

Dated: February 25, 1999.

William E. Burrow,

Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of the Under Secretary

Type of Review: New.

Title: Evaluation of the Eisenhower Professional Development Program: State and Local Activities.

Frequency: One time.

Affected Public: State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 575.

Burden Hours: 793.

Abstract: The Planning and Evaluation Service is conducting a three-year study to evaluate the Eisenhower Professional Development Program and to report on the progress of the program with respect to a set of Performance Indicators established by the Department of Education. The evaluation will provide information on the types of professional development activities supported by the program, the effects of the program participation on classroom teaching, and the quality of program planning and coordination. Clearance is sought for the Longitudinal Study of Teacher Changes, to be conducted in the Spring of the 1998–1999 school year. Respondents will be teachers.

[FR Doc. 99–5163 Filed 3–2–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Advisory Council on Indian Education, Meeting

AGENCY: National Advisory Council on Indian Education, ED.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. The purposes of this meeting are to discuss the Presidential Executive Order 13096 on American Indian and Alaska Native Education, and to discuss the reauthorization of programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), of which the Title IX Indian Education Program is included. Notice of this meeting is required under section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and is intended to notify the public of their opportunity to attend.

DATES AND TIMES: March 28, 1999, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. and March 29, 1999, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Holiday Inn on The Hill, New Jersey Avenue, Washington, DC (202) 638–1616.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. David Beaulieu, Director, Office of Indian Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 260–3774; Fax: (202) 260–7779.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Advisory Council on Indian Education is a presidential appointed advisory council on Indian education established under section 9151 of Title IX of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, (20 U.S.C. 7871). The Council advises the Secretary of Education and the Congress on funding and administration of programs with respect to which the Secretary has jurisdiction and that includes Indian children and adults as participants from which they benefit. The Council also makes recommendations to the Secretary for filling the position of Director of Indian Education whenever a vacancy occurs. The meeting of the Council is open to the public without advanced registration. Public attendance may be limited to the space available. Members of the public may make statements during the meeting, to the extent time permits, and file written statements with the Council for its consideration. Written statements should be submitted to the address listed above.

A summary of the proceedings and related matters which are informative to the public consistent with the policy of Title 5 U.S.C. 552b will be available to the public within fourteen days of the meeting, and are available for public inspection at the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dated: February 23, 1998.

Judith Johnson,

Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The National Advisor Council on Indian Education, March 28–28, 1999

Holiday Inn on The Hill, New Jersey Avenue, Washington, DC, 202–638–1616.

Sunday, March 28, 1999

9:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Review Agenda and Purpose of Meeting

9:30–12:00

Presidential Executive Order 13096 on American Indian and Alaska Native Education

ESEA Reauthorization Draft NACIE Charter and Work Plan Annual Report Review OIE Updates

Monday, March 29, 1999

9:00 a.m.

Call to Order

Review of Meeting

10:00–12:00

Open Meeting on: Reauthorization Executive Order 13906

12:00–1:00

Lunch

1:00–3:00

Open Meeting on: Reauthorization Executive Order 13906

3:00–4:30

Review of Meeting

4:30 p.m.

Adjourn NACIE Meeting

[FR Doc. 99–5213 Filed 3–2–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 99–15; Natural and Accelerated Bioremediation Research Program (NABIR)

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces its interest in receiving applications for research grants in the Natural and Accelerated Bioremediation Research (NABIR) Program. Grant applications are being solicited for the Biomolecular Science and Engineering research element.

DATES: Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a brief preapplication, containing a title, a list of investigators, and a summary (not to exceed one typed page) of proposed research. All preapplications, referencing Program Notice 99–15, must be received by DOE by 4:30 P.M., E.S.T., March 26, 1999. A response encouraging or discouraging a formal application generally will be communicated within 7 days of receipt.

The deadline for receipt of formal applications is 4:30 P.M., E.D.T., May 4, 1999, to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award in Fiscal Year 1999.

ADDRESSES: Preapplications referencing Program Notice 99–15, should be sent by E-mail to daniel.drell@science.doe.gov.

Preapplications will also be accepted if mailed to the following address: Ms. Joanne Corcoran, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, SC-72, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290.

