

The Bureau of Census data for 1995 will be released in July 1996. The Department expects that the NLC will continue discussions of expanding the data related to luminaire efficacy that is reported through a format such as the Bureau of Census. Such reporting could possibly include an average LER by luminaire type.

g. Continuation of the Program

The Department finds that the Collaborative has established a workable administrative framework for continuing the voluntary program and incorporating new products. NEMA will continue as the administrator of the Collaborative and the voluntary program. The Collaborative will continue to meet periodically to assess and update the program, to insure consensus on the direction of the program, and to address any concerns expressed by the Department.

The process for evaluating which new products should be added to the list of covered products in the voluntary program, and which should be deleted, will be incorporated with the regular reassessment by NEMA of its standards. All NEMA standards are routinely reviewed within five years after their publication date for possible revision, renewal, or rescission. Since NEMA Standard LE5 was first published in 1993, the fluorescent luminaire testing and rating method will be reviewed by 1998 and updated as appropriate, with consensus review by the Collaborative. The review of the entire standard will include the reevaluation of such statistical data as the 1993 average commercial sector electricity rate specified in the original version of NEMA Standard LE5.

NEMA is already developing an HID industrial standard and a downlight luminaire standard related to the LER. The NLC will be part of the review process once these are in draft public review form. The NLC report also states that 2'x2' and 1'x4' fluorescent luminaires, types that are rapidly gaining in market share, will be considered for addition to the voluntary program.

Collaborative members believe that the program will also achieve self-sustaining continuity through the marketplace, as the LER energy efficiency rating adds competitive value to rated products, and manufacturers which have not included this information find themselves at a competitive disadvantage.

IV. Determination

Based on the Department's evaluation of the NLC's program structure, current

implementation, and future plans, the Department believes that the critical elements of a voluntary national testing and information program to provide energy efficiency information for luminaires are already operational or under development, and that the program is likely to mature and expand so as to meet all of the requirements for such a program in Section 126(a) of EPCACT. Key elements of the program now in place include the LER rating method to measure the energy efficiency of luminaires, test procedures to be performed in accredited laboratories, a core organizational group in the National Lighting Collaborative with administrative services provided by NEMA, a list of luminaires covered in the initial phase of the program, the identification of the energy efficiency information to be disseminated by manufacturers, and the methods for such dissemination. Other measures, such as planned publicity initiatives for the program and a market data reporting system, have made good progress and are expected to be completed within approximately two years.

However, because the program is still in the initial stages of implementation, the Department has an insufficient basis for making a final determination. Based on the current design of the program and the Collaborative's plans, it is anticipated that the program will cover, within three years, product categories representing 80 percent of the fluorescent luminaire market, and approximately 75 percent of the unit sales within these categories; assure that each LER rating derived from testing will be generally valid for the tested products; make the luminaire marketplace aware of the voluntary program; and expand the program to include downlights and HID industrial luminaires. In order for the Department to evaluate progress in these areas, close collaboration between the Collaborative and the Department should be maintained to facilitate exchange of information and program updates. If the Collaborative provides data and documentation to DOE by July 15, 1998, on the achievements of the NLC program, including information as to whether the above objectives have been met, then DOE can make its final determination.

For these reasons, it is hereby determined provisionally that the National Lighting Collaborative's program is consistent with the objectives of Section 126(a) of EPCACT. If the objectives set forth in the preceding paragraphs have been completed, DOE will make a final determination that the program meets

the statutory objectives. DOE expects to make a final determination no later than December 15, 1998.

V. Relationship to Mandatory Energy Conservation Programs

Certain aspects of the NLC's voluntary program for luminaires involve matters covered by mandatory energy conservation test procedures, labeling, and standards imposed under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), as amended. For example, both the luminaire efficiency rating in the NLC program and the mandatory requirements for lamps involve consideration of the light output of lamps.

The NLC program, however, is designed to provide a consistent approach to the testing and dissemination of energy efficiency information only for luminaires. It is not intended to affect mandatory requirements for other products. Therefore, to the extent DOE approves the NLC program as meeting the objectives of Section 126 of EPCACT, such approval does not indicate any view by DOE as to the appropriate content of any mandatory program. Moreover, neither the provisions of the voluntary program, nor actions under that program, in any way govern any mandatory requirements imposed under EPCA.

Nevertheless, DOE hopes that any future modifications in the NLC voluntary program can be sufficiently well coordinated with mandatory testing and labeling requirements to minimize any conflicts that might place added burdens on the manufacturers, retailers, or buyers of the affected lighting products.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 6, 1996.

