

Marine Mammal Laboratory Conference Room, Seattle, WA 98115.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bill Wilson, Council staff; telephone: 907-271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Agenda—(1) Introductions, (2) receive report from NMFS on Proposal Package and Discuss Any Issues, (3) update on schedule for preparation of Environmental Assessment and completion of rulemaking, (4) adaptive management - experimental design update, (5) other business as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: December 30, 2003.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E3-00686 Filed 12-31-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### National Energy Technology Laboratory; Notice of Availability of a Funding Opportunity

**AGENCY:** National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a funding opportunity.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the intent to issue a Funding Opportunity No. DE-PS26-04NT15460 entitled "Focused Research in Federal Lands Access and Produced Water Management in Oil and Gas Exploration and Production." The Department of

Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), on behalf of its National Petroleum Technology Office (NPTO), seeks applications for cost-shared research projects that address specific Federal lands access or produced water management issues faced by the oil and gas industry. Applications will either address (1) solutions to improve access to oil and gas resources on Federal lands or (2) produced water management issues in low cost treatment technologies, beneficial use of produced water, or best management practices for handling, treatment and/or disposal. The goal is to provide solutions to issues that are limiting domestic on-shore or off-shore production while providing the same or higher levels of environmental protection.

**DATES:** The Funding Opportunity will be available on the DOE/NETL's Internet address at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business> and on the "Industry Interactive Procurement System" (IIPS) Web page located at <http://e-center.doe.gov> on or about January 15, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Martin Byrnes, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, P.O. Box 10940, MS 921-107, Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940. E-mail address: [Martin.Byrnes@netl.doe.gov](mailto:Martin.Byrnes@netl.doe.gov), telephone number: 412-386-4486.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), on behalf of its National Petroleum Technology Office (NPTO), is soliciting applications for cost-shared research projects that address access to Federal lands or produced water management issues faced by the oil and gas industry. The goal is to provide solutions to issues that are limiting domestic on-shore or off-shore production while providing the same or higher levels of environmental protection.

The mission of the Department of Energy's Fossil Energy Oil Program is derived from the National need for increased oil production for national security, requirements for Federal lands stewardship, and increased protection of the environment. The Oil and Gas Environmental Program supports those goals and the National Energy Policy goal of increasing domestic oil and gas production, by providing technologies and approaches that reduce the cost of effective environmental protection and by providing technologies and approaches that improve environmental protection.

The program will accept applications for cost-shared research projects that

address (1) solutions to improve access to Federal lands or (2) produced water management issues in low cost treatment technologies, beneficial use of produced water, or best management practices for handling, treatment and/or disposal. The goal of this Funding Opportunity is to provide solutions to issues that are limiting domestic on-shore or off-shore production while providing the same or higher levels of environmental protection. These access issues and produced water management issues are limiting domestic production by restricting additional development or by adding costs that cause operators to abandon existing wells while substantial recoverable reserves remain in the ground.

The issues listed above are multifaceted problems. In many cases, the overall solution may vary by region or may require several separate steps to resolve completely. Selected projects are expected to describe the overall problem and the region or regions affected as well as describing how the proposed project fits into the overall solution. Selected projects are also expected to describe as completely as possible the impact that the project will have on increasing or maintaining domestic production. The description of the production impact should discuss in detail the resource affected and the amount of domestic production that can be added or maintained as a result of the successful completion of the project.

DOE anticipates issuing financial assistance (Cooperative Agreement) awards. 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 will be made. Multiple awards are anticipated. Approximately \$9 million of DOE funding is planned over a 3 year period for this Funding Opportunity. The program seeks to sponsor projects for a single budget/project period of 36 months or less. All applicants are required to cost share at a minimum of 20% of the project total for projects submitted under the two areas of interest. Details of the cost sharing requirements, and the specific funding levels will be identified in Funding Opportunity. Telephone requests, written requests, E-mail requests, or facsimile requests for a copy of the Funding Opportunity package will not be accepted and/or honored. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions and forms contained in the Funding Opportunity Announcement. The actual Funding Opportunity

Announcement will allow for requests for explanation and/or interpretation.

Issued in Pittsburgh, PA on December 19, 2003.

Dale A. Siciliano,

Director, Acquisition and Assistance Division.