Formal applications, referencing Program Notice 99-15, must be sent to: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Grants and Contracts Division, SC-64, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, ATTN: Program Notice 99-15. This address must also be used when submitting applications by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or any other commercial overnight delivery service, or when hand-carried by the applicant.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Daniel Drell, Life Sciences Division, SC-72, Office of Biological and Environmental Research, Office of Science, U.S. Department of Energy, 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-1290, telephone: (301) 903-6488, E-mail: daniel.drell@science.doe.gov, fax: (301) 903-8521. The full text of Program Notice 99-15 is available via the Internet using the following web site address: <http://www.er.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The mission of the NABIR Program is to provide the scientific understanding needed to use natural in situ processes and to develop new methods to accelerate those processes for bioremediation at DOE facilities. The NABIR program is initially emphasizing the bioremediation of metals and radionuclides in the subsurface below the root zone, including both thick vadose and saturated zones. The program is implemented through seven interrelated scientific research elements (Acceleration; Assessment; Biogeochemical Dynamics; Biomolecular Sciences and Engineering; Biotransformation and Biodegradation; Community Dynamics and Microbial Ecology; and System Engineering, Integration, Prediction, and Optimization); and a social and legal element called Bioremediation and its Social Implications and Concerns (BASIC). Additional information about NABIR, such as references to infrastructure that are available to the research community, can be accessed from the NABIR Homepage: <http://www.lbl.gov/NABIR/>. Abstracts of currently funded projects are available via the Internet using the following web site address: <http://www.lbl.gov/NABIR/awardees.html>.

Each scientific research element is directed by a program manager from OBER, who is responsible for providing support and overall direction for the element, including determining the relevance of the proposed research to the goals and objectives of the program element to the NABIR and other DOE programs. The NABIR program also has Science Team Leaders, selected through an earlier peer review process, who provide scientific leadership and coordination to the community of NABIR investigators. Information on the current Science Team Leaders and DOE program staff is available via the Internet using the following web site address: http://www.lbl.gov/NABIR/research_5.html.

Program Focus

The NABIR Program supports fundamental, hypothesis-driven research directed at specific topics that will provide the understanding necessary to develop effective new bioremediation technologies for DOE site cleanup. This research will help determine the future viability of bioremediation technologies at the DOE sites. The NABIR Program will not support research to evaluate risks to humans associated with the implementation or deployment of specific bioremediation technologies. Although the program is directed at specific goals, it supports research that is more fundamental in nature than demonstration projects.

The initial emphasis of the NABIR Program is on field-related research and metal and radionuclide contamination, specifically on the metals and radionuclides associated with past weapons production activities. However, the research program will support laboratory, theoretical, modeling, and other non-field research projects, if they fill important gaps that would be necessary to complete understanding for field-scale studies. The study of real problems might iterate between, for example, the laboratory and the field. Investigators without access to laboratories licensed to work with radionuclides may propose research with non-radioactive surrogates of radionuclides, or collaborate with a licensed laboratory. Typically, the bioremediation of metals and radionuclides involves, but is not limited to, mobilization and immobilization scenarios. Consideration of organic contaminants, such as solvents and complexing agents that would be important substrates, facilitators, inhibitors, or sources of carbon or electron donors or acceptors, can be included in the proposed

research to the extent that they influence the primary goal of understanding the remediation of metals and radionuclides. Applicants are encouraged to review Chemical Contaminants on DOE Lands, DOE/ER-0547T, available at the OBER Homepage: <http://www.er.doe.gov/production/ober/EPR/contam.pdf>, for a compilation of wastes and waste mixtures at the DOE sites.

NABIR is a research program designed to serve as a foundation for microbial in situ bioremediation techniques. Although "spillover" benefits of the research to other cleanup needs such as the use of bioreactors to process waste streams are anticipated, NABIR emphasizes investigations into bioremediation of subsurface waste sites and their by-products released to the environment. This emphasis includes research that will assist the application of in situ bioremediation in conjunction with other cleanup methods, for example, using bioremediation to mobilize radionuclides so that pump-and-treat techniques could be more effective. Problems characterized by large areas with low-concentration contamination are emphasized over problems of localized, high concentration contamination. Research on phytoremediation will not be supported during this funding period.

