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For more information contact:
Thomas Welch, (202) 586-5806
or
Marla Marvin, (509) 376-7501

Columbia River Corridor Phased Closure Contract Draft Request For Proposals Now Available

WASHINGTON, DC - The draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for the acquisition of a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Phased Closure Contract to accelerate restoration work along the Columbia River at the Hanford Site is now available. The DOE Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) announced its availability today in the Federal Business Opportunities publication (<http://www.fedbizopps.gov/>).

"This is a critical step in our strategy to accelerate cleanup along the river and dramatically shrink the Hanford Site operational area by 2012," said Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham. "This action also demonstrates that Hanford has risen to the challenge of getting the job of cleanup done sooner and in a more cost effective manner – which is good for the environment, good for the community and good for taxpayers."

The draft RFP includes several unique features:

- Pays significant fees with potential for substantially more work, commensurate with assumption of risks and superior performance;
- Makes the work scope, including business risks, as clear as possible;
- Takes steps to make it easier and more predictable to do work at Hanford;
- Incorporates the opportunity and time for offerors to fully understand what they are getting into;
- Includes selection criteria that emphasize project management skills, key personnel, planned corporate involvement in the project and contractor assumption of risk, rather than specific DOE experience;
- Reduces the need for personnel with existing Hanford River Corridor cleanup experience

- for bid preparation; and
- Actively seeks ideas on how to better utilize commercial best practices in order to stimulate offerors who may not currently be involved in Hanford cleanup or are not doing business with the department, but who have successful experience with other agencies or Superfund cleanups.

The work associated with the Columbia River Corridor Closure Contract includes interim safe storage or "cocooning" of six former plutonium production reactors, demolition of associated reactor structures, remediation of waste sites and demolition of aging buildings in Hanford's 100 and 300 Areas.

A copy of the draft RFP along with associated questions and answers is available at <http://www.hanford.gov/procure/solicit/rcc/> and in the Hanford Reading Room at <http://reading-room.pnl.gov/>. DOE-RL is inviting comments on the draft RFP through November 14, 2001.

DOE-RL intends to issue the final RFP on January 23, 2002 and to award the contract no later than October 1, 2002.

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For questions or comments about this page, please send email to michael.l.talbot@rl.gov

