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[FR Doc. 00-33406 Filed 12-29-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science; Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 01-09; Scientific Discovery Through Advanced Computing: Climate Change Prediction Program

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice inviting grant and cooperative agreement applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces its interest in receiving applications to support the development of simulation models for decadal to multi-century climate prediction in conjunction with the Climate Change Prediction Program (CCPP), a part of the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

DATES: Applicants are encouraged (but not required) to submit a brief preapplication for programmatic review. There is no deadline for the preapplication, but early submission of preapplications is encouraged to allow time for meaningful discussions.

Formal applications submitted in response to this notice must be received by 4:30 p.m., E.S.T., March 15, 2001, to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award in Fiscal Year 2001.

ADDRESSES: Preapplications referencing Program Notice 01-09 may be sent to the program contact, Dr. David C. Bader, via electronic mail at dave.bader@science.doe.gov or by U. S. Postal Service Mail at the following address: Office of Biological and Environmental Research, Environmental Sciences Division, SC-74, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901

Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290.

Formal applications referencing Program Notice 01-09 should be forwarded to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Grants and Contract Division, SC-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, ATTN: Program Notice 01-09. This address also must be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail, any commercial mail delivery service, or when hand-carried by the applicant. An original and seven copies of the application must be submitted; however, applicants are requested not to submit multiple application copies using more than one delivery or mail service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. David C. Bader, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, Environmental Sciences Division, SC-74, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, telephone (301) 903-5329, fax (301) 903-8519, Internet e-mail address: dave.bader@science.doe.gov. Program information is available on the DOE/OBER WWW site using the URL: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/OBER/GC/model.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: Scientific Discovery Through Advanced Computing and the Climate Change Prediction Program

Accurate prediction of climate change on decadal and longer time scales remains a major scientific objective of the Environmental Sciences Division (ESD). The Climate Change Prediction Program (CCPP) is the current phase in the evolution of DOE's long-standing climate modeling and simulation research agenda. The program is focused on developing, testing and applying climate simulation and prediction models that stay at the leading edge of scientific knowledge and computational technology. The program will continue the development of models based on more definitive theoretical foundations and improved computational methods that will run efficiently on current and future generations of high-performance scientific supercomputers. The intent is to increase dramatically both the accuracy and throughput of computer model-based predictions of future climate system response to the increased atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. Concurrently, to meet the challenge posed by the new generation of terascale computers with peak speeds of 10 to 100 trillion Operations Per Second (teraOPS), SC

will fund a set of coordinated investments in scientific computing, through its Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing (SciDAC) Program. It will create a scientific computing software infrastructure that bridges the gap between the advanced computing technologies being developed by the computer industry and the scientific research programs sponsored by the Office of Science. The CCPP portion of SciDAC, has been labeled the Accelerated Climate Prediction Initiative.

To ensure that the program meets the broadest needs of the research community and the specific needs of ESD, the successful applicants will participate as members of the Climate Change Prediction Program Science Team along with selected scientists from related ESD and SC programs. Costs for the participation in Science Team meetings and workshops should be included in the respondent's application. Yearly estimates for Science Team travel should be based on one trip of five days to Washington, DC, one trip of five days to San Francisco, CA, and one trip of five days to Denver, CO.

Request for Cooperative Agreement Applications

This notice requests applications for cooperative agreements in the following area:

The development of prototype climate models of the future including new formulations, numerical methods, algorithms and computational techniques, that will underpin the construction of production-quality climate GCMs in the five to ten year time frame.

Successful applicants for cooperative agreements to develop models of the future will devise a multi-disciplinary research strategy that addresses both climate science and computational science challenges facing the development of production-quality climate GCMs in the five to ten year time frame. These challenges include, but are not limited to, model formulations that accurately simulate critical climate processes and efficient algorithms that will execute on future high-end computer architectures such as multi-threaded and processor-in-memory designs that are anticipated to have theoretical peak speeds over 100 TeraOPS. Successful applications will convey a strong emphasis on multi-disciplinary graduate training. Cooperative agreements differ from grants in that there is continuing substantial involvement by DOE in the conduct of the research.

Request for Grant Applications

Additionally, this notice requests applications for grants in the following four areas:

(1) Theoretical limits to global climate prediction over decade to multi-century time frames with subcontinental and smaller scale spatial accuracy.