Christine A. Ervin,
Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

[FR Doc. 96-6294 Filed 3-14-96; 8:45 am]

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Office of Energy Research

Energy Research Financial Assistance Program Notice 96-12; Natural and Accelerated Bioremediation Research Program—Science Team Leadership

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

ACTION: Notice inviting cooperative agreement applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Health and Environmental Research (OHER) of the Office of Energy Research, U.S.

Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces its interest in receiving applications for cooperative agreements that establish Science Teams for the Natural and Accelerated Bioremediation Research Program (NABIR). The NABIR Science Teams are divided into the following element areas: Acceleration; Biomolecular Science and Engineering; Biotransformation and Biodegradation; Community Dynamics and Microbial Ecology; Biogeochemical Dynamics; Assessment; and System Integration, Prediction, and Optimization.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of formal applications is 4:30 p.m., E.D.T., May 7, 1996, in order to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award in fiscal year 1996.

ADDRESSES: Formal applications referencing Program Notice 96-12 should be forwarded to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Research, Grants and Contracts Division, ER-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, ATTN: Program Notice 96-12.

This address also must be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or any commercial mail delivery service, or when hand-carried by the applicant.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. D. Jay Grimes, Environmental Sciences Division, ER-74, Office of Health and Environmental Research, Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, telephone (301) 903-4183, e-mail darrell.grimes@oer.doe.gov, fax (301) 903-5219 or Dr. John Houghton, same address, (301) 903-8288, john.houghton@oer.doe.gov, fax (301) 903-7363.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The mission of the NABIR program is to provide the scientific understanding needed to harness natural processes and to develop methods to accelerate these processes for the bioremediation of contaminated soils, sediments, and groundwater at DOE facilities. The program will be implemented through seven interrelated program science elements; Acceleration; Biomolecular Science and Engineering; Biotransformation and Biodegradation; Community Dynamics and Microbial Ecology; Biogeochemical Dynamics; Assessment; and System Integration, Prediction, and Optimization. The Program Plan for the NABIR program (DOE/ER-0659T) contains a more complete description of the NABIR program and each of the science

elements. It is available via the Internet using the following address:

<http://www.er.doe.gov/production/oher/nabir/cover.html>. The NABIR Plan is also available from the Office of Scientific and Technical Information, P.O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, TN 37831 (DOE and DOE contractors only) and the U.S. Department of Commerce, Technology Administration, National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA 22161, (703) 487-4650 (public source).

Each program science element will be directed by a program manager from OHER, who will be responsible for providing support and overall direction for the element, including determining the relevance of the goals and objectives of the program element to the NABIR and other DOE programs. Each program science element will also have a Science Team Leader (STL) who will provide scientific leadership to the community of the researchers in that element. The selection of the STL is expected to include a commitment to fund research undertaken by the STL. STL's will not be eligible for additional research funding from the NABIR program.

The STL, in cooperation with and in response to direction from DOE/OHER, will be responsible for contributing scientific leadership within the program science element. Specific responsibilities of the Science Team Leader include:

- Work to develop scientific direction for research in the program science element;

- Assisting in identifying research opportunities and directions (e.g., hold workshops, attend relevant meetings and colloquia);

- Providing coordination among the investigators in the program element and with other NABIR elements;

- Communicating research findings to relevant audiences;

- Identifying targets of opportunity and encouraging research directed at those targets; and

- Conducting the research presented in the application and approved for funding.

Specific responsibilities of DOE/OHER will include:

- Determining relevance of the goals and objectives and overall direction for the science element to the overall NABIR Program and to other DOE programs;

- Providing access to suitable Field Research Centers;

- Facilitating the Federal, state, and local regulatory process;

- Providing access to data storage, retrieval, and analysis systems; and

Coordinating NABIR with other relevant government and non-government programs.

Applicants may apply for more than one Science Team Leader position and should clearly indicate whether their intent is to lead one science element or more than one science element.

Applications must demonstrate the STL's ability to conduct interdisciplinary research relevant to the science element and to coordinate and focus other scientists' research. The application should include a description of the proposed research project and a budget plan that fully addresses both the proposed research and the Science Team leadership activities. Information regarding the following scientific and management attributes for a science team leader should be included as part of the application:

- An understanding of the existing knowledge and of the science and engineering research directions for the particular science element or elements;

- A history of strong research accomplishments in the science element or elements;

- An interest in becoming a "team leader" for the element or elements;

- A history of successfully mentoring scientists, recruiting, and fostering new talent;

- Networking and coordination skills; and

- A commitment on the part of his/her institution to the principles and successful operation of NABIR.