[FR Doc. 03-32266 Filed 12-31-03; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### National Energy Technology Laboratory; Notice of Intent To Issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement

**AGENCY:** National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to issue funding opportunity announcement.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the intent to issue Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-PS26-04NT42068 entitled State Energy Program (SEP) Special Projects Opportunity for Funding. The Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is anticipating the availability of financial assistance to the States for a group of special project activities. Funding is being provided by a number of programs in the EERE Office. States may apply to undertake any of the projects being offered by these programs. Financial assistance will be awarded to the States separately for each special project, with activities to be carried out in conjunction with their efforts under SEP. The special project's funding and activities are tracked separately so that the DOE Program Offices may follow the progress of individual projects.

**DATES:** The funding opportunity will be available on the "Industry Interactive Procurement System" (IIPS) Web page located at <http://e-center.doe.gov> on or about January 8, 2004. Applicants can obtain access to the solicitation from the address above or through DOE/NETL's Web site at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business>.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kelly A. McDonald, MS I07, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, P.O. Box 880 / 3610 Collins Ferry Road, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880. E-mail address: [kelly.mcdonald@netl.doe.gov](mailto:kelly.mcdonald@netl.doe.gov), telephone number: (304) 285-4113.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The proposed projects must meet the relevant requirements of the program providing the funding, as well as of the SEP as specified in the 2004 State

Energy Program Special Projects Funding Opportunity. The goals of the special projects activities are to directly involve States in activities to accelerate deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies; to facilitate the commercialization of emerging and underutilized technologies; and to increase the responsiveness of federally-funded technology development efforts to the needs of the marketplace.

Fiscal Year 2004 is the ninth year special project activities have been funded in conjunction with the State Energy Program (10 CFR 420). Most of these special projects are related to or based on similar efforts that have been funded by other DOE programs.

#### Availability of Fiscal Year 2004 Funds

With this publication, DOE is anticipating the availability of an estimated \$14 million in new financial assistance awards from Fiscal Year 2004 appropriations. DOE's obligation for performance of this Funding Opportunity is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds from which financial assistance awards can be made.

The awards will be made through a competitive process. The programs that are participating in the State Energy Program Special Projects Opportunity for Fiscal Year 2004, with the estimated amount of funding available for each, are as follows:

- *Clean Cities:* This program will provide funds to support the deployment of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles (AFV) in the following six categories: (1) Projects that promote acquisition of commercially-available AFV's that maximize alternative fuel use, especially when those vehicles support an AFV niche market activity center or niche deployment strategy; (2) projects that promote AFV infrastructure development; (3) projects that promote truck idle reduction technologies; (4) projects that promote alternative fuel ferry demonstrations; (5) projects that promote the acquisition of AFV school buses and refueling infrastructure; and (6) projects that support coalition activities (\$5,000,000).

- *Industrial Technology Program:* The objective of this program is to broaden the impact of investments in advanced industrial technologies and practices geared toward energy savings and waste reduction. This will be done through increased partnerships composed of State agencies, universities, and local small and mid-sized manufacturing entities (\$1,500,000).

- *Building Codes and Standards:* This program will support States' actions to adopt, update, implement, enforce and evaluate the effectiveness of their residential and commercial building energy codes (\$1,650,000).

- *Rebuild America:* This program supports Rebuild America State Programs which are consistent with the Rebuild America Strategic Plan that identifies specific and measurable building and related energy saving projects. The goal is for 50 percent of the partnerships to have completed at least one major building renovation project by 2005. The partnerships must define a program and process that would show a significant opportunity for completion of building projects (\$3,000,000).

- *Building America:* Applications under this program should include research that coordinates with Building America's goal of creating building system performance packages that make new houses 40 percent to 70 percent more energy efficient than those built to local building code standards. Existing houses should be 30 percent more energy efficient than the local building code (\$400,000).

- *Federal Energy Management Program:* Applications should promote and facilitate sustainable design and construction, energy efficient operations and maintenance, distributed and renewable energy, renewable energy purchases, siting of renewable power on Federal sites, and assessment and implementation of load and energy reduction techniques (\$400,000).

- *Solar Technology Program:* The objective of this program is to deploy solar energy technologies onto brownfield sites in a manner consistent with local economic development activities and relevant local, State and Federal environmental regulations using the following activities: (1) Solar arrays located directly on the site; (2) solar technologies integrated into buildings on site; and (3) solar energy businesses located directly on site (\$250,000).

- *State Wind Energy Support:* Applications will be sought for instrumentation of existing tall towers (100 meters or taller) in areas suitable for potential wind power development where wind shear is expected to be a significant factor. (\$250,000).

- *Distributed Energy and Electric Reliability—Regional Combined Cooling Heating and Power Applications Centers:* The objectives of the Regional Application Centers will be to provide essential and appropriate applied research and development support, focused on the technology transfer and deployment of advanced Combined