(2) The development of improved representations of key climate processes (surface processes, convective transport, etc.) that accurately simulate these processes on the appropriate scales used in general circulation model (GCM) based climate models that simulate decade-to-century climate change.

(3) The development of improved mathematical techniques, model formulations and computer algorithms for atmosphere, ocean and coupled atmosphere-ocean GCMs that more accurately and efficiently describe and predict global climate system behavior on the time and space scales mentioned above using advanced, parallel-processing scientific supercomputers.

(4) The development of diagnostic methods and tools to evaluate the ability of GCM-based climate models to accurately describe and predict global climate system behavior on the time and space scales mentioned above.

Successful applicants for grants exploring the theoretical limits of climate prediction will conduct studies of the climate system to ascertain the capability for climate simulation models to predict the aspects of the climate system that influence near-surface temperature, precipitation and winds, decades to centuries in the future. These studies may include, but are not limited to, analytical and modeling investigations of the coupled climate system, or components of the climate system, to identify climate dynamical mechanisms that influence long-term variability and predictability over continental and subcontinental spatial scales.

Successful applicants for grants to develop or improve representations of climate system processes for inclusion in GCM-based climate prediction models will conduct research to more accurately describe these processes and their interaction with other aspects of the simulated climate system. These studies will explore methods for incorporating the results of the U.S. Global Change Research Program's observational and experimental programs into model components that accurately describe climate system processes at the model resolution scales typically used for decade-to-multi-century climate prediction. Applicants in this area must include a plan for the

dissemination of any developed model code, and necessary documentation, to the climate modeling community.

Successful applicants for grants to develop new mathematical techniques and numerical algorithms will target their research toward methods that can be incorporated into models running on highly parallel scientific supercomputers capable of performing over 10 trillion operations per second (10 teraOPS). Applicants must demonstrate the role of their research in improving the accuracy and/or computational efficiency of GCM-based climate simulation models of the type envisioned for use in making forecasts of long-term climate change. These methods may be used in the simulation of any or all of the climate system processes modeled in a GCM, including, but not limited to, atmospheric and ocean dynamics and transport, surface energy and mass exchange, atmospheric radiative transfer, ocean convection, and sea-ice dynamics and thermodynamics. Applicants in this area must include a plan for the dissemination of any developed model code, and necessary documentation, to the climate modeling community.

Successful applicants for grants to develop diagnostic methods and tools will focus their research on new or greatly improved diagnostic methodologies to objectively evaluate the ability of GCM-based climate models to accurately simulate climate dynamics and global climate on the time and space scales described above. Particularly important are observation-based diagnostic methods that can be applied consistently to multiple models to identify sources of predictive uncertainty. Applicants in this area must be willing to cooperate with other groups in building the new methodologies into comprehensive diagnostic packages that will be freely available to the broader climate modeling community.

Program Funding

It is anticipated that approximately \$5,000,000 will be available for awards in Fiscal Year 2001, contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Multiple year funding of awards is expected, with out-year funding also contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds, progress of the research, and programmatic needs. The allocation of funds within the research areas will depend upon the number and quality of applications received. SC anticipates that grant awards in this area will be approximately \$200,000 per year, but may range from \$50,000 to \$600,000. SC anticipates that

cooperative agreement awards will be approximately \$1,000,000 per year.

Collaboration

Applicants are strongly encouraged to collaborate with researchers in other institutions, such as: universities, industry, non-profit organizations, federal laboratories and Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), including the DOE National Laboratories, where appropriate, and to include cost sharing wherever feasible. Additional information on collaboration is available in the Application Guide for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program that is available via the Internet at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/Colab.html>.

Preapplications

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a brief preapplication that consists of two to three pages of narrative describing the research project objectives and methods of accomplishment. These will be reviewed relative to the scope and research needs of the SC's Climate Change Prediction Program. Principal investigator address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address are required parts of the preapplication. A response to each preapplication discussing the potential program relevance of a formal application generally will be communicated within 30 days of receipt. There is no deadline for the submission of preapplications, but applicants should allow sufficient time in order for formal application deadlines to be met. SC's preapplication policy can be found on SC's Grants and Contracts Web Site at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/preapp.html>.

