

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 (EPAct); 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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## 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