

This project is to advance the competitive position of solar-power generation technologies by constructing facilities capable of generating up to 1000 megawatts of solar-generated electrical power and to create a sustaining manufacturing and technology infrastructure in southern Nevada. The mix of types of solar generation will be determined through a competitive process and will potentially include photovoltaics, dish/Stirling, solar trough, power tower, and other renewable technologies.

The unsolicited proposal submitted by CSTAR is considered to be meritorious and the proposed project represents a unique and innovative idea, method, and approach which would not be eligible for financial assistance under a recent current, or planned solicitation.

The project is of value to the DOE, other Federal agencies, the scientific and technological communities, and the general public through growth of a new manufacturing and technology industry in the southern Nevada area.

The project period of this grant is for four and one-half years and will commence on June 15, 1995, through December 31, 1999. The total estimated cost of the award is \$7,722,027 of which \$4,700,000 is Federal funding and \$3,022,027 non-Federal.

Issued in Las Vegas, Nevada, on May 22, 1995.

Joseph N. Fiore,
Acting Deputy Manager, DOE Nevada Operations Office.

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Office of Economic Impact and Diversity; Guidelines for Department of Energy Mentor Protege Initiative

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Final Guidelines.

SUMMARY: On August 22, 1994, the Department of Energy (DOE) published proposed guidelines for its Mentor-Protege Pilot Initiative. The Mentor-Protege Pilot Initiatives is designed to encourage Department of Energy management and operating contractors, Environmental Restoration management contractors and DOE prime contractors to assist energy-related small disadvantaged, (8a), and women-owned businesses in enhancing their business and technical capabilities to ensure full participation in the mission of the Department.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 9, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Eugene Tates at (202) 586-4556.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose and Program Overview

The Department of Energy Mentor-Protege Pilot Initiative is designed to encourage Department of Energy management and operating contractors, Environmental Restoration management contractors and DOE prime contractors, to assist energy related small disadvantaged, 8(a), and women-owned businesses in enhancing their business and technical capabilities to ensure full participation in the mission of the Department. The use of this integrated working arrangement between companies will promote economic and technological growth, foster the establishment of long term business relationships and increase the number of small disadvantaged, 8(a), or women-owned businesses that receive Department of Energy, other Federal and commercial contracts.

Comments to Proposal Guidelines

On August 22, 1994, the Department of Energy published proposed guidelines for its Mentor-Protege Pilot Initiative and requested written comments on the draft guidelines and supporting materials on or before September 21, 1994 (59 FR 43098). Although the Department received numerous telephone inquiries regarding the Initiative, only 22 written responses or comments were received.

Issues raised by respondents were distilled into the following relevant issues:

(1) Expand the mentor base to include more than Department of Energy management and operating contractors.

DOE reviewed the Mentor-Protege Pilot Initiative mentor participation limitations and decided to expand the mentor base to include Environmental Restoration management contractors and DOE prime contractors.

(2) Separate funding to operate the Initiative should be provided to approved mentor firms.

Unlike other mentor-protege programs which have appropriated funds, the Mentor-Protege Pilot Initiative is a program conceived by the Department of Energy and operated within the constraints of available resources. The Initiative does not have any appropriated funding. The Initiative does not provide cost reimbursement.

(3) A clear definition of "energy-related" should be given when the final guidelines are published.

"Energy-related" refers to any business relevant to the mission of the Department of Energy.

A. General Policy

(1) Department of Energy management and operating contractors, Environmental Restoration management contractors and prime contractors who are approved as mentor firms may enter into agreements with eligible small disadvantaged, 8(a), and women-owned businesses as protege firms to provide appropriate developmental assistance to enhance the business and technical capabilities of small disadvantaged, 8(a), and women-owned businesses to perform as contractors, subcontractors and suppliers.

(2) The mentor-protege initiatives described in these regulations constitutes a pilot program that will have a duration of two years from the date of the published final notice. During this period, management and operating contractors, Environmental Restoration management contractors and prime contractors which have received approval by the Department of Energy to participate in the program may enter into agreements with protege firms.

B. Incentives for Mentor Participation

(1) Active participation in the Department of Energy Mentor Protege Initiative may be a source selection factor in the awarding of Department of Energy contracts.

(2) The award fee evaluation plans contained in all Department of Energy Performance-Based Management contracts may include a factor for evaluation of a contractor's performance associated with Mentor-Protege Initiative participation.

(3) Mentor firms shall receive credit toward Department of Energy subcontracting goals contained in their subcontracting plan.

