

Dated: December 5, 2000.

A. Lee Fritschler,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Intent To Establish the Worker Advocacy Advisory Committee

Pursuant to Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. No. 92-463), and in accordance with title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 101-6.1015(a), this is notice of intent to establish the Worker Advocacy Advisory Committee. This intent to establish follows consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat of the General Services Administration, pursuant to 41 CFR Subpart 101-6.10.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide the Secretary of Energy and the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health with advice, information, and recommendations on programs to assist workers who have been diagnosed with work-related illnesses under the Department of Energy's former worker medical surveillance program and ongoing beryllium medical surveillance programs in filing state workers' compensation claims. The Committee will: (1) Provide advice to the Department of Energy on workers' compensation policy issues of concern to the Department; (2) periodically review worker advocacy program initiatives and recommendations; and, (3) provide advice on plans, priorities, and strategies to improve advocacy practices and procedures of the worker advocacy program.

Committee members will be chosen to ensure an appropriately balanced membership to bring into account a diversity of viewpoints, including state and federal workers' compensation specialists, workers, union representatives, occupational physicians, representatives of medical and public health organizations, academic researchers and the public at large who may significantly contribute to the deliberations of the Committee. All meetings of this Committee will be published ahead of time in the **Federal Register**.

Additionally, the establishment of the Worker Advocacy Advisory Committee is essential to the conduct of Department of Energy business, and is in the public interest.

Further information regarding this committee may be obtained from Dr. David Michaels, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585, phone (202) 586-6151.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 7, 2000.

James N. Solit,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

National Energy Technology Laboratory; Notice of Availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation

AGENCY: National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), Morgantown, Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intent to issue Financial Assistance Solicitation No. DE-PS26-01NT40951 entitled, "Support of Advanced Coal Research at U.S. Colleges and Universities." Proposals will be subjected to a comparative merit review by a technical panel of DOE subject-matter experts and external peer reviewers. Awards will be made to a limited number of proposers based on: the scientific merit of the proposals, application of relevant program policy factors, and the availability of funds.

DATES: The solicitation will be available on the DOE/ NETL's Homepage at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business> on or about December 15, 2000. Applications must be received at NETL by February 8, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael P. Nolan, MS I07, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880, E-Mail: mnolan@netl.doe.gov, Telephone: (304) 285-4149, Facsimile: (304) 285-4683.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through Program Solicitation DE-PS26-01NT40951, the DOE is interested in applications from U.S. colleges and universities, as well as university-affiliated research centers submitting applications through their respective universities. Applications will be selected to complement and enhance research being conducted in related Fossil Energy Programs. Applications may be submitted individually (*i.e.*, by only one college/university or one college subcontracting with one other college/university) or jointly (*i.e.*, by

"teams" made up of (1) three or more colleges/universities, or (2) two or more colleges/universities and at least one industrial partner. Collaboration, in the form of joint proposals, is encouraged but not required.

Eligibility. Applications submitted in response to this solicitation must address coal research in one of the key focus areas of the Core Program or as outlined in the Innovative Concepts Phase-I & Phase-II Programs.

Background. The current landscape of the U.S. energy industry, not unlike that in other parts of the world, is undergoing a transformation driven by changes such as deregulation of power generation, more stringent environmental standards and regulations, climate change concerns, and other market forces. Energy from coal-fired powerplants will continue to play a dominant role as an energy source, and therefore, it is prudent to use this resource wisely and ensure that it remains part of the sustainable energy solution.

Clean, efficient, competitively priced coal-derived products, and low-cost environmental compliance and energy systems remain key to our continuing prosperity and our commitment to tackle environmental challenges, including climate change. Technological advances finding their way into future markets could result in advanced co-production and co-processing facilities around the world, based upon Vision 21 technologies developed through universities, government, and industry partnerships.

This Vision 21 concept, in many ways is the culmination of decades of power and fuels research and development. Within the Vision 21 plants, the full energy potential of fossil fuel feedstocks and "opportunity" feedstocks such as biomass, petroleum coke, and other materials that might otherwise be considered as wastes, can be tapped by integrating advanced technology "modules." To accomplish the program objective, to advance the science of coal R&D directed at resolving our energy and environmental issues, applications will be accepted in three program areas: (1) The Core Program and (2) the Innovative Concepts Phase-I Program, and (3) the Innovative Concepts Phase-II Program.

UCR Core Program

DOE has allotted \$2 million to fund 8 to 10 projects in this program area. The goal of this area is to complement and enhance applied research conducted in related Fossil Energy Programs. Funding is contingent on the length of the project and varies from