

resources to organize the hearing and by notifying the public about the hearing, such as through this notice. Following the PPAC public hearing, the USPTO will publish a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the **Federal Register**, setting forth its proposed patent fees.

Requests to Present Oral Testimony

Interested members of the public are invited to testify at the PPAC hearing about the proposed patent fees and the questions posed on PPAC's website about the proposed fees. Those wishing to present oral testimony at the hearing must submit a request in writing no later than August 29, 2018. Requests to testify should indicate the following: (1) The name of the person wishing to testify; (2) the person's contact information (telephone number and email address); (3) the organization(s) the person represents, if any; and (4) an indication of the amount of time needed for the testimony. Requests to testify must be submitted by email to Jennifer Lo at Jennifer.Lo@uspto.gov. Speakers providing testimony at the hearing should submit a written copy of their testimony for inclusion in the record of the proceedings no later than September 13, 2018.

Based upon the requests received, an agenda for witness testimony will be sent to testifying requesters and posted on the USPTO internet website (address: www.uspto.gov/about-us/performance-and-planning/fee-setting-and-adjusting). If time permits, the PPAC may permit unscheduled testimony as well.

Dated: July 25, 2018.

Andrei Iancu,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2018-16432 Filed 7-31-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

State Energy Advisory Board (STEAB)

AGENCY: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open teleconference.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a teleconference call of the State Energy Advisory Board (STEAB). The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Thursday, August 16, 2018 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (EDT). To receive the call-in number and passcode, please contact the Board's Designated Federal

Officer at the address or phone number listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Li, Designated Federal Officer, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20585. Phone number 202-287-5718; and email: michael.li@ee.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: To make recommendations to the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy regarding goals and objectives, programmatic and administrative policies, and to otherwise carry out the Board's responsibilities as designated in the State Energy Efficiency Programs Improvement Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-440).

Tentative Agenda: Welcome new STEAB members. Discuss recommendations from STEAB to the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Public Participation: The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Board either before or after the meeting. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Michael Li at the address or telephone number listed above. Requests to make oral comments must be received five days prior to the meeting; reasonable provision will be made to include requested topic(s) on the agenda. The Chair of the Board is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

Issued at Washington, DC, on July 27, 2018.

Latanya Butler,

Deputy Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018-16458 Filed 7-31-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Request for Information (RFI) on National Offshore Wind Energy R&D Test Facilities

AGENCY: Wind Energy Technologies Office, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Request for information (RFI).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) invites public comment on its Request for Information (RFI) regarding national-level test facilities for

offshore wind-specific research and development. The Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO) is seeking information on facilities that can conduct unique offshore wind research and development (R&D) in the U.S., what upgrades to existing facilities or new facilities are needed for the U.S. to be at the cutting edge of offshore wind R&D, and what specific tests and analyses could be carried out at existing, upgraded, or new facilities in order to advance the U.S. offshore wind industry.

DATES: Responses to the RFI must be received by September 14, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are to submit comments electronically to osw.rfi@ee.doe.gov. Include "National Offshore Wind Energy R&D Test Facilities" in the subject of the title. Responses must be provided as attachments to an email. It is recommended that attachments with file sizes exceeding 25MB be compressed (*i.e.*, zipped) to ensure message delivery. Responses must be provided as a Microsoft Word (.docx) attachment to the email, and no more than 10 pages in length, 12 point font, 1 inch margins. Only electronic responses will be accepted. The complete RFI document is located at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions may be addressed to Alana Duerr, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 287-6953, or osw.rfi@ee.doe.gov. Further instruction can be found in the RFI document number DE-FOA-0001963 posted on EERE Exchange (<https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this RFI is to solicit feedback from industry, academia, research laboratories, government agencies, and other stakeholders on issues related to national offshore wind test facilities. WETO is specifically interested in information on: The facilities in the U.S. that are available for offshore wind-specific experimentation and testing; facilities upgrades or new facilities that are required in the U.S. for offshore wind testing in order to perform cutting edge R&D; and, the most pressing R&D needs that would utilize existing, upgraded, or new U.S. offshore wind specific facilities. The RFI is available at: <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>

Confidential Business Information

Because information received in response to this RFI may be used to structure future programs, funding and/or otherwise be made available to the

public, respondents are strongly advised to not include any information in their responses that might be considered business sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential. If, however, a respondent chooses to submit business sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information, it must be clearly and conspicuously marked as such in the response as detailed in the RFI [DE-FOA-0001963] at: <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>.