C. Incentives for Protege Firms

(1) Protege firms may be eligible for noncompetitive subcontracting procurement opportunities with the Department.

(2) Technical and developmental assistance provided by the mentor.

(3) Development of business relationships with Department of Energy, its contractors, and procurement personnel.

D. Mentor Firms

Department of Energy mentor candidates must be:

(1) Management and operating contractors of Department of Energy facilities.

(2) Environmental Restoration management contractors.

(3) DOE prime contractors.

E. Protege Firms

Department of Energy Protege candidates must be:

(1) A small disadvantaged, 8(a), or woman-owned small business concern in operation for two years as defined by the Small Business Administration.

(2) Eligible for receipt of government contracts, and;

(3) In operation and actively engaged in an energy related, technical or construction business field for two years.

F. Selection of Protege Firms

(1) Proteges may be selected from each of the following areas:

(a) Small disadvantaged and women-owned businesses that presently have contracts or subcontracts with the Department;

(b) Small disadvantaged and women-owned businesses that are presently 8(a) or 8(a) graduates under the Small Business Administration Program.

(c) Emerging small disadvantaged and women-owned business firms that possess energy related or technical capability and have been actively engaged in business for at least two years.

G. Agreement Contents

(1) Once a protege firm has been selected for participation in the program, a Mentor-Protege Plan signed by the respective firms shall be submitted to the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity/Office of Small Disadvantaged Business Utilization for approval. The Plan shall contain a description of the developmental assistance that is mutually agreed upon and in the best developmental interest of the protege firm, not to exceed ten (10) typed pages.

(2) The Mentor-Protege Plan shall also include information on the mentor's ability to provide developmental assistance, schedule for providing such assistance, and criteria for evaluating the protege's developmental success. The Plan shall include termination provisions complying with Notice and due process rights of both parties and a statement agreeing to submit periodic report reviews and cooperate in any studies or surveys as may be required by the Department in order to determine the extent of compliance with the terms of the agreement.

(3) The submitted Mentor-Protege Agreement shall be reviewed by a Department of Energy committee consisting of representatives of the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, and a Small

Business Manager affiliated with the DOE Field Operations Offices.

The committee may recommend acceptance of the submitted Agreement if the Agreement is in compliance with Department of Energy Mentor-Protege guidelines.

H. Measurement of Program Success

The overall success of the Mentor-Protege Initiative will be measured by the extent to which it results in:

(1) An increase in the protege firm's technical and business capability, industrial competitiveness, client base expansion and improved financial stability.

(2) An increase in the number and value of contracts, subcontracts and suppliers by small disadvantaged business protege firms in industry categories where small disadvantaged businesses have not traditionally participated.

(3) The overall enhancement and development of protege firms as a competitive contractor, subcontractor, or supplier to the Department of Energy, other Federal agencies or commercial markets.

I. Review and Approval of Mentor-Protege Agreements

(1) All mentor-protege agreements shall be reviewed and approved by the Department of Energy's Office of Economic Impact and Diversity/Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

(2) Upon agreement approval, the mentor may implement the developmental assistance under the program.

(3) Proteges may seek multiple mentors provided, conflict of interest provisions would not prevent such an arrangement and the approval of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity/Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization is received.

J. Internal Controls by the Department

(1) The Department of Energy's Office of Economic Impact and Diversity/Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will manage the program and establish internal controls to achieve the stated program objectives. Controls will include:

(a) Reviewing and evaluating mentor-protege agreements for goals and objectives; and

(b) Reviewing semi-annual progress reports submitted by mentors and proteges on protege development to measure protege progress against the approved agreement.

(c) Requesting and reviewing periodic reports and any studies or surveys as may be required by the Department.

K. Non Performance

(1) Failure of the mentor to meet the terms of the Mentor-Protege Agreement may have an adverse affect on future award fees.

(2) Failure of the protege to meet the terms of the Mentor-Protege Agreement may result in termination of the agreement by the mentor and exclusion from future participation in the Mentor-Protege Initiative.

L. Program Review

At the conclusion of each year in the Mentor-Protege Initiative the mentor and protege will formally brief the Department of Energy Office of Economic Impact and Diversity/Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, regarding program accomplishments as it pertains to the approved agreement. The briefing may be held at either the Department of Energy Headquarters or the mentor or protege's site.

Issued in Washington, DC on June 2, 1995.

Corlis S. Moody,

Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity.

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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP95-61-000 and CP95-62-000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Majorsville/Crawford Storage Project

June 5, 1995.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the natural gas pipeline facilities proposed by Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia) in the above-referenced dockets.

The EA was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of temporary deactivation of the existing Majorsville-