

of findings prior to implementing the proposed action.

Issued in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on January 5, 2000.

**James L. Elmore,**

*Alternative Oak Ridge Operations, National Environmental Policy Act, Compliance Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### **Golden Field Office; Supplemental Announcement to the Broad Based Solicitation for Financial Assistance Applications Involving Research, Development and Demonstration for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; University Photovoltaic Research, Education, and Collaboration**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Supplemental announcement 05 to the broad based solicitation for submission of financial assistance applications involving research, development and demonstration DE-PS36-00GO10482.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), pursuant to the DOE Financial Assistance Rules, 10 CFR 600.8, is announcing its intention to solicit applications for advancing crystalline silicon solar cell technology through research, education, and collaboration. A financial assistance award issued as a result of this Supplemental Announcement will be a cooperative agreement.

**DATES:** DOE expects to issue the Supplemental Announcement in late January 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Supplemental Announcement, once issued, can be obtained from the Golden Field Office Home page at <http://www.eren.doe.gov/golden/solicitations.html>. It is DOE's intention not to issue hard copies of the Solicitation.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** DOE is soliciting Applications from accredited colleges or universities for the advancement of crystalline silicon solar cell technology through research, education, and collaboration. A goal of DOE's National Photovoltaics Program is the advancement of solar photovoltaic energy as a significant electrical energy source for the United States. To achieve this goal, the Department of Energy will support advanced and applied research in crystalline silicon cell technology through a University Research, Education, and Collaboration Program (Program). The Department of Energy

has supported crystalline silicon cell research through the Center of Excellence for Photovoltaics Research and Education in Crystalline Silicon Solar Cells at the Georgia Institute of Technology. The purpose of this Supplemental Announcement is to solicit accredited educational institutions to develop a program to further advance crystalline silicon cell technology. The objectives of the University Research, Education, and Collaboration Program are: to advance the state of technology in crystalline silicon solar cells through research and development; to verify advances in crystalline silicon technology through solar cell fabrication and testing; to educate and train undergraduate and graduate students through courses and laboratory experience; and to collaborate with U.S. crystalline cell manufacturers for improving manufacturing processes, product performance, and cost.

Applications under this Supplemental Announcement must demonstrate the capabilities, commitment, and resources necessary to advance crystalline silicon cell technology through research, education, and collaboration. The ability of the Applicant to fabricate high-efficiency cells on commercial silicon substrates, reduce cell processing time, develop low-cost fabrication processes with the potential for high-throughput, and fabricate silicon cells with highly effective bulk and surface passivation will be major factors in selecting an application for award.

Successful Applications must demonstrate technology transfer through collaboration with industry and advance the understanding of crystalline silicon solar technology through education. As part of the proposed Program, Applicants are discouraged from forming exclusive business relationships or collaborative arrangements with any solar cell manufacturer(s). Technical support and assistance will be provided through the Department of Energy's National Laboratories. Therefore, financial support of DOE's National Laboratories through a particular Application will not be considered.

Only Applications from accredited colleges or universities will be considered for an award. Educational organizations are not subject to the eligibility requirements of EPAct. However, to be eligible for award, the project must be determined to be in the economic interest of the United States. (See the Broad Based Solicitation, DE-PS36-00GO10482, Section II.F, EPAct Eligibility Requirements.)

An award under this Supplemental Announcement will be a Cooperative Agreement with a term of up to five years. Subject to funding availability, the total DOE funding anticipated for this Supplemental Announcement is \$2,500,000 or \$500,000 per year. The DOE anticipates selecting one application for award under this Supplemental Announcement. No cost share is required in order to be considered for an award under this solicitation. However, cost share will be considered in selecting an application for an award. Solicitation Number DE-PS36-00GO10482, in conjunction with Supplemental Announcement 05, will include complete information on the program including technical aspects, funding, application preparation instructions, application evaluation criteria, and other factors that will be considered when selecting projects for funding. Responses to the Supplemental Announcement will be due approximately 60 days following issuance of the Supplemental Announcement.

Questions should be submitted in writing to: Ruth E. Adams, DOE Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden, CO 80401-3393; transmitted via facsimile to Ruth E. Adams at (303) 275-4788; or electronically to [ruth\\_adams@nrel.gov](mailto:ruth_adams@nrel.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ruth E. Adams, Contracting Officer, at 303-275-4722, e-mail [ruth\\_adams@nrel.gov](mailto:ruth_adams@nrel.gov).

Issued in Golden, Colorado, on January 6, 2000.

**Jerry L. Zimmer,**

*Procurement Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### **Reimbursement for Costs of Remedial Action at Active Uranium and Thorium Processing Sites**

**AGENCY:** Office of Environmental Management, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of the acceptance of claims and the availability of funds for reimbursement.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the Department of Energy's acceptance of claims for reimbursement. Approximately \$30 million in funds for fiscal year 2000 are available for reimbursement of certain costs of remedial action at eligible active uranium and thorium processing sites pursuant to Title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

After the payment of fiscal year 2000 funds against outstanding approved claims through fiscal year 1999, there will be remaining unpaid outstanding approved claims. Thus any approved claim amounts for fiscal year 2000 will be added to the outstanding balances and eligible for prorated payment in fiscal year 2001 based on the availability of funds from Congressional appropriations.