In research plans that involve the potential release of chemicals, enzymes, and/or microorganisms to the field (both at contaminated and non-contaminated control sites), applicants must discuss how they will involve the public or stakeholders in their research, beginning with experimental design through completion of the project. All applicants should discuss other relevant societal issues, where appropriate, which may include intellectual property protection, and communication with and outreach to affected communities (including members of affected minority communities where appropriate) to explain the proposed research.

NABIR Infrastructure

The NABIR program proposes to select at least one Field Research Center (FRC) located at a DOE site. The FRC would serve as a central facility for researchers to use at their option. However, FRCs would not be identified for at least 6 months from the date of this solicitation and until National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the NABIR Program is complete. Applicants may use any available contaminated or uncontaminated field site that is presently available to them, including but not limited to DOE sites. However,

investigators are encouraged to consult the listing of current FRC-related field research sites and facilities available to NABIR investigators on the NABIR Homepage, at http://www.lbl.gov/NABIR/research_6.html. Investigators should describe how their research will interface with or transfer to field-scale research at the site they are using, to FRC-related sites, or to the FRC site that might be available in the future. A centrally maintained database will be developed to provide limited information, such as site characterization and kinetics data that will be needed by a broad segment of investigators. When appropriate, applications must include a short discussion of the Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) measures that will be applied in data gathering and analysis activities. Successful applicants will be expected to coordinate their QA/QC protocols with NABIR program personnel. A draft of guidelines to be used by Natural and Accelerated Bioremediation Research (NABIR) program investigators in managing their information and data can be found on the NABIR Homepage: <http://www.lbl.gov/NABIR/data-guide.html>.

Scientific Research Elements

The following section describes the NABIR scientific research element that is emphasized in this Notice, the Biomolecular Science and Engineering element. Applicants may propose research that transcends this research element, but proposed research should be firmly rooted in Biomolecular Science and Engineering. For example, applicants may propose research on metals that may be of interest to the mining and chemical industries. Ongoing (previously funded) activities in this element can be viewed at: <http://www.lbl.gov/NABIR/elem3.html> and prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to review already funded research in this element to avoid duplication.

The overall goal of studies within this element is to further understanding of bioremediation using molecular and structural biology, particularly knowledge and approaches emerging from both human and especially microbial genome sequencing projects. The long-term goal is to develop improved cellular pathways and organisms capable of exploiting microbial capacities to further bioremediate metals and radionuclides found at DOE waste sites. To this end, and using where appropriate data and information from other program elements, studies under the Biomolecular Science and Engineering

element should identify the genes, genetic systems, molecules, and pathways most effective for biotransforming metals and radionuclides. These studies can include (but are not limited to): (1) identifying, cloning, and sequencing novel genes and promoters important to the bioremediation of metals and radionuclides; and (2) the construction or enhancement of bioremedial enzymatic pathways by identifying active genes from different microbial organisms and inserting those genes into one or more organisms that are able to survive and compete effectively in environments contaminated with metals and/or radionuclides.

Research is encouraged in this notice that includes:

(1) Environmental regulation of the expression of genes, genetic systems, and key proteins involved in the sequestration, biotransformation, or mobilization, or immobilization of metals and radionuclides;

(2) The occurrence, the rates, the regulation, and the significance of natural exchanges of genetic material between microorganisms comprising consortia that are involved in bioremediation of metals and radionuclides;

(3) New methods for genetic analysis of naturally occurring microbes and microbial communities that are involved in bioremediation, including methods for diversity sampling and characterizing subtle genetic differences between consortial species.

Program Funding

It is anticipated that up to \$750,000 will be available for multiple awards to be made in FY 1999 in the category described above. Applications may request project support up to three years, with out-year support contingent on the availability of funds, progress of the research, and programmatic needs. Annual budgets for research projects are expected to range from \$150,000 to \$300,000 total costs. Researchers are encouraged to team with investigators already funded in this element, or in other disciplines where appropriate. DOE may encourage collaboration among prospective investigators, to promote joint applications or joint research projects, by using information obtained through other forms of communication.

Collaboration

Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with researchers in other institutions, such as universities, industry, non-profit organizations, federal laboratories and Federally

Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), including the DOE National Laboratories, where appropriate, and to incorporate cost sharing and/or consortia wherever feasible.