Factors of interest to DOE when evaluating requests to treat submitted information as confidential include: (1) A description of the items; (2) whether and why such items are customarily treated as confidential within the industry; (3) whether the information is generally known by or available from other sources; (4) whether the information has previously been made available to others without obligation concerning its confidentiality; (5) an explanation of the competitive injury to the submitting person that would result from public disclosure; (6) when such information might lose its confidential character due to the passage of time; and (7) why disclosure of the information would be contrary to the public interest.

Signed in Washington, DC, on July 27, 2018.

Valerie Reed,

Acting Director, Wind Energy Technologies Office.

[FR Doc. 2018-16453 Filed 7-31-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Request for Information (RFI) on National Wind Technology Center Facility and Infrastructure Investments

AGENCY: Wind Energy Technologies Office, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy

ACTION: Request for information (RFI).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) invites public comment on its Request for Information (RFI) number DE-FOA-0001959 regarding the National Wind Technology Center. The purpose of this RFI is to address the growing research and development (R&D) interest in the use of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL's) National Wind Technology Center (NWTC) facilities for renewable energy, energy storage, and grid integration technology development and testing.

DATES: Responses to the RFI must be received by no later than 5:00pm (ET) on August 27, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are to submit comments electronically to NWTC_EERE_RFI@ee.doe.gov. Include National Wind Technology Center Facility and Infrastructure Investments in the subject of the title. Responses must be provided as attachments to an email. It is recommended that attachments with file sizes exceeding 25MB be compressed (*i.e.*, zipped) to ensure message delivery. Responses must be provided as an attachment to the email, and no more than 10 pages in length, 12 point font, 1 inch margins. Only electronic responses will be accepted. The complete RFI document is located at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions may be addressed to Gary Nowakowski who can be reached at (720) 356-1732 or Gary.Nowakowski@ee.doe.gov. Further instruction can be found in the RFI document posted on EERE Exchange.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this RFI is to solicit feedback from industry, academia, research laboratories, government agencies, and other stakeholders on energy efficiency and renewable energy R&D testing needs and the associated equipment, facilities and infrastructure needed to ensure continued world class energy technology development at the NWTC. This is solely a request for information and NOT a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). EERE is not accepting applications. The RFI is available at: <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>.

Confidential Business Information

Because information received in response to this RFI may be used to structure future programs, funding and/or otherwise be made available to the public, respondents are strongly advised to not include any information in their responses that might be considered business sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential. If, however, a respondent chooses to submit business sensitive, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information, it must be clearly and conspicuously marked as such in the response as detailed in the RFI [DE-FOA-0001959] at: <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/>.

Factors of interest to DOE when evaluating requests to treat submitted information as confidential include: (1) A description of the items; (2) whether and why such items are customarily treated as confidential within the industry; (3) whether the information is generally known by or available from other sources; (4) whether the

information has previously been made available to others without obligation concerning its confidentiality; (5) an explanation of the competitive injury to the submitting person that would result from public disclosure; (6) when such information might lose its confidential character due to the passage of time; and (7) why disclosure of the information would be contrary to the public interest.

Signed in Washington, DC, on July 27, 2018.

Valerie Reed,

Acting Director, Wind Energy Technologies Office.

[FR Doc. 2018-16454 Filed 7-31-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Oak Ridge

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 requires that public notice of this meeting be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Saturday, August 25, 2018, 9:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Black Bear Inn & Suites, 1100 Parkway, Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melyssa P. Noe, Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM), P.O. Box 2001, EM-942, Oak Ridge, TN 37831. Phone (865) 241-3315; Fax (865) 241-6932; E-mail: Melyssa.Noe@orem.doe.gov. Or visit the website at <https://energy.gov/orem/services/community-engagement/oak-ridge-site-specific-advisory-board>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE-EM and site management in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

Tentative Agenda:

- Welcome and Announcements
- Introduction of New Members
- Comments from the Deputy Designated Federal Officer
- Presentations from the DOE, Tennessee Department of Environment