Merit Review

Applications will be subjected to formal merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following evaluation criteria which are listed in descending order of importance codified at 10 CFR 605.10(d):

1. Scientific and/or Technical Merit of the Project;
2. Appropriateness of the Proposed Method or Approach;
3. Competency of Applicant's personnel and Adequacy of Proposed Resources;
4. Reasonableness and Appropriateness of the Proposed Budget.

The evaluation will include program policy factors, such as the relevance of the proposed research to the terms of the announcement and an agency's

programmatic needs. Note, external peer reviewers are selected with regard to both their scientific expertise and the absence of conflict-of-interest issues. Non-federal reviewers will often be used, and submission of an application constitutes agreement that this is acceptable to the investigator(s) and the submitting institution.

Submission Information

Information about development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluation, selection process, and other policies and procedures may be found in 10 CFR Part 605 and in the Application Guide for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program. Electronic access to the Guide and required forms is made available via the World Wide Web at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>. DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of applications if an award is not made. The technical portion of the application should not exceed twenty-five (25) double-spaced pages and should include detailed budgets for each year of support requested. Awards are expected to begin on or about June 1, 2001.

Technical information on CCEP is available on the World Wide Web at the URL: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/OBER/GC/model.html> or from the Office of Scientific and Technical Information, P.O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, telephone (423) 576-8401.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program is 81.049, and the solicitation control number is ERFAP 10 CFR Part 605.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 19, 2000.

John Rodney Clark,

Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 00-33443 Filed 12-29-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER01-462-000]

DPL Energy Resources, Inc.; Notice of Issuance of Order

December 22, 2000.

DPL Energy Resources, Inc. (DPL) submitted for filing a rate schedule under which DPL will engage in wholesale electric power and energy transactions at market-based rates. DPL

also requested waiver of various Commission regulations. In particular, DPL requested that the Commission grant blanket approval under 18 CFR Part 34 of all future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability by DPL.

On December 13, 2000, pursuant to delegated authority, the Director, Division of Corporate Applications, Office of Markets, Tariffs and Rates, granted requests for blanket approval under Part 34, subject to the following:

Within thirty days of the date of the order, any person desiring to be heard or to protest the blanket approval of issuances of securities or assumptions of liability by DPL should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 285.214).

Absent a request for hearing within this period, DPL is authorized to issue securities and assume obligations or liabilities as a guarantor, indorser, surety, or otherwise in respect of any security of another person; provided that such issuance or assumption is for some lawful object within the corporate purposes of the applicant, and compatible with the public interest, and is reasonably necessary or appropriate for such purposes.

The Commission reserves the right to require a further showing that neither public nor private interests will be adversely affected by continued approval of DPL's issuances of securities or assumptions of liability.

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing motions to intervene or protests, as set forth above, is January 16, 2001.

Copies of the full text of the Order are available from the Commission's Public Reference Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. The Order may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/irms.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-33408 Filed 12-29-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP01-76-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice Shortening Comment Period

December 26, 2000.

On December 22, 2000, Reliant Energy Minnegasco (Minnegasco) filed a Motion for Extension of Time Within Which to File Comments in the above-docketed proceeding. In the filing, Minnegasco requested that the period for submitting answers to the extension motion be shortened in order to expedite Commission review of the filing. By this notice, the date for filing answers to Minnegasco's Motion for Extension of Time is shortened to and including December 28, 2000.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-33386 Filed 12-29-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER01-297-000]

Outback Power Marketing, Inc.; Notice of Issuance of Order

December 22, 2000.

Outback Power Marketing, Inc. (Outback) submitted for filing a rate schedule under which Outback will engage in wholesale electric power and energy transactions at market-based rates. Outback also requested waiver of various Commission regulations. In particular, Outback requested that the Commission grant blanket approval under 18 CFR Part 34 of all future issuances of securities and assumptions of liability by Outback.

On December 12, 2000, pursuant to delegated authority, the Director, Division of Corporate Applications, Office of Markets, Tariffs and Rates, granted requests for blanket approval under Part 34, subject to the following:

Within thirty days of the date of the order, any person desiring to be heard or to protest the blanket approval of issuances of securities or assumptions of liability by Outback should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice