

all mining at or near the surface where overburden can be economically removed.

(4) *Energy Intensive Processes (DE-PS26-03NT41739-4)*. Materials handling, comminution, and pumping systems are highlighted as areas of special interest as they are considered to offer the potential for substantial energy savings in industry-wide application. The definitions used for the different areas are as follows: (a) Materials handling—any equipment or process used to transport ore and waste; and (b) extraction—any equipment or process used to search for and mine ore and waste.

Applications submitted in response to these four interest areas will only be funded if the proposed research and development addresses improving the energy efficiency of the mineral industry in the areas directly related to exploration and mining. Applications for literature reviews *only* will not be considered. Additionally, applications offering emissions or waste disposal, remediation, or treatment as a primary focus are not eligible for funding under this solicitation. This limitation does not include applications that target materials recycling or by-product utilization as their primary focus.

This solicitation marks a transition in the EE-OIT Mining Program to emphasizing fewer, but larger, projects that can be expected to have impact industry-wide and offer maximum energy savings potential. Awards will be cost-shared, financial assistance cooperative agreements, with a mandatory requirement that the recipient provide a minimum cost share of fifty percent (50%) of the total project cost. It is anticipated that six to eight (6–8) projects will be selected for negotiation of an award. It is generally contemplated that DOE will cost-share between \$1.5 to \$2 million per award, or an amount not to exceed 50% of the total estimated cost of the effort. Approximately two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in federal funds are expected to be available to fund the first twelve (12) months of performance for projects selected from this solicitation. Subject to the availability of funds, approximately \$6 to \$10 million is planned to fund the remaining years of the projects.

Any nonprofit or for-profit organization, university or other institution of higher education, or non-federal agency or entity is eligible to apply in response to the four interest areas encompassed by Program Solicitation DE-PS26-03NT41739-0. Applications including performance of a portion of the work by: (1) A

Department of Energy (DOE) Management and Operating (M&O) contractor, (2) a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) funded by another Federal agency, or (3) another Federal agency are eligible for consideration, subject to the provisions to be set forth in Program Solicitation DE-PS26-03NT41739-0. (Applicants take note that the combined limit on participation by an M&O contractor, FFRDC or other Federal Agency for an individual project under this solicitation is a maximum of 20% of the total project cost.)

Additional eligibility requirements for applicants seeking financial assistance through this solicitation are the ability to: (1) Comply with the mandatory fifty percent (50%) cost share requirement; (2) satisfy the eligibility requirements of Section 2306 (Foreign Involvement) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPA); and (3) formulate a multi-partner team that includes the involvement, at a minimum, of either (a) two (2) “mining companies” (a “mining company” is defined as a firm actively engaged in the extraction and/or processing of rock or mineral resources for the purpose of producing a salable product(s)) or (b) two (2) companies, one of which must be a “mining” company and the other must be an equipment manufacturer/re-manufacturer or service provider to the mining industry, or mining technology developer or a mineral processing company if it’s appropriate for facilitating the commercial process. Applications submitted directly by or on behalf of: (1) Another Federal agency, (2) an FFRDC sponsored by another Federal agency; or (3) a DOE M&O Contractor are ineligible for consideration under this solicitation. Applications submitted by an organization covered by the Simpson-Craig Amendment are also ineligible for consideration.

The solicitation is available for downloading from the IIPS Web page (<http://e-center.doe.gov>). 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](mailto:IIPS_HelpDesk@e-center.doe.gov). The solicitation will only be made available on 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 26, 2003.

**Dale A. Siciliano,**

*Director, Acquisition and Assistance Division.*

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BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Notice of Public Workshops on the Selection of a Sodium Bearing Waste Treatment Technology and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Pre-Application Permit Meetings

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) Idaho Operations Office will hold public workshops to inform stakeholders of technology options being considered for treating sodium-bearing waste at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC), location on the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). DOE invites the public to comment on these options during a comment period, which starts on the date of this Notice. The workshops will provide an overview of the treatment options, allow for questions, and provide an opportunity for participants to identify issues and concerns.

These public meetings/workshops will also serve as Permit Pre-Application Meetings under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as discussed in 40 CRR 124.31. Public notice of the Pre-Application meetings has been published in local newspapers and announced in other forms of public media. The public may submit comments, which DOE will forward to the state of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, as part of the Part B permit application process.

**DATES:** Public workshops, each preceded by an informal open house, will be held on the following dates and times:

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Jackson Hole Middle School  
1230 S. Park Loop Road  
Jackson, Wyoming  
Open House: 4:30 p.m.  
Workshop Starts: 7 p.m.

