported metal complexes as catalysts for applications in coal conversion and utilization reactions, including those for contaminant control.
- Develop a thorough understanding of the nature of the acidic catalysts used in hydrocarbon reactions at low temperatures and of the catalysts used in producing oxygenates for fuel applications.
- Develop a thorough scientific understanding of the dispersed/slurry catalysts used in direct coal conversion processes such as liquefaction, co-processing of coal with heavy oil and municipal wastes, and conversion of

bio-waste materials, and develop new or improved catalysts that would promote conversion into liquid or distillable products, increase hydrogen content, prevent coking, and remove heteroatoms. An integrated study of the behavior of these catalysts through generation, maturation, and recovery phases would be beneficial.

- Characterization of the reacting surfaces of heterogeneous coal conversion catalysts using modern analytical and microscopic instrumentation. The characterization might include determination of active sites and surface structure change due to sintering, site blockage, or poisoning. Novel methods for studying catalyst activity in real time on a continuous basis would also be desirable.

University Coal Research (UCR) Innovative Concepts Program

The DOE is interested in innovative and fundamental research pertinent to coal conversion and utilization *limited* to the following technical topic. The UCR Innovative Concepts Program is governed by this topic area. The examples provided under the technical topic are not intended to be all-encompassing. Offers on other subjects that fall within the scope of the area will receive the same evaluation and consideration as the examples cited.

Innovative Concepts Technical Topic(s):

As the twenty-first century approaches, the challenges facing coal and the electric utility industry continue to grow. Environmental issues such as pollutant control, both criteria and trace, waste minimization, and the co-firing of coal with biomass, waste, or alternative fuels will remain important. The need for increased efficiency, improved reliability, and lower costs will be felt as an aging utility industry faces deregulation. Advanced power and environmental systems will come into play as older plants are retired and utilities explore new ways to meet the growing demand for electricity.

Innovative research in the coal conversion and utilization areas will be required if coal is to continue to play a dominant role in the generation of electric power. Questions, like the ones that follow, will need to be answered:

- How can net-zero emissions of carbon dioxide from the combustion of fossil fuels be achieved?
- What are the implications of lowering the particulate matter standards (i.e. PM-2.5)?
- How can adaptive control systems and neural networks be integrated into the electric utility industry?

- Where can the largest efficiency gains be realized in a power plant?

- How can the trace element emissions from power plants (i.e. mercury, selenium) be cost-effectively controlled?

- How do we develop and test materials for advanced power systems?

Successfully answering these and other questions in innovative ways will help us move confidently to the year 2000 and beyond.

Awards. DOE anticipates awarding financial assistance grants for each project selected. Approximately \$2.8 million will be available for the Program Solicitation: \$2.4 million is budgeted for the UCR Core Program and should provide funding for about 8–12 financial assistance awards. Maximum DOE funding for individual colleges/universities application varies according to the length of performance period as follows:

Performance period	Maximum funding
0–12 months	\$80,000
13–24 months	140,000
25–60 months	200,000

For joint applications, the maximum DOE funding is \$400,000 requiring a performance period of 36 months.

Approximately \$0.4 million is budgeted for the UCR Innovative Concepts Program and should provide support for eight financial assistance awards (Maximum DOE funding, \$50,000 for a 12-month period).

Solicitation Release Date. The Program Solicitation is expected to be ready for release by October 9, 1996. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions and forms in the Program Solicitation and must be received by the Department of Energy by November 22, 1996. Upon receipt of the solicitation document, check for any changes (i.e. closing date of solicitation) and/or amendments, if any, prior to submittal of proposal.

William R. Mundorf,

Contracting Officer, Acquisition and Assistance Division.

[FR Doc. 96–24977 Filed 9–27–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Department of Energy, Los Alamos National Laboratory

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.