

2003 thru May 31, 2004 is being proposed to ensure the successful completion of the projects. However, to do so, the Secretary must waive the requirements in 34 CFR 75.250 and 75.261(c)(2), which prohibit project periods exceeding 5 years and period extensions that involve the obligation of additional Federal funds. We are proposing a waiver at this time in order to give the affected grantees early notice of the availability of an additional twelve months of funding.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

The Secretary certifies that the proposed waiver and extension of the project period will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The only small entities that would be affected are the six RRCs.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This extension and waiver does not contain any information collection requirements.

Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

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Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister>.

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(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.326, Technical Assistance and

Dissemination to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities.)

Dated: March 25, 2003.

Robert H. Pasternack,

Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

[FR Doc. 03-7690 Filed 3-28-03; 8:45 am]

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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-PS26-03NT41775 entitled "Drilling, Completion, and Stimulation (DCS)." This solicitation is being issued to develop new drilling, completion, and stimulation technologies that will aid the nation in meeting the increasing natural gas demands of the future.

DATES: The solicitation will be available on the "Industry Interactive Procurement System" (IIPS) webpage located at <http://e-center.doe.gov> on or about March 28, 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>.

ADDRESSES: See **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** caption.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Deborah J. Boggs, Contract Specialist, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, 3610 Collins Ferry Road, E-mail Address: dboggs@netl.doe.gov, Telephone Number: 304-285-4473.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The "Drilling, Completion, and Stimulation Solicitation" supports the Strategic Center for Natural Gas 2020 Vision of the U.S. public enjoying benefits (affordable supply, reliable delivery, and environmental protection) from an increase in gas use. The demand for natural gas is expected to grow at a rate of 2.1 percent per year between 1999 and 2020, with the total annual gas consumption projected to increase from 22 tcf in 1999 to 34 tcf in 2020. This increase will put a great strain on the natural gas industry as most of the conventional reservoirs have already been discovered. Therefore, the gas needed to meet the increasing demands

will have to come from unconventional sources, which are known to contain vast quantities of gas across large areas and throughout thick columns of strata in many of the nation's basins.

Past assessments of these unconventional resources show that thousands of trillion cubic feet of gas exists in place. However, due to the complexity, depth and lower-quality of these reservoirs, only a small percentage of this gas can be produced economically. Today's operators target areas of high natural fracture density because the extensive fracture network increases the drainage area of wells and thereby, the ultimate recovery of gas. But the majority of wells completed in unconventional reservoirs are sub-economic because a well-connected natural fracture system is the exception rather than the rule. Thus, technologies are needed to both reduce the costs of drilling, completion, and stimulation, and improve the recovery efficiency.

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 Morgantown, WV on March 20, 2003.

Dale A. Siciliano,

Director, Acquisition and Assistance Division.

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