biological organization (from molecules to cells to tissues to organisms) and from observations *in vitro* to biological responses *in vivo.*

Applicants should demonstrate knowledge of and expertise in risk modeling. They should discuss general strategies for, or demonstrate expertise in the use of, biological mechanistic data in the development of risk models. Ideally, the application should exhibit some familiarity with relevant radiation biology literature, but prior work in this field is not a prerequisite. *The Project Description must contain the following:*

1. A proposal to develop a biologically-based model taking account of one or more phenomena such as adaptive response, bystander effects, genetic susceptibility, or genomic instability. A hierarchical scheme may be proposed for developing a series of simple to complex biologically-based risk models that include successively higher numbers of biological parameters.

2. A discussion of model validation strategies, as well as a general discussion of error estimation strategies, should be included. (Of great importance will be the determination of how much error can be tolerated in each of the critical inputs.)

3. Briefly, the applicant's ideas on how one would begin to design a ''biological archetype'' that could be used to compare different models. (What type of biological archetype would be most useful at the present time—single cell, cell culture, tissue, mouse, man? In the future? Which characteristics of the biological archetype should be defined? Which characteristics are known at the present time?)

Information on the Low Dose Radiation Research Program can be found on the Web site: *http://lowdose.tricity.wsu.edu.*

Program Funding: It is anticipated that up to $1,500,000 will be available for approximately 8 two-year awards, contingent upon the availability of funds. Each award will be no more than $200,000, total costs per year. If the exercise is judged productive by administrative review, some or all awards may be extended an additional year.

Merit and Relevance Review: Applications will be subjected to scientific merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following evaluation criteria listed in descending order of importance as codified at 10 CFR 605.10(d):

1. Scientific and/or Technical Merit of the Project.

2. Appropriateness of the Proposed Method or Approach.

3. Competency of Applicant's Personnel and Adequacy of Proposed Resources.

4. Reasonableness and Appropriateness of the Proposed Budget.

The evaluation will include program policy factors such as the relevance of the proposed research to the terms of the announcement and the Department's programmatic needs. External peer reviewers are selected with regard to both their scientific expertise and the absence of conflict-of-interest issues. Non-federal reviewers may be used, and submission of an application constitutes agreement that this is acceptable to the investigator(s) and the submitting institution.

The Application

(Please Note Information Below On Page Limits)

Information about the development and submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluation, selection process, and other policies and procedures may be found in the Application Guide for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program and 10 CFR Part 605. Electronic access to the Guide and required forms is made available via the World Wide Web: *http://www.science.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html.* DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of applications if an award is not made.

Adherence to type size and line spacing requirements is necessary for several reasons. No applicants should have the advantage of providing more text in their applications by using small type. Small type may also make it difficult for reviewers to read the application. Applications must have 1-inch margins at the top, bottom, and on each side. Type sizes must be 10 point or larger. Line spacing is at the discretion of the applicant but there must be no more than 6 lines per vertical inch of text. Pages should be standard 8 ½'' × 11'' (or metric A4, *i.e.*, 210 mm × 297 mm). Applications must be written in English, with all budgets in U.S. dollars.

Applicants are asked to use the following ordered format:

- Face Page (DOE F 4650.2 (10–91))
- Project Abstract Page; single page only, should contain title, PI name, and abstract text
- Budget page for the one year project period (using DOE F 4620.1)
- Budget Explanation
- Project Description; ten (10) pages or less. The application should contain the following:

a. A proposal to develop a biologically-based model taking account of one or more phenomena such as adaptive response, bystander effects, genetic susceptibility, or genomic instability.

b. A discussion of model validation strategies, as well as a general discussion of error estimation strategies, should be included.

c. Briefly, the applicant's ideas on how one would design a biological archetype that could be used to compare different models (approximately one page). .

- Literature Cited
- Collaborative Arrangements (if applicable)
- Facilities and Resources
- Biographical Sketches
- Current and Pending Support
- Letters of Collaboration (if applicable)

The Office of Science, as part of its regulations, requires at 10 CFR 605.11(b) that a recipient receiving an award to perform research involving recombinant DNA molecules and/or organisms and viruses containing recombinant DNA molecules shall comply with the National Institutes of Health ''Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules'', which is available via the World Wide Web at: *http://www.niehs.nih.gov/odhsb/biosafe/nih/rdna-apr98.pdf,* (59 FR 34496, July 5, 1994), or such later revision of those guidelines as may be published in the **Federal Register**.

DOE requirements for reporting, protection of human and animal subjects and related special matters can be found on the World Wide Web at: *http://www.science.doe.gov/production/grants/Welfare.html.*

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this program is 81.049, and the solicitation control number is ERFAP 10 CFR Part 605.

Issued in Washington, DC on February 6, 2003.

John Rodney Clark,

Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 03–3939 Filed 2–18–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

AGENCY: National Energy Technology Laboratory, 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–PS26–03NT41757–0 entitled, ''Ground Breaking Innovative Technology Concepts For Mining.'' The Department of Energy (DOE), National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) is seeking white paper applications on behalf of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Mining Industries of the Future Program, for advanced concepts that span the mining industry and are capable of revolutionizing the industry as a whole or for discrete segments as regards energy intensity (*i.e.* energy used to achieve a unit output).

DATES: The solicitation will be available on the ''Industry Interactive Procurement System'' (IIPS) webpage located at *http://e-center.doe.gov* on or about February 14, 2003. Applicants can obtain access to the solicitation from the address above or through DOE/NETL's Web site at *http://www.netl.doe.gov/business.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Juliana L. Murray, MS 921–107, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, 626 Cochrans Mill Road, P.O. Box 10940, Pittsburgh, PA 15236–0940, E-mail Address: *murray@netl.doe.gov,* Telephone Number: 412–386–4872.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The objective of this solicitation is to support the stated national interests by providing seed funding for development of ''revolutionary'' concepts or ''unique'' approaches that would define the direction for potential future research and development projects that address needs that broadly fall in the domestic mining industry. These approaches should represent significant departures from existing approaches, not simply incremental improvements. This solicitation seeks ''out-of-the-box'' thinking; therefore, mature ideas, past the conceptual stage, are not eligible for this program. Cost sharing is not required because of the fundamental nature of the requested research under this solicitation, but the DOE/NETL will only contribute up to $50,000 per project selected for award.

DOE has identified specific mining industry activities where energy efficiency improvements would have the most significant impact. This solicitation encourages prospective concepts to be developed in the following areas:

Area of Interest 1: DE–PS26–03NT41757–1

Energy Efficient Alternatives to Current Technologies in Materials Handling

Interests include energy alternatives with regard to energy use per unit of output to current technologies involving the used of equipment or processes to transport ore and waste.

Area of Interest 2: DE–PS26–03NT41757–2

Energy Efficient Alternatives to Current Beneficiation and Processing Technologies, Particularly Crushing and Grinding

Interests include energy alternatives with regard to energy use per unit of output to current technologies using equipment or processes to crush, grind, concentrate and/or separating the ore from the unwanted material.

Area of Interest 3: DE–PS26–03NT41757–3

Mineral Extraction Processes To Reduce Downstream Material Handling and

Beneficiation and Processing Requirements; Efficiency Alternatives to Pumping in Mining Applications

Interests include energy alternatives to mineral processes using equipment or processes to explore, mine and process ore.

Once released, the solicitation will be available for downloading from the IIPS Internet page. At this Internet site you will also be able to register with IIPS, enabling you to submit an application. If you need technical assistance in registering or for any other IIPS function, call the IIPS Help Desk at (800) 683–0751 or E-mail the Help Desk personnel at IIPS_HelpDesk@e-center.doe.gov. The solicitation will only be made available in IIPS, no hard (paper) copies of the solicitation and related documents will be made available. Telephone requests, written requests, E-mail requests, or facsimile requests for a copy of the solicitation package will not be accepted and/or honored. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions and forms contained in the solicitation. The actual solicitation document will allow for requests for explanation and/or interpretation.

Issued in Pittsburgh, PA on February 6, 2003.

Dale A. Siciliano, Director,

Acquisition and Assistance Division.

[FR Doc. 03–3938 Filed 2–18–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Executive Order 13272; Consideration of Small Entities in Agency Rulemaking

AGENCY: Office of the General Counsel, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of procedures and policies.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) is adopting procedures and policies to ensure that the potential impacts of its draft rules on small businesses, small governmental jurisdictions, and small organizations are properly considered during the rulemaking process. These procedures and policies, which are published for the benefit of the public, also are available on the Office of General Counsel's Web site: *http://www.gc.doe.gov.*

EFFECTIVE DATE: The procedures and policies in this notice are effective February 19, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael W. Bowers, Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., GC–74, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586–2902.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 13, 2002, President Bush issued Executive Order 13272, ''Proper Consideration of Small Entities in Agency Rulemaking,'' 67 FR 53461 (Aug. 16, 2002). E.O. 13272 generally calls on agencies to establish procedures and policies to promote compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.* More specifically, section 3(a) of the Executive Order requires all Executive agencies to ''issue written procedures and policies, consistent with the Act, to ensure that the potential impacts of agencies' draft rules on small businesses, small governmental jurisdictions, and small organizations are properly considered during the rulemaking process.'' It also requires agencies to make their procedures and policies available to the public through the Internet or other easily accessible means. Section 3(b) of the Executive Order requires agencies to notify the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration (''Office of Advocacy'') of any draft rules that may have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Such notification must be made either: (i) When the agency submits a draft rule to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget under