

curriculum, shared student services, and faculty collaborations.

Absolute Priority 13—A project of interinstitutional efforts dedicated to improving the scientific expertise and interest of undergraduate students.

Absolute Priority 14—Educational programs to train students for careers in the hospitality and tourism industry.

Selection Criteria

In evaluating an application for a new grant under this competition, the Secretary uses selection criteria chosen from the general selection criteria in 34 CFR 75.210 of EDGAR. Under 34 CFR 75.201 of EDGAR, the Secretary announces in the application package the selection criteria and factors, if any, for this competition and the maximum weight assigned to each criterion.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR

APPLICATIONS: The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 3100, ROB-3, Washington, DC 20202-5175. Telephone: (202) 358-3041 to order applications; or (202) 708-5750, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday, for information. Individuals may also request applications by submitting the name of the competition, their name, and postal mailing address to the e-mail address fipse@ed.gov. Individuals may obtain the application text from the Internet address <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/FIPSE/>.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact office listed in the preceding paragraph.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternate format, also, by contacting that office. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternate format the standard forms included in the application package.

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Note: The official version of a document is the document published in the **Federal Register**.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1138-1128b and Public Law 105-277.

Dated: March 12, 1999.

David A. Longanecker,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Nevada Operations Office; Notice of Solicitation for Research and Development of a Hydrogen Reformer, Fuel Cell Generator, and Vehicle Refueling System

AGENCY: Nevada Operations Office, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of a research cooperative agreement solicitation for a Hydrogen Reformer, Fuel Cell Generator, and Vehicle Refueling System.

SUMMARY: The Nevada Operations Office of the Department of Energy plans to electronically issue a Financial Assistance solicitation for the cost-shared development and validation of an integrated reformer technology, 50 kW proton exchange membrane (PEM) fuel cell electrical generating system and vehicle refueling system under Solicitation Number DE-SC08-99NV13578. Through this solicitation, the awardee will provide a 50kW fuel cell system, a reformer for hydrogen production, and a vehicle refueling facility. The vehicle refueling system will be multipurpose and capable of dispensing hydrogen, hydrogen enriched natural gas, and compressed natural gas (CNG).

DATES: All applications for Solicitation Number DE-SC08-99NV13578 should be received according to the solicitation's Due Date for Applications.

This solicitation is expected to be released electronically on or about March 18, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Applications should be submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office, Contracts Management Division, ATTN: Darby A. Dieterich, P.O. Box 98518, Las Vegas, Nevada 89158.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: All questions should be addressed to Darby A. Dieterich, Contracts Management Division, at (702) 295-1560 or via E-mail at dieterich@nv.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A copy of the solicitation will be accessible via Internet at: <http://www.nv.doe.gov/business/procurement/solicit.htm>. There will be no printed or hard copies of the solicitation mailed. If you do not have access to the Internet, there is a public reading room available for viewing the document at DOE/NV's facility in North Las Vegas, Nevada. Additionally, most public libraries have resources available to electronically access and download the solicitation. **CAUTION:** This solicitation will be issued electronically as well as any amendments thereto. Because of this, the Government is under no obligation and is in fact unable to maintain a COMPLETE bidders mailing list. It is therefore incumbent upon interested parties to periodically access the above Internet address in order to obtain any amendments which may be issued. Failure to obtain any said amendments and to respond to them prior to the date and time set for receipt of applications may render your application nonresponsive and result in rejection of same. This solicitation is being conducted under the authority of Section 2026 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, Public Law 102-486, and Title I, Section 103 of the Hydrogen Futures Act of 1996, Public Law 104-271. As a result, cost sharing requirements will be at least 50 percent of the total estimated cost of the project. In addition, it is a requirement for the awardee to be a United States-owned entity or that the foreign country in which the parent company is located meets certain conditions of reciprocity in the treatment of investments, access to research and development programs, and protection of intellectual property. The economic benefits of co-generation of hydrogen and electricity (from stationary fuel cells) has been studied by Directed Technologies, Inc. A synopsis of this evaluation can be obtained via the Internet at www.directedtechnologies.com. The period of performance for this action may be up to five years with total

estimated DOE funds of \$3–4 million. Award is subject to the availability of funds. The issuance of a solicitation will not obligate DOE to make an award. All responsible sources, as indicated above, may submit an application which will be considered by the Government. All interested organizations are invited to submit applications.

