

director to enter into an agreement with the University of Delaware to acquire the expertise of faculty and staff in developing inputs for carbon parameters in the water quality model for the Delaware Estuary.

Draft dockets and other items scheduled for public hearing on March 19, 2003 are posted on the Commission's Web site, <http://www.drbc.net>, where they can be accessed through the Notice of Commission Meeting and Public Hearing. Additional documents relating to the dockets and other items may be examined at the Commission's offices. Please contact Thomas L. Brand at 609-883-9500 ext. 221 with any docket-related questions.

Persons wishing to testify at this hearing are requested to register in advance with the Commission Secretary at 609-883-9500 ext. 203. Individuals in need of an accommodation as provided for in the Americans With Disabilities Act who wish to attend the hearing should contact the Commission Secretary directly at 609-883-9500 ext. 203 or through the Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) at 711, to discuss how the Commission may accommodate your needs.

Dated: March 4, 2003.

Pamela M. Bush,

Commission Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE), National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL).

ACTION: Notice of availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intent to issue Financial Assistance Solicitation No. DE-PS26-03NT41739-0 entitled "EE-IT Mining Industry of the Future: Exploration and Mining Technology". The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Industrial Technologies (OIT) is soliciting applications for cost-shared research and development of technologies which will reduce energy consumption, enhance economic competitiveness and reduce environmental impacts of the domestic mining industry. An efficient and productive mining industry requires constant progress in the processes and technologies used in

exploration and mining. While the mining industry uses many of the latest technologies to locate and mine materials, further process and technological advances are needed to enable enhanced and more efficient resource identification, characterization and production. The objective of the targeted solicitation is to support the stated national interests by funding research and development projects that address key industry-identified technology needs described in the Exploration and Mining Technology (EMT) Roadmap (Sept. 2002) (<http://www.oit.doe.gov/mining/pdfs/emroadmap.pdf>), and the Energy Analysis (<http://www.oit.doe.gov/mining/pdfs/energyanalysis.pdf>). Applications are being solicited in four (4) interest areas: (1) *Exploration and Mine Planning* (DE-PS26-03NT41739-1); (2) *Underground Mining* (DE-PS26-03NT41739-2); (3) *Surface Mining* (DE-PS26-03NT41739-3); and (4) *Energy Intensive Processes* (DE-PS26-03NT41739-4). Applications are sought for applied research at the bench-scale to field-scale level, for time periods of up to five (5) years.

DATES: The solicitation will be available on the "Industry Interactive Procurement System" (IIPS) Web page located at <http://e-center.doe.gov> on or about February 26, 2003, with a proposal due date of May 21, 2003, 8 p.m. Eastern Time. 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:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The U.S. Congress looks to the Department of Energy (DOE) to work toward improving the energy efficiency of America's most energy-intensive industries with special interest in industrial processing. DOE, through its Industrial Technologies Program (IT) supports industries in their efforts to increase energy efficiency, reduce waste and increase productivity. The goal of the IT Program is to accelerate the development and use of advanced, energy efficient, renewable and pollution prevention technologies that benefit industry, the environment and the U.S. energy security. At IT's core, is the Industries of the Future program that focuses on basic materials and processing industries, of which the

Mining Industry is one such business sector.

The objective of the targeted solicitation is to support the stated national interests by funding research and development (R&D) projects that address technology needs described in the Exploration and Mining Technology (EMT) Roadmap (Sept. 2002) (<http://www.oit.doe.gov/mining/pdfs/emroadmap.pdf>), and Energy Analysis (<http://www.oit.doe.gov/mining/pdfs/energyanalysis.pdf>). The Roadmap focuses on process and technological advances that will improve the exploration for, and extraction of, ore from the earth. The Energy Analysis is a 2-page presentation showing the results of a study to demonstrate where the largest energy saving opportunities are in Mining.

As stated above, the key industry-identified research areas as presented in the Roadmap and Analysis form the bases of this solicitation and are characterized in four interest areas as follows:

(1) *Exploration and Mining Planning* (DE-PS26-03NT41739-1). Exploration includes locating economic deposits and establishing their nature, shape and grade. Activities involved in exploration include geological surveys, geophysical prospecting (both ground and aerial), boreholes and trail pits, surface/underground headings, drifts or tunnels. Mining, as used here, is the extraction or removal of ore from surface or underground mines. This involves excavating activities such as digging, blasting, breaking, loading and hauling. Interests include prospecting, sampling and exploratory drilling such as rotary and percussive drilling, and other work involved in searching for ore.

(2) *Underground Mining* (DE-PS26-03NT41739-2). Mining that takes place underground. This type of mining is generally done where the valuable mineral is located deep enough where it is not economically viable to be removed by surface mining. Interests include near face (such as intelligent or remote controlled robotics); ancillary (activities not directly involved in ore mining such as ventilation and improved health conditions) and maintenance services and technical services are also of interest.

(3) *Surface Mining* (DE-PS26-03NT41739-3). Mining at or near the surface. This type of mining is generally done where the overburden can be removed without too much expense. Also called strip mining; placer mining; opencast; open cut mining; and/or open pit mining. Interests include solution mining; materials handling systems integration and automation/robotics for