*Tuesday, March 18, 2003*

Eastern Idaho Technical College

1600 South 25th East  
Idaho Falls, Idaho  
Open House: 5 p.m.  
Workshop Starts: 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

College of Southern Idaho  
315 Falls Ave., Taylor Building  
Twin Falls, Idaho  
Open House: 5:30 p.m.  
Workshop Starts: 7 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Please submit all comments to Alan Jines, P.E., U.S. DOE-Idaho Operations Office, 850 Energy Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83401.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Interested persons may obtain information by contacting: Alan Jines, (208) 526-7524; Fax: (208) 526-8789; E-mail: [jinesa@id.doe.gov](mailto:jinesa@id.doe.gov), or by mailing a request to the address above. Please also contact Mr. Jines in advance if you need: special accommodations at this meeting such as an American Sign Language or Spanish translator.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

In October 2002, DOE issued the *Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0287) (EIS). The EIS examined the potential environmental impacts of various alternatives for treating certain liquid and solid radioactive wastes stored at the INEEL. The wastes include about 1 million gallons of sodium-bearing waste in underground storage tanks and 4,400 cubic meters of high-level waste calcine resulting from 40 years of spent nuclear fuel reprocessing at the INEEL.

The State of Idaho was a cooperating agency in the preparation of this EIS. Although DOE and the State of Idaho identified different preferred alternatives for waste processing, the two parties agree the ultimate objective is to treat sodium-bearing waste and dispose of the treated waste outside of Idaho.

The Final EIS identified DOE's preferred alternative, which is to select appropriate technologies and construct facilities necessary to prepare sodium-bearing waste for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, New Mexico. To implement its preferred alternative, DOE will continue proof of process and demonstration-scale testing of the four technologies that appear most likely to meet the performance criteria which include effectiveness, technical maturity, risk, cost, schedule, and safety. The four technologies are: (1) Calcination; (2) Steam Reforming; (3) Direct Evaporation and (4) Cesium Ion Exchange. Selection of another technology or option analyzed in the EIS is not precluded if these four

technologies fail to meet performance criteria or if a new, more promising technology is identified.

DOE issued the Final EIS after extensive public involvement that included eight hearings in four states on the Draft EIS; a 90-day public comment period; and consideration of over 900 comments. DOE expects to announce its decisions in phases, with each phase of the EIS Record of Decision addressing specific activities. DOE expects to select a technology for the treatment of sodium bearing waste in an EIS Record of Decision scheduled for early 2004. DOE hereby invites the public to participate in evaluating the technologies being considered for the treatment of sodium-bearing waste.

**Copies of the EIS**

Interested individuals may view the Final EIS on the Department of Energy-Idaho Operations office Web site at <http://www.id.doe.gov/doiid/eis/>.

Issued in Idaho Falls, Idaho, on this 3rd day of March, 2003.

**Walter N. Sato,**

*Acting Manager, Idaho Operations Office.*

[FR Doc. 03-5587 Filed 3-7-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-M**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-7462-5]

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; "Clean Air Act Section 608-National Refrigerant Recycling and Emissions Reduction Program"**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this document announces that EPA is planning to submit the following continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB): "National Recycling and Emissions Reduction Program," *EPA ICR Number:* 1626.08, *OMB Control Number:* 2060-0256, expiration date—07/31/2003. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection as described below.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before May 9, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Follow the detailed instructions in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julius Banks, Global Programs Division, U.S. EPA (6205J), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; phone: (202) 564-9870; facsimile: (202) 566-2155; Email address: [banks.julius@epa.gov](mailto:banks.julius@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** EPA has established a public docket for this ICR under Docket ID number OAR-2003-0018, which is available for public viewing at the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) Docket in the EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the OAR Docket is (202) 566-1741. An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA Dockets (EDOCKET) at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>. Use EDOCKET to obtain a copy of the draft collection of information, submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the docket ID number identified above.

Any comments related to this ICR should be submitted to EPA and OMB within 60 days of this notice, and according to the following detailed instructions: Submit your comments to EPA online using EDOCKET (our preferred method), by email to [a-and-r-docket@epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epa.gov), or by mail to: EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation, Mail Code 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460.

EPA's policy is that public comments, whether submitted electronically or in paper, will be made available for public viewing in EDOCKET as EPA receives them and without change, unless the comment contains copyrighted material, CBI, or other information whose public disclosure is restricted by statute. When EPA identifies a comment containing copyrighted material, EPA will provide a reference to that material in the version of the comment that is placed in EDOCKET. The entire printed comment, including the copyrighted material, will be available in the public docket. Although identified as an item in the official docket, information claimed as