

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Office of Environment, Safety and Health; Continuation of Solicitation for Epidemiology and Other Health Studies Financial Assistance Program (Notice 96-01)****AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy.**ACTION:** Annual notice of continuation of potential availability of grants and cooperative agreements.

SUMMARY: The Office of Health Studies within the Office of Environment, Safety, and Health of the Department of Energy (DOE) announces its continuing interest in applications for grants and cooperative agreements for occupational and environmental health studies of DOE employees and DOE contractors, as well as related DOE international health programs, concerning nuclear weapons research, development, production, use, storage, and dismantling.

DATES: Deadlines for applications or pre-applications will be contained in separate Notices of Availability to be published at a later time in the Federal Register that will address specific program areas to be funded by the Office of Health Studies in fiscal year 1997. All applications accepted under these subsequent notices must be received by the Office of Health Studies on or before September 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: After the issuance of a Notice of Availability, applicants may obtain additional information from Dr. Paul Seligman, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Health Studies (EH-6), U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290; facsimile: 301-903-3445; telephone: 301-903-5926.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A final program rule, which specifies the policies and procedures governing the purpose and scope, program areas, eligibility, application requirements, evaluation criteria, and selection procedures for the Office of Health Studies Financial Assistance Program, was published in the Federal Register (60 FR 5838) on January 31, 1995, effective March 2, 1995. Proposed research applications and pre-applications shall also comply with 10 CFR Part 602.

The three offices within the Office of Health Studies: The Office of International Health Programs, the Office of Occupational Medicine and Medical Surveillance, and the Office of Epidemiologic Studies, promote studies to identify and assess the health risks associated with occupational or environmental exposures to ionizing radiation or toxic chemicals in the

following populations: employees of DOE and DOE contractors (particularly those at high risk for exposure to ionizing radiation or toxic chemicals), residents of communities near DOE facilities, and populations throughout the world at high risk for exposure to ionizing radiation or toxic chemicals resulting from accidental exposures or proximity to nuclear or other energy-related facilities. Deliberate exposure of human subjects in ongoing radiation experiments is outside the scope of this announcement. Access and use of information for conducting studies under this notice will comply with the Amendment to the Federal Privacy Act of 1974 regarding Existing Systems of Records, published June 28, 1995, effective August 7, 1995 (60 FR 33510).

For fiscal year 1997, the Office of Health Studies estimates that approximately \$4.3 million will be available for grants or cooperative agreements in occupational and environmental health studies. The number of awards made will depend on the number of applications received for which the results of competitive merit review are favorable. Of this total, the Office of International Health Programs anticipates that up to \$500,000 will be available to support research to improve understanding of the health effects and health risks resulting from exposure to elevated levels of ionizing radiation in both occupational settings and the general populations. The Office of Occupational Medicine and Medical Surveillance anticipates that approximately \$3.7 million will be available for new cooperative agreements and to continue, as necessary, funding for the six cooperative agreements already awarded late in fiscal year 1996 for evaluating the health effects of former DOE workers who may be at significant risk due to exposures to hazardous and/or radioactive substances.

The Office of Epidemiologic Studies does not have funds available to support either new cooperative agreements or new grants during fiscal year 1997 for epidemiologic studies of the DOE workforce or communities near DOE facilities.

Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between DOE and the Department of Health and Human Services (56 FR 9701), published March 7, 1991 (and extended through fiscal year 2000), additional funds to study: (1) Occupational health and safety issues arising from exposures to radiation and toxic chemicals at nuclear and other energy-related facilities, and (2) methodology for risk assessment and epidemiologic research may be available

through the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); see Federal Register Announcement 521 (60 FR 4916), published January 25, 1995, or contact the Associate Director for Energy-Related Health Research, NIOSH, Mail Stop R-44, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226; telephone: 513-841-4400.

The National Center for Environmental Health of CDC previously awarded funds for radiation-related research, including dose reconstruction studies, but does not anticipate any additional funds for fiscal year 1997. (For current information contact Dr. James Smith, Chief, Radiation Studies Branch, NCEH, 4770 Buford Highway, NE., Atlanta, GA 30341; telephone: 404-488-7040.)

DOE is under no obligation to pay for any cost associated with the preparation or submission of any application. DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this notice. Results of studies carried out as grants or cooperative agreements with the Office of Health Studies will be made available to DOE workers, to the public, and to managers responsible for protecting worker health and safety. Data will be made available through DOE's Comprehensive Epidemiologic Data Resource.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 4, 1996.

Paul J. Seligman,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Studies.
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Energy Information Administration**Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

SUMMARY: The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed renewal of form EIA-457A-H, Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before December 16, 1996. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below of your intention to do so as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Michael T. Laurence, Office of Energy Markets and End Use, EI-631, Forrestal