

Dated: March 17, 1995.

**L.R. McNeas,**

*LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 95-7114 Filed 3-22-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Deviation from the Department of Energy Assistance Regulations

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of class deviation.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) hereby announces a class deviation from its Financial Assistance Regulations. This deviation removes, on a pilot basis for noncompetitive financial assistance awards of \$1 million or less, the requirements to publish a **Federal Register** announcement prior to award and, then, to delay 14 calendar days before making the award. This deviation will save public funds and reduce paperwork by allowing smaller financial assistance actions to be awarded in a more timely fashion involving fewer DOE offices and employees.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 7, 1995.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In this notice, the Department of Energy announces that, pursuant to 10 CFR 600.4, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Procurement and Assistance Management has made a determination of the need for a class deviation to the Department's Financial Assistance Rules. A deviation to 10 CFR 600.7 has been approved which provides that, on a Department-wide two year pilot basis, noncompetitive financial assistance awards under \$1 million are not required to be published in the **Federal Register** 14 calendar days prior to making an award. This deviation was approved to avoid the time consuming and labor intensive efforts involved in preparation and review of the announcements, and the 14 days of publication before award could be made for relatively low dollar value actions. Publication of these pending noncompetitive award announcements have not resulted in their intended purpose which was to make potentially qualified recipients aware of pending noncompetitive financial assistance awards so they might make their qualifications known to the awarding office, and possibly compete for the award. During the many years that the Department has published these announcements, only a very few responses have been received, and, of those, most had nothing to do with the

noncompetitive nature of the awards. This deviation will result in streamlining the process of awarding noncompetitive financial assistance actions, thereby saving the Government resources of time and money. It is anticipated that, by the time the deviation expires, DOE will have completed a rulemaking to remove the publication requirement on a permanent basis.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Stephen D. Mournighan, Office of Management Review and Analysis, [HR-523], U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 30, 1994.

**Richard H. Hopf,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Procurement and Assistance Management.*

**Editorial note:** This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on March 20, 1995.

[FR Doc. 95-7201 Filed 3-22-95; 8:45 am]

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### Seattle Regional Support Office

#### Notice of Pacific Northwest and Alaska Regional Bioenergy Program

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of Competitive Financial Assistance Applications Number DE-PS51-95R020563.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Seattle Regional Support Office (SRSO) announces its intention to issue a competitive solicitation and make financial assistance awards for bioenergy-related demonstration, development and commercialization projects in support of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska Regional Bioenergy Program. This action is subject to the DOE Financial Assistance Rules (10 CFR Part 600).

**DATES:** The solicitation is anticipated to be released on or about March 17, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** To obtain a copy of the solicitation, forward your request to the U.S. Department of Energy's Seattle Regional Support Office, 800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3950, Seattle, WA 98104, Attn: Ms. Carol A. Curtis, Grants/Contracts Specialist. Only written requests for this solicitation will be honored. For convenience, requests for the solicitation may be faxed to Ms. Curtis at (206) 553-2200. Please reference solicitation DE-PS51-95R020563.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Carol Curtis, phone number 206-553-2166.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The DOE established regional bioenergy programs to promote the development of effective uses of biomass for energy. The legislative authority (Senate Appropriation Bill) directs DOE to "carry out activities related to technology transfer, industry support, resource assessment, and matching local resources to conversion technologies." The solicitation will be one approach used to carry out this directive. The DOE is seeking applications for projects that demonstrate bioenergy technologies which produce energy savings through displacement of non-renewable resources, or that produce energy through the direct combustion of renewable resources. Projects will also be evaluated on the ability of the proposed project to minimize environmental impacts and improve the economic viability of a specific bioenergy industry or technology. Projects shall be located in the region consisting of the states of: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, and Montana. All project sponsors will be required to provide a minimum cost sharing of 1:1. Acceptable demonstration technologies will use one or more of the following biomass fuels: landfill debris and landfill gas; logging residues; agricultural crops and wastes; biomass farming; urban, forest, and forest products wood wastes; municipal solid waste; animal wastes; and food processing wastes. Bioenergy projects can produce electricity, mechanical power, space heat, and industrial process heat. The DOE plans to award multiple grants valued at approximately \$100,000 for each project. The DOE funding for this program in FY 1995 is about \$500,000.

This solicitation will be issued on or about March 17, 1995, and will contain detailed information on funding, cost-sharing requirements, eligibility, application preparation, and evaluation. Responses to the solicitation will be due May 10, 1995. Awards will be announced prior to September 30, 1995.

All responsible sources are encouraged to submit an application. All projects must comply with the requirements of the National Energy Policy Act (NEPA).

Issued in Seattle, Washington on March 2, 1995.

**Carol Curtis,**

*Grants/Contract Specialist.*

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