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For more information contact: Terry Brown, (509) 376-8189, terry_l_brown@rl.gov

DOE

DOE SEEKS COMMENTS ON ITS OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES DRAFT SOLICITATION

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Richland Operations Office today issued its draft Request for Proposals for occupational health services at the Hanford Site.

The current contract has been held by the Hanford Environmental Health Foundation for six years. It has provided a comprehensive occupational health program for Hanford employees, including medical surveillance activities, monitoring of workers who may be exposed to hazardous materials, employee assistance programs and the staffing of health care centers.

The recompetition will allow DOE to change the health services contract from a "management and operations" type to one that largely utilizes fixed-unit pricing. The recompetition is the latest step in DOE's contract reform initiative. The Project Hanford Management Contract and Hanford's Environmental Restoration Contract are examples of this strategy.

"We're looking for a coordinated occupational health program that results in a safe, healthy, and productive workforce and prevents the development of long-term health concerns," said John Wagoner, Manager of the DOE Richland Operations Office. "We need to improve the delivery and quality of service, while significantly reducing cost. That's going to take some innovative ideas."

The draft Request for Proposals will be placed on the DOE Richland Procurement Office Home Page, at <http://www.hanford.gov/procure/pro.htm>.

"We're signaling to prospective offerors, stakeholders, and other interested parties the importance of their views prior to developing the final Request for Proposals," said Leif Erickson, DOE-Richland Procurement Services Division Director. "The input we get over this next month will be critical as we develop the final solicitation."

The comment period ends on January 31, 1997. The final solicitation will be issued by March 1, 1997. DOE expects to award the contract(s) by June 30, 1997.

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RL 96-117

[\[Hanford Home Page\]](#) [\[Press Index\]](#)

*For questions or comments about this page, please send email to yvonne_t_sherman@rl.gov
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