Issued in North Las Vegas, Nevada, on March 8, 1999.

Dated: March 8, 1999.

G.W. Johnson,

Head of Contracting Activity.

[FR Doc. 99–6327 Filed 3–15–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Agency information collection activities: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments on the proposed extension to the EIA–882T, “Generic Clearance for Questionnaire Testing, Evaluation and Research.”

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 17, 1999. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within the 60 days, contact the person identified below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Herbert Miller, Statistics and Methods Group, EI–70, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585. Alternatively, Mr. Miller may be reached by phone at 202–426–1103, by e-mail (herbert.miller@eia.doe.gov), or by FAX (202–426–1083).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Mr. Miller at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments

I. Background

The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93–275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. No.

94–91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*) requires the Energy Information Administration (EIA) to carry out a centralized, comprehensive, and unified energy information program. This program collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates information on energy resource reserves, production, demand, technology, and related economic and statistical information. This information is used to assess the adequacy of energy resources to meet near and longer term domestic demands.

The EIA, as part of its effort to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), provides the general public and other Federal agencies with opportunities to comment on collections of energy information conducted by or in conjunction with the EIA. Any comments received help the EIA to prepare data requests that maximize the utility of the information collected, and to assess the impact of collection requirements on the public. Also, the EIA will later seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the collections under Section 3507(h) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

On June 21, 1993, the EIA–882T, “Generic Clearance of Questionnaire Testing, Evaluation and Research” (OMB No. 1905–0185) was approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for three years. Eleven studies were conducted (or proposed to be conducted). The testing activities included several methods: focus group, mail questionnaire, telephone questionnaires, and personal interviews. The main focus of these efforts was pretesting activities to improve questionnaires. A survey was conducted to pretest activities on a new data collection to improve the collection of data on solar thermal collectors and photovoltaic devices. A follow-up study was conducted to see why energy supplies completed most of the questionnaires, after the due date on an energy consumption survey. Another energy consumption survey conducted a pilot study to assess the methodological and performance aspects of the effectiveness of random-digit-dialing (RDD) and computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). Also, a telephone survey for evaluating the effectiveness of an effort to improve response on a natural gas survey was conducted. As agreed to between EIA and OMB, OMB was provided a summary of the results of the activities conducted under this generic clearance.

The EIA–882T approval was extended for three years on July 12, 1996, and expires July 31, 1999. During the past

three years, another 8 surveys were conducted under the generic clearance. As requested by OMB, two surveys were conducted that collected information to assess recent changes in electric industry structure and operations and to determine what electric power data the states collect, and the confidentiality provisions of the data collected by the states. EIA conducted roundtable meetings with groups of EIA customers to solicit input on the main themes that should be pursued in our analysis agenda. A study was completed to test the effectiveness of a computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) field activities for a residential survey that was previously conducted through personal interviews. Selected natural gas questions were pretested on a manufacturing survey. A telephone survey was conducted to see if detailed building characteristics can be collected using CATI techniques, and whether energy consumption expenditures can be collected from building owners, managers, or tenants, rather than from the building’s energy suppliers. A related telephone survey was conducted to verify whether data provided by the building owners, managers, or tenants was accurate.

A wide variety of uses were made of the data obtained through this generic clearance. These projects represent significant strides in our efforts to improve the pretesting of EIA surveys. As EIA gains more experience, we hope to broaden involvement in testing, evaluation, and research that meet the criteria for the clearance.

II. Current Actions

EIA plans to request a 3-year extension of the OMB approval for this collection. For each study that EIA intends to undertake under this generic clearance, OMB will be notified, at least two weeks in advance, and provided with an information copy of the questionnaire (if one is used), and all other materials describing the testing activity.

III. Request for Comments

Prospective respondents and other interested persons are invited to comment on the actions discussed in item II. The following guidelines are provided to assist in the preparation of comments.

General Issues

A. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency and does the information have practical utility? Practical utility is defined as the actual usefulness of