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

The evaluation will include program policy factors such as the relevance of the proposed research to the terms of the announcement and an agency's programmatic needs. Note, external peer reviewers are selected with regard to both their scientific expertise and the absence of conflict-of-interest issues. Non-federal reviewers may be used, and submission of an application constitutes agreement that this is acceptable to the investigator(s) and the submitting institution.

To provide a consistent format for the submission, review and solicitation of grant applications submitted under this notice, the preparation and submission of grant applications must follow the guidelines given in the Application Guide for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program 10 CFR Part 605.

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 the Guide and required forms is made available via the World Wide Web at: <http://www.er.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>. On the SC grant face page, form DOE F 4650.2, in block 15, also provide the PI's phone number, fax number and E-mail address. 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). Attachments include curriculum vitae, QA/QC plan, a listing of all current and pending federal support, and letters of

intent when collaborations are part of the proposed research.

Although the required original and seven copies of the application must be submitted, researchers are asked to submit an electronic version of the abstract of the proposed research in ASCII format along with a valid E-mail address to Ms. Karen Carlson by E-mail at karen.carlson@science.doe.gov. 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), for example see: <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/cpo/gpg/fkit.htm#forms-9>.

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 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 and contractors 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. If, during the course of the research, a need for regulatory approval arises, these costs are expected to be borne by the investigator and should be included in the proposed budget. 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.

Related Funding Opportunities: Investigators may wish to obtain information about the following related funding opportunities:

Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management: The Environmental Management Science Program (EMSP). Contact: Mr. Mark Gilbertson, Director, Office of Science and Risk Policy, Office of Science and Technology, EM-52, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585, E-mail mark.gilbertson@em.doe.gov, phone (202) 586-7150. The EMSP home page is available at web site: <http://www.em.doe.gov/science/>.

(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, D.C. on February 24, 1999.

Ralph H. De Lorenzo,

Acting Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 99-5262 Filed 3-2-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-218-000]

ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Application To Amend Certificates

February 25, 1999.

Take notice that on February 17, 1999, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR) filed an abbreviated application in Docket No. CP-99-218-000 pursuant to section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations for amendment of its certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing a revised storage field boundary, including fringe protective acreage, for three of its existing storage fields. ANR's proposal is more fully described in its application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. This filing may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/online/rims.htm> (call 202-208-2222 for assistance).

Specifically, ANR request that the information amend the certificates for the Goodwell, Lincoln-Freeman and Reed City Storage Fields located in Newaygo, Clare and Lake and Oceola Counties, Michigan, to allow ANR to acquire storage and mineral rights within the revised boundary of each of the storage fields in order to protect the integrity of its certificated facilities and the interstate gas storage therein. The approximate acreage which ANR is seeking to acquire within the proposed boundary of the Goodwell field includes storage rights to 80 acres and mineral rights to 160 acres. For the Lincoln-Freeman field, ANR is seeking to acquire storage rights to 620 acres and mineral rights to 1,103 acres. Lastly, at the Reed City field, ANR is seeking to acquire storage rights to 700 acres, and mineral rights to 400 acres. ANR states that approval of the de facto boundary of each of the storage fields will not increase the storage capacity or the deliverability of the fields.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before March 18, 1999, file with the Federal Energy

Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214) and the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. The Commission's rules require that protestors provide copies of their protests to the party or parties against whom the protests are directed. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

A person obtaining intervenor status will be placed on the service list maintained by the Secretary of the Commission and will receive copies of all documents filed by the applicant and by every one of the intervenors. An intervenor can file for rehearing of any Commission order and can petition for court review of any such order. However, an intervenor must submit copies of comments or any other filings it makes with the Commission to every other intervenor in the proceeding, as well as an original and 14 copies with the Commission.

A person does not have to intervene, however, in order to have environmental comments considered. A person, instead, may submit two copies of comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of environmental documents and will be able to participate in meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed documents on all other parties. However, commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by the parties or issued by the Commission and will not have the right to seek rehearing or appeal the Commission's final order to a federal court.

The Commission will consider all comments and concerns equally, whether filed by commenters of those requesting intervenor status.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act and the Commissions' Rules of Practice and Procedures, a hearing will be held without further notice before the