

site could be irreparably damaged by continued deterioration in as little as one to five years. The draft plan is in keeping with the National Marine Sanctuaries Program's Strategic Plan for the 21st Century. The Program's primary goal is to protect sanctuary resources, making our sanctuaries world-class models for effective, innovative management of protected areas (Sanctuaries and Reserves Division 1997).

III. Summary of Options

The options in the draft plan are summarized as follows:

A. Non-intervention. With this option, NOAA would continue to manage the Sanctuary in accordance with the current policy but would take no action to prevent continuing deterioration. This option would allow nature to take its course, likely resulting in the ultimate collapse of the MONITOR's hull.

B. In Situ Preservation by Encapsulation. With this option, the MONITOR would be entombed in some acceptable manner (i.e. covering with sand, grass mats, etc.). Possible impacts on the MONITOR and its environment might include additional damage to the wreck due to the weight of the covering material and the loss of access to the wreck.

C. In Situ Preservation by Shoring. This option would be accomplished through the use of approved methods and materials, such as sand bags, grout bags, or jacks, to support portions of the hull that are suspended above the bottom by the position of the turret. Impact to the MONITOR and its environment would be negligible and some portions of the wreck would be given improved support.

D. In Situ Preservation by Cathodic Protection. This option would involve the installation of a passive (sacrificial anode) or active (impressed current) cathodic protection system to reduce the corrosive action from the marine environment. Impact to the MONITOR and its environment is uncertain, and would not prevent inevitable collapse.

E. Selective Recovery. This option includes a selective approach to recovering hull components and artifacts that are of significant historic value. Objects being considered for selective recovery include the propeller, turret, cannons, engine and small artifacts. Possible impact to the MONITOR and its environment might include unavoidable damage to other portions of the wreck and contents during recovery operations.

F. Full Recovery. In this option, the entire hull, turret, cannons and all

contents would be recovered, conserved, and, eventually displayed. This could include recovery of the entire hull as a single unit or a series of smaller recoveries. Possible impact to the MONITOR might include damage during recovery of portions of the hull and contents; however, if raised, the MONITOR could be conserved and reconstructed for display.

G. Selective Recovery Followed by Encapsulation. This option combines selective recovery with in situ preservation by encapsulation. Following recovery of all selected hull components and artifacts, the site would be encapsulated for protection of the remaining cultural material. Possible impact to the MONITOR might include unavoidable damage to other portions of the wreck and contents during recovery operations and additional damage to the wreck due to the weight of the covering material and the loss of access to the wreck.

H. Selective Recovery Combined with Shoring. This option combines selective recovery with in situ preservation by shoring of the remaining material, which would provide improved support. Possible impact to the MONITOR and its environment might include unavoidable damage to other portions of the wreck and contents during recovery operations.

I. Expanded Enforcement of Sanctuary Regulations. This option addresses evidence of increased illegal encroachment on the Sanctuary by increasing enforcement activities at the site to prevent further damage from illegal activities. Unless combined with one or more of the other options, the only impact might be a reduction of damage from human causes.

Because of the MONITOR's significance in American history and its status as a National Historic Landmark, NOAA is making this draft plan available to the public and invites comments and other pertinent information.

Dated: November 28, 1997.

Captain Evelyn J. Fields,
*Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Ocean Services and Coastal Zone
Management.*

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Assessment Governing Board; Meeting

AGENCY: National Assessment Governing Board; Education.

ACTION: Notice of closed meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Assessment Governing Board's Special Committee to Review the Voluntary National Tests Development Contract. This notice also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Date: December 16, 1997.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: St. Louis Airport Marriott; I-70 at Lambert International Airport; St. Louis, Missouri, 63134.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Ann Wilmer, Operations Officer, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20002-4233, Telephone: (202) 357-6938.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Assessment Governing Board is established under section 412 of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994 (Title IV of the Improving Americas Schools Act of 1994) (Pub. L. 103-382).

The Board is established to formulate policy guidelines for the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The Board is responsible for selecting subject areas to be assessed, developing assessment objectives, identifying appropriate achievement goals for each grade and subject tested, and establishing standards and procedures for interstate and national comparisons. Under Public Law 105-78, the National Assessment Governing Board is granted exclusive authority over developing Voluntary National Tests pursuant to contract number RJ97153001 and is required to review within 90 days (i.e., by February 11, 1998) and modify the contract to the extent the Board determines necessary; if the contract cannot be modified to the extent the Board determines necessary, the contract shall be terminated, and a new contract negotiated.

On December 16, 1997 the National Assessment Governing Board's Special Committee to Review the Voluntary National Tests Development Contract will hold a closed meeting. The purpose of the meeting is for the NAGB Special Committee to review the Test Development Contract, to formulate its recommendations to the NAGB for modification or termination and recompetition of the Development Contract for the Voluntary National Tests. This information relates to the source selection criteria by which government contracts may be modified

or awarded. Not only would the disclosure of such data implicate proscriptions set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulations, but also such disclosure would significantly frustrate a proposed agency action. Specifically, disclosure of the Subcommittee's discussion prematurely, including contract specifications and government cost estimates, could affect private decisions made by the contractor which might damage the financial interests of the government as a whole, by, for example, increasing the costs to the government, and might make it impossible for the two sides to reach agreement. Such matters are protected by exemption 9B of Section 552b(c) of Title 5 U.S.C.

A summary of the activities of this closed meeting and other related matters, which are informative to the public and consistent with the policy of the Section 5 U.S.C. 552b, will be available to the public within 14 days after the meeting. Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the U.S. Department of Education, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, D.C., from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Dated: December 1, 1997.

Roy Truby,

Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board.

[FR Doc. 97-31774 Filed 12-3-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

State Energy Program Special Projects Financial Assistance

AGENCY: The Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice for 1998 State Energy Program special projects.

SUMMARY: As options offered under the State Energy Program (SEP) for fiscal year 1998, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is announcing the availability of financial assistance to States for a group of special project activities. Funding is being provided by a number of end-use sector programs in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. States may apply to undertake any of the projects being offered by these programs. States that are awarded funding for special projects will carry out their projects in conjunction with their efforts under SEP, with the special

projects funding and activities tracked separately so that the end-use sector programs may follow the progress of their projects.

The projects must meet the relevant requirements of the programs providing the funding, as well as of SEP, as specified in the program guidance/solicitation. Among the goals of the special projects activities are to assist States to: Accelerate deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies; facilitate the acceptance of emerging and underutilized energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies; and increase the responsiveness of Federally funded technology development efforts to private sector needs.

DATES: The program guidance/solicitation is expected to be December 5, 1997. Applications must be received by February 14, 1998.

ADDRESSES AND FOR FURTHER

INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Faith Lambert at the U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-2319, for referral to the appropriate DOE Regional Support Office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Fiscal year 1998 is the third year special project activities are funded in conjunction with the State Energy Program (10 CFR part 420). Most of these State-oriented special projects are related to or based on similar efforts that have been funded separately by the various DOE end-use sector programs that are now providing funding for these optional SEP activities.

Availability of Fiscal Year 1998 Funds

With this publication, DOE is announcing the availability of \$11.825 million in financial assistance funds for fiscal year 1998. The awards will be made through a competitive process. The end-use sector programs that are participating in the SEP special projects for fiscal year 1998, with the estimated minimum amount of funding available for each, are as follows:

- **Clean Cities:** Accelerating the introduction and increasing the use of alternative fuels and alternative fueled vehicles through the development of infrastructure and clean corridors (\$2.0 million).
- **Federal Energy Management Program:** Developing Federal/State partnerships to increase technical capability and funding for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation measures for Federal and State buildings (\$975,000).

- **Industrial Programs:** Accelerating industrial and clean production opportunities with regional industries through the programs of the Industrial Alliance (Inventions and Innovation, NICE³, Industrial Assessment Centers, Motor Challenge, Climate Wise, and Steam Partnership. (\$2.35 million)

- **Rebuild America:** Helping community and regional partnerships improve commercial and multifamily building energy efficiency (\$1.0 million).

- **Codes and Standards:** Supporting States' actions to update, implement, and enforce residential and commercial building energy codes (\$4.0 million).

- **Utility Technologies:** Projects to demonstrate and increase utilization of renewable energy sources, such as biomass, geothermal heat pumps, hydrogen technology, photovoltaics for utility scale applications, and wind energy (\$1.5 million).

Restricted Eligibility

Eligible applicants for purposes of funding under this program are limited to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or any territory or possession of the United States, specifically, the State energy or other agency responsible for administering the State Energy Program pursuant to 10 CFR part 420. For convenience, the term State in this notice refers to all eligible State applicants.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number assigned to the State Energy Program is 81.041.

Requirements for cost sharing or matching contributions will be addressed in the program guidance/solicitation for each special project activity, as appropriate. Cost sharing or matching contributions beyond any required percentage are desirable.

Any application must be signed by an authorized State official, in accordance with the program guidance/solicitation.

Evaluation Review and Criteria

A first tier review for completeness will occur at the appropriate DOE Regional Support Office. Applications found to be complete will undergo a merit review process by panels comprised of members representing the respective participating end-use sector programs in DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. A decision as to the applications selected for funding will then be made by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Building Technology, State and Community Programs, or designee, based on the findings of the technical merit review and any stated program policy factors. DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole