

Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: March 20, 2002.

John Tressler,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Title: Report of Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Program.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs (primary), Individuals or household, Federal Government.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 52.

Burden Hours: 702.

Abstract: The information is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and to promote growth. The information is transmitted to State agencies to assist in the conduct and expansion of the program at the State

level. Respondents are the designated voc. Rehab. Agencies.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting "Browse Pending Collections" and clicking on link number 1982. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address vivian.reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Sheila Carey at 202-708-6287. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. 02-7091 Filed 3-22-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Proposed Agency Information Collection

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) invites public comment on a proposed collection of information that DOE is developing for submission to the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). The proposed collection of information would implement a statutory requirement that Technology Transfer Ombudsmen report quarterly on complaints they receive.

DATES: Consideration will be given to comments submitted by May 24, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted to: Susan L. Frey, Director, Records Management Division (IM-11), Office of Records and Business Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290, and Michael P. Hoffman, Office of General Counsel (GC-62), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20585.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This package contains:

(1) *OMB No.:* New.

(2) *Collection Title:* Technology Partnerships Ombudsmen Reporting Requirements.

(3) *Type of review:* New collection.

(4) *Purpose:* This collection of information would implement a provision in the Technology Transfer Commercialization Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-404) that requires Technology Transfer Ombudsmen appointed by DOE national laboratories to report quarterly on the number and nature of complaints and disputes received and the Ombudsman's assessment of their resolution.

(5) *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 24 Technology Transfer Ombudsmen.

(6) *Estimated Number of Burden Hours:* 100 (Quarterly times 24 respondents).

Request for Comments: Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), DOE invites comment on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary; (2) the accuracy of DOE's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who choose to respond. Additional information about DOE's proposed information collection may be obtained from the contact person named in this notice.

Statutory Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A).

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 13, 2002.

Susan L. Frey,

Director, Records Management Division, Office of Records and Business Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.

[FR Doc. 02-7074 Filed 3-22-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Enzymatic Hydrolysis Demonstration Plant To Convert Biomass to Transportation Fuels and/or Chemicals

AGENCY: Golden Field Office, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of request for expressions of interest.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE), Golden Field Office (GO), on behalf of the Office of Fuels Development (OFD), intends to issue solicitations in support of the DOE

Biofuels Program in the FY 2003—FY 2005 timeframe. The DOE/GO anticipates issuing the initial solicitation in early FY 2003 for the research and development of a demonstration plant conceptual design, process research, and detailed design of an enzymatic hydrolysis demonstration plant to convert lignocellulosic biomass to transportation fuels (biofuels) and/or chemicals. The purpose of the demonstration plant is to provide engineering data to reduce risk, enable process guarantees, and assure commercial development of the technology. For the initial FY 2003 solicitation, DOE anticipates awarding cost-shared cooperative agreements to one or two industry-led teams. Subject to the availability of funds, DOE intends to issue a subsequent solicitation in FY 2004 for the construction and initial operation of the demonstration plant. Expressions of interest in these solicitations is requested at this time.

DATES: Please provide expressions of interest and comments by May 1, 2002, to the DOE Golden Field Office.

ADDRESSES: Submit the expressions of interest to the U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office, Andrew R. Trenka, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden, CO 80401-3393.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew R. Trenka, DOE Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden, CO 80401-3393, via facsimile at (303) 275-4753, or electronically at andy_trenka@nrel.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE is sponsoring the demonstration of an enzyme sugar platform. This demonstration project is a concentrated effort to use a conversion process based on the low-cost enzymes being developed under major DOE cost-shared projects by Genencor International and Novozymes Biotech Inc., to convert a large volume of biomass into cost-effective alternative transportation fuels and/or chemicals. The initial commercialization of the platform technologies may use biomass wastes and residues. The demonstration plant will provide engineering data to reduce risk, enable process guarantees and assure commercial development of the technology. Each firm, partnership, or consortia may, at its option, utilize, via a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA), the DOE laboratories active in the DOE Biofuels research program, *i.e.* National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), *etc.* These laboratories could contribute specialized capabilities, facilities, or equipment to the project that would

complement the partnership's capabilities. The winning team or teams will be expected to carry out multi-year technology development and demonstration efforts, including the construction and operation of the platform demonstration plant at a scale sufficient to prove the technical and economic feasibility of feedstock handling, biomass fractionation, enzymatic cellulose hydrolysis, and product fermentation(s) to products. Initial discussions suggest this scale may need to be 40–50 tons per day of input biomass feedstock (dry basis), with corn stover identified as the most plentiful agricultural residue feedstock. The scale of the plant, the feedstock, and the slate of end products will be open to the results of the initial conceptual design and technology research. However, the final products must be based on sugar fermentation and whatever feedstock is chosen should have the potential to lead to significant reductions of imported petroleum, *e.g.*, several billion gallons per year.

DOE expects the industrial partners' cost-share contribution to the initial solicitation to be at least 50% of the initial costs; however, if lower, the rational should be fully explained. Higher cost-shares will be encouraged. DOE intends to share the cost of the FY 2004 and FY 2005 demonstration plant construction efforts, with the industrial partners' contribution being at least 50% of the construction and operating costs (statutory requirement). DOE intends that its partners will have demonstrated experience in the design, construction, and operation of transportation fuels, chemicals, and/or biomass processing facilities, in addition to demonstrated access to financial markets to facilitate eventual commercialization of these technologies. Interested parties should include the following in their expressions of interest:

- (1) Experience;
- (2) Types of partner organizations (private, public, non-profit) with which they contemplate teaming (including anticipated DOE laboratory involvement);
- (3) Any plans to co-locate the demonstration plant with an existing facility;
- (4) The types of financial resources they would use to fund their cost-share of the design, process research, construction, and operation phases of the project;
- (5) How they will integrate the ongoing research being undertaken by Genencor International and/or

Novozymes Biotech, Inc., to produce low-cost cellulases;

(6) The approach to be followed for the planned solicitations;

(7) The approximate budget required to design, construct, and initially operate the demonstration plant;

(8) The approximate size and cost of the demonstration plant to prove the commercial viability of the conversion processes; and

(9) Any additional information or comments to assist in drafting the solicitation.

DOE held a preview technology review in Golden, Colorado, on January 30–31, 2002, and is scheduling a second pre-solicitation meeting in Golden, Colorado in May 2002 (specific date to be determined), for all interested parties to discuss the planned solicitation(s), DOE contracting procedures, intellectual property, the use of government-owned facilities, cost-sharing principles, and other issues.

Information about the platform project, DOE's cost-shared enzyme cost reduction activities, current NREL enzymatic hydrolysis research efforts and technology assessment, the DOE Biofuels program, and the pre-solicitation meeting can be found at the following URL: http://www.ott.doe.gov/biofuels/enzyme_sugar_platform.html.

Issued in Golden, Colorado, on February 14, 2002.

Matthew A. Barron,

Contracting Officer, Office of Acquisition and Financial Assistance.

[FR Doc. 02-7075 Filed 3-22-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Oak Ridge Reservation

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Oak Ridge. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Wednesday, April 10, 2002, 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Garden Plaza Hotel, 215 South Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pat Halsey, Federal Coordinator, Department of Energy Oak Ridge