Title X establishes additional requirements for the reimbursement of any costs incurred after December 31, 2002. For any such costs to be eligible for reimbursement, a licensee must submit a plan for subsequent remedial action during calendar years 2000 or 2001, and a plan must be approved by the Department no later than the end of calendar year 2002. Because of the advance planning that is part of the Federal budget process, licensees are encouraged to submit their plans for subsequent remedial action in 2000 to assure adequate time for review and approval.

**DATES:** The Department will process payments of approximately \$30 million against outstanding approved claims through fiscal year 1999 by April 28, 2000. The closing date for the submission of claims in fiscal year 2000 is May 1, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Claims should be forwarded by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to the U.S. Department of Energy, Albuquerque Operations Office, Environmental Restoration Division, P.O. Box 5400, Albuquerque, NM 87185-5400, or by express mail to the U.S. Department of Energy, Albuquerque Operations Office, Environmental Restoration Division, H and Pennsylvania Streets, Albuquerque, NM 87116. All claims should be addressed to the attention of Mr. James B. Coffey. Two copies of the claim should be included with each submission.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Messrs. James Coffey (505-845-4026) or Gil Maldonado (505-845-4035), U.S. Department of Energy, Albuquerque Operations Office, Environmental Restoration Division.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Energy published a final rule under 10 CFR part 765 in the **Federal Register** on May 23, 1994 (59 FR 26714) to carry out the requirements of Title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (sections 1001-1004 of Pub. L. 102-486, 42 U.S.C. 2296a *et seq.*) and to establish the procedures for eligible licensees to submit claims for reimbursement. Title X requires the Department of Energy to reimburse

eligible uranium and thorium licensees for certain costs of decontamination, decommissioning, reclamation, and other remedial action incurred by licensees at active uranium and thorium processing sites to remediate byproduct material generated as an incident of sales to the United States Government. To be reimbursable, costs of remedial action must be for work which is necessary to comply with applicable requirements of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 7901 *et seq.*) or, where appropriate, with requirements established by a state pursuant to a discontinuance agreement under section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2021). Claims for reimbursement must be supported by reasonable documentation as determined by the Department of Energy in accordance with 10 CFR part 765. Funds for reimbursement will be provided from the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund established at the United States Department of Treasury pursuant to section 1801 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2297g). Payment or obligation of funds shall be subject to the requirements of the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1341).

#### **Submission and Approval of Plans for Subsequent Remedial Action**

This notice also provides a reminder of the requirements for eligibility for reimbursement of costs incurred after December 31, 2002. Section 1001. (b)(1)(B)(ii) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 directs the Secretary of Energy to place into escrow funds for the reimbursement of costs incurred after December 31, 2002, in accordance with a plan for subsequent decontamination, decommissioning, reclamation, and other remedial action approved by the Secretary. Funds are to be placed into escrow no later than December 31, 2002. 10 CFR 765.30 and 765.31 (59 FR 26730-26731) presents the Department's

requirements and procedures for the submission and approval of plans for subsequent remedial action. Plans for subsequent remedial action may be submitted any time after January 1, 2000, but no later than December 31, 2001. Plans must be approved prior to December 31, 2002, to be eligible for reimbursement. Fiscal year 2003, beginning October 1, 2002, will be the last budget year in which funds can be placed into escrow for the reimbursement of subsequent remedial action. Because the Federal budget cycle is nearly three years from the beginning of formulation to end of execution, the Department will have to develop final

estimates of the total escrow requirement no later than early calendar year 2001. Therefore, the licensees are encouraged to submit their plans for subsequent remedial action to allow sufficient time for review and approval prior to the formulation of the future years' budget requests.

**Authority:** Section 1001-1004 of Pub. L. 102-46, 106 Stat. 2776 (42 U.S.C. 2296a *et seq.*).

Issued in Washington, DC on this 7th day of January, 2000.

**David E. Mathes,**

*Leader, Small Sites Closure Office, Albuquerque/Nevada Team, Office of Site Closure.*

[FR Doc. 00-854 Filed 1-12-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

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## **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

### **Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Oak Ridge Reservation**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) Oak Ridge. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Wednesday, February 2, 2000: 6:00-9:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Roane State Community College, 276 Patton Lane, Student Lounge, Harriman, TN.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carol Davis, Federal Coordinator/Ex-Officio Officer, Department of Energy Oak Ridge Operations Office, P.O. Box 2001, EM-90, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, (423) 576-0418.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Purpose of the Board**

The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

##### **Tentative Agenda**

1. "Watts Bar Fish Consumption Advisory," presented a representative from the Tennessee Department of Conservation, Water and Pollution Control Division.

##### **Public Participation**

The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Committee either before or after the