

operating reserves; a description of the entity's involvement in the development of the energy resources to be delivered; and/or any commitments to purchase the resulting energy and capacity from the proposed resource.

3. *Interconnection request.* If the proposed Project involves an interconnection request, a description of the interconnection request, including, but not limited to, the names of the entities involved in the request, such as transmission facility owners, Regional Transmission Organizations, Independent System Operators, or any other relevant entities, and the status of that request, including queue position and estimated date the transmission facility owner(s) expect to be ready to provide transmission service.

4. *Transmission Rights and/or Service.* Description of transmission rights or long-term service the entity may desire when the Project is completed.

5. *Participant roles.* Description of the proposed role that the submitting entity, the relevant PMA, the Secretary, and any other Project participants might play in the development, ownership, operation, and maintenance of the Project.

6. *Prior experience.* A brief description of the submitting entity's prior experience related to constructing, financing, facilitating, or studying construction of upgraded and/or new electric power transmission lines and related facilities for the primary purpose of delivering or facilitating the delivery of power generated by resources constructed or reasonably expected to be constructed.

7. *Participation of other entities.* A brief description of any steps the entity has taken to seek interest from other entities in participating in developing the proposed Project or in seeking interest in subscribers for the additional transmission capacity resulting from the proposed Project.

8. *Financial viability.* Verifiable information demonstrating that the entity is in sound financial condition and has the ability to secure the necessary financing to meet the Project's requirements at all relevant phases of the Project.

9. *Other information.* Any other information that the submitting entity thinks would be useful for consideration as part of its Project Proposal.

During or upon completion of the evaluation of an eligible Project, DOE and the relevant PMA may initiate negotiations and, subject to the advancement of funds by the requesting entity, undertake more detailed analysis—including National

Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*) scoping and environmental impact statement preparation processes—for any eligible Project that meets the evaluation criteria.

Only an Agreement executed between DOE, the relevant PMA, and the submitting entity can contractually obligate the DOE or the relevant PMA to design, develop, construct, operate, maintain, or own, or participate with other entities in designing, developing, constructing, operating, maintaining, or owning, upgraded existing transmission facilities owned by either PMA, or new transmission lines constructed in the states in which either PMA operates.

Environmental Compliance: In compliance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), and DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures and Guidelines (10 CFR part 1021), DOE has determined that this action is categorically excluded from further NEPA analysis. Future actions that the Secretary, Southwestern, and/or Western may undertake pursuant to EPCA section 1222 as a result of this request will undergo separate NEPA analysis on a project-by-project basis.

Dated: June 4, 2010.

Daniel B. Poneman,
Deputy Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Toxicology Program (NTP); NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods (NICEATM): Availability of the Biennial Progress Report of the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM)

AGENCY: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH).

ACTION: Availability of the ICCVAM Biennial Progress Report.

SUMMARY: NICEATM announces the availability of the *Biennial Progress Report 2008–2009: Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods*. In accordance with requirements of the ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106–545, 42 U.S.C. 2851–3(e)(7)), this report describes progress

and activities during 2008–2009 by ICCVAM and NICEATM. The report is available on the NICEATM–ICCVAM Web site at <http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/about/ICCVAMrpts.htm>. Copies can also be requested from NICEATM at the address given below.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the report should be sent by mail, fax, or e-mail to Dr. William S. Stokes, NICEATM Director, NIEHS, P.O. Box 12233, MD K2-16, Research Triangle Park, NC, 27709, (phone) 919-541-2384, (fax) 919-541-0947, (e-mail) niceatm@niehs.nih.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. William S. Stokes, NICEATM Director (phone 919-541-2384 or niceatm@niehs.nih.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background Information on ICCVAM and NICEATM

ICCVAM is an interagency committee composed of representatives from 15 U.S. Federal regulatory and research agencies that require, use, or generate toxicological information. ICCVAM conducts technical evaluations of new, revised, and alternative methods with regulatory applicability, and promotes the scientific validation and regulatory acceptance of toxicological test methods that more accurately assess the safety and health hazards of chemicals and products and that refine (less pain and distress), reduce, or replace animal use. The ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 2851–3(a), available at <http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov/about/PL106545.htm>) established ICCVAM as a permanent interagency committee of the NIEHS under NICEATM. NICEATM administers ICCVAM, provides scientific and operational support for ICCVAM-related activities, and coordinates international validation studies. NICEATM and ICCVAM work collaboratively to evaluate new and improved test methods applicable to the needs of U.S. Federal agencies. Additional information about ICCVAM and NICEATM, guidelines for nomination of test methods for validation studies, and guidelines for submission of test methods to ICCVAM for evaluation are available at <http://iccvam.niehs.nih.gov>.

Dated: June 3, 2010.

John R. Bucher,

Associate Director, National Toxicology Program.

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