Up to seven awards are anticipated, from approximately \$3 million available in the first year (each award approximately \$300,000 to \$500,000 per year for three years).

Information about development, submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluation, selection process, and other policies and procedures may be found in 10 CFR Part 605; and in the Application Guide for the Office of Energy Research Financial Assistance Program. The Application Guide is available from the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Health and Environmental Research, Environmental Sciences Division, ER-74, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290. Telephone requests may be made by calling (301) 903-3338. Electronic access to ER's Financial Assistance Guide is possible via the Internet using the following e-mail address: <http://www.er.doe.gov/production/grants/guide.html>. The Office of Energy Research (ER), as part of its grant regulations, requires at 10 CFR 605.11(b) that a grantee funded by ER and

performing research involving recombinant DNA molecules shall comply with the National Institutes of Health "Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules" (51 FR 16958, May 7, 1986), or such later guidelines as may be published in the Federal Register. The application must be 15 pages or less, exclusive of attachments.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program is 81.049, and the solicitation control number is ERFAP 10 CFR part 605.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 1, 1996.

John Rodney Clark,
Associate Director for Resource Management,
Office of Energy Research.
[FR Doc. 96-6295 Filed 3-14-96; 8:45 am]
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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP96-97-000]

Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company; Notice of Technical Conference

March 11, 1996.

Take notice that a technical conference will be convened in the above-docketed proceeding on Wednesday, March 27, 1996, at 10:00 a.m., in a room to be designated at the offices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. Any party, as defined in 18 CFR 385.102(c), any person seeking intervenor status pursuant to 18 CFR 385.214, and any participant, as defined in 18 CFR 385.102(b), is invited to participate.

For additional information, please contact Carolyn Van Der Jagt, 202-208-2246, or Tom Gooding, 202-208-1123, at the Commission.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-6180 Filed 3-14-96; 8:45 am]
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[Project No. 11077-001 Alaska]

Alaska Power & Telephone Company; Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment

March 11, 1996.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations, 18 CFR Part 380 (Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897), the Office of Hydropower Licensing has reviewed the application for an original, major

unconstructed license for the Goat Lake Hydroelectric Project, and has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the project. The project is located on Pitchfork Falls, about 7 miles from the town of Skagway, in southeast Alaska.

In the DEA, the Commission's staff has analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the project and has concluded that approval of the project, with appropriate environmental protective measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Copies of the DEA are available for review in the Public Reference Branch, Room 2A, of the Commission's offices at 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426.

Any comments should be filed within 30 days from the date of this notice and should be addressed to Lois D. Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. For further information, contact Mr. Carl Keller, Environmental Coordinator, at (202) 219-2831.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-6179 Filed 3-14-96; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5440-6]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Pretesting and Evaluation of Risk Communication Activities

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (EPA ICR Number 1552.03; OMB Control Number 2010-0022: Pretesting and Evaluation of Risk Communication Activities, expires 04/30/96). Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 14, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons may obtain a copy of the ICR, without charge, by contacting Dr. Lynn Desautels, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, U.S. EPA, 401 M Street SW., Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Lynn Desautels, 202-260-6995 (phone); 202-260-7875 (FAX).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Affected entities: Entities potentially affected by this action are those which would be audiences for risk communication messages from EPA.

Title: Pretesting and Evaluation of Risk Communication Activities, OMB Control Number 2010-0022. Expires 4/30/96.

Abstract: The U.S. EPA continues to use risk communication as a risk management tool. EPA uses risk communication (1) to encourage individuals to make voluntary behavior changes which will reduce their level of personal risk from exposure to specific environmental contaminants or conditions, and (2) to improve compliance with environmental regulations. Evaluating the effectiveness of risk communication activities is important; such evaluations allow EPA to learn from its efforts, improve them, and conduct them as effectively as possible. A number of low cost risk communication evaluation methods are available for pretesting materials, evaluating risk communication processes, and evaluating outcomes and impacts. These methods require only a modest respondent burden, and participation is entirely voluntary. There is no cost to respondents. Since many of EPA's risk communication activities are relatively low cost and do not warrant extensive or costly evaluations, this information collection request (ICR) seeks continued approval for conducting small scale evaluations of risk communication activities. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR Part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information,