

more than one research element may range up to \$450,000. Annual budgets for interdisciplinary field research projects at the FRC are expected to range from \$300,000 to \$1,000,000 for total costs. Costs for drilling at the FRC should not be included in the applicant's budget. All applications should include letters of agreement to collaborate from potential collaborators; these letters should specify the contributions the collaborators intend to make if the application is accepted and funded. DOE may encourage collaboration among prospective investigators to promote joint applications or joint research projects by using information obtained through the preliminary applications or through other forms of communication. DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of applications if an award is not made.

Merit Review

Applications will be subjected to formal merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following evaluation criteria which are listed in descending order of importance 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.

For renewals, progress on previous NABIR funded research will be an important criterion for evaluation. As part of the evaluation, program policy factors also become a selection priority. Note, external peer reviewers are selected with regard to both their scientific expertise and the absence of conflict-of-interest issues. Federal and non-federal reviewers will be used, and submission of an application constitutes agreement that this is acceptable to the investigator(s) and the submitting institution.

Submission Information

Information about the development, submission of applications, eligibility, limitations, evaluation, the selection process, and other policies and procedures may be found in 10 CFR part 605, and in the Application Guide for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program. Electronic access to SC's Financial Assistance Application Guide is possible via the World Wide

Web at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

In addition, for this notice, the research description must be 20 pages or less, exclusive of attachments, and must contain an abstract or summary of the proposed research (to include the hypotheses being tested, the proposed experimental design, and the names of all investigators and their affiliations). *Applicants who have had prior NABIR support must include a Progress Section with a brief description of results and a list of publications derived from that funding.* Attachments should include short (2 pages) curriculum vitae, a listing of all current and pending federal support and letters of intent when collaborations are part of the proposed research. Curriculum vitae should be submitted in a form similar to that of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or the National Science Foundation (NSF) (two to three pages).

The Office of Science, as part of its grant regulations, requires at 10 CFR 605.11(b) that a recipient receiving a grant and performing research involving recombinant DNA molecules and/or organisms and viruses containing recombinant DNA molecules shall comply with the NIH "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**.

Grantees must also comply with other federal and state laws and regulations as appropriate; for example, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) as it applies to genetically modified organisms. Although compliance with NEPA is the responsibility of DOE, grantees proposing to conduct field research are expected to provide information necessary for the DOE to complete the NEPA review and documentation.

Additional information on the NABIR program is available at the following Web site: <http://www.lbl.gov/NABIR/>. For researchers who do not have access to the World Wide Web, please contact Karen Carlson; Environmental Sciences Division; SC-74, Germantown Building; U.S. Department of Energy; 1000 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20585-1290; phone: (301) 903-3338; fax: (301) 903-8519; E-mail: karen.carlson@science.doe.gov; for hard copies of background material mentioned in this solicitation.

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 December 12, 2003.

John Rodney Clark,

Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Paducah

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Paducah. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Thursday, January 15, 2004; 5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: 111 Memorial Drive, Barkley Centre, Paducah, Kentucky.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William E. Murphie, Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), Department of Energy Paducah Site Office, Post Office Box 1410, MS-103, Paducah, Kentucky 42001, (270) 210-2215.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration and waste management activities.

Tentative Agenda:

- 5:30 p.m. Informal Discussion
- 6:00 p.m. Call to Order; Introductions; Approve November Minutes; Review Agenda
- 6:05 p.m. DDFO's Comments
- 6:25 p.m. Ex-officio Comments
- 6:35 p.m. Federal Coordinator Comments
- 6:45 p.m. Public Comments and Questions
- 6:55 p.m. Break
- 7:05 p.m. Task Forces/Presentations
 - Waste Operations Task Force
 - Water Task Force
 - C-400 Proposed Plan (discussion only)
 - Long Range Strategy/Stewardship —DUF₆
- 8:05 p.m. Public Comments and Questions
- 8:15 p.m. Administrative Issues
 - Review of Work Plan
 - Review of Next Agenda