

If the SEA mails ED Form 2447 through the U.S. Postal Service, the Secretary does not accept either of the following as proof of mailing:

1. A private metered postmark.
2. A mail receipt that is not dated by the U.S. Postal Service.

**Note:** The U.S. Postal Service does not uniformly provide a dated postmark. Before relying on this method, an SEA should check with its local post office.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Lawrence R. MacDonald, Chief, Governments Division, at the Maryland address specified above or by telephone: (301) 457-1574. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the authority of section 404(a) of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C. 9003(a)), which authorizes NCES to gather data on the financing of education, NCES collects data annually from SEAs through ED Form 2447. The report from SEAs includes attendance, revenue and expenditure data from which NCES determines the average state per pupil expenditure (SPPE) for elementary and secondary education.

In addition to using the SPPE data as useful information on the financing of elementary and secondary education, the Secretary uses these data directly in calculating allocations for certain formula grant programs, including Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Title I), Impact Aid, and Indian Education. Other programs such as the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program under Title VII of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development Program, and the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program make use of SPPE data indirectly because their formulas are based, in whole or in part, on State Title I allocations.

In February 1997, the Bureau of the Census, acting as the data collection agent for NCES, mailed to SEAs ED Form 2447 with instructions and requested that SEAs submit data to the Bureau of the Census on March 15, 1997, or as soon as possible thereafter. SEAs were urged to submit accurate and complete data on March 15, or as soon as possible thereafter, to facilitate timely processing. Submissions by SEAs to the Bureau of the Census are checked for

accuracy and returned to each SEA for verification. All data, including any revisions, must be submitted to the Bureau of the Census by an SEA not later than September 2, 1997.

Having accurate information, on time, is critical to an efficient and fair allocation process, as well as the NCES statistical process. To ensure timely distribution of Federal education funds based on the best, most accurate data available, NCES establishes, for allocation purposes, September 2, 1997, as the final date by which ED Form 2447 must be submitted. However, if an SEA submits revised data after the final deadline that results in a lower SPPE figure, its allocations may be adjusted downward or the Department may request the SEA to return funds. SEAs should be aware that all of these data are subject to audit and that, if any inaccuracies are discovered in the audit process, the Department may seek recovery of overpayments for the applicable programs. If an SEA submits revised data after September 2, the data may also be too late to be included in the final NCES published dataset.

**Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 9003(a).

Dated: April 28, 1997.

**Ramon C. Cortines,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Program Opportunity Notice: Unrestricted Eligibility for Advanced Diagnostics Tests in Priority Basins

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Federal Energy Technology Center (FETC).

**ACTION:** Program Opportunity Notice (PON).

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy announces that it intends to conduct a competitive Solicitation and award financial assistance (cooperative agreement[s]) in support of a demonstration program for testing one or more Exploration and Production (E&P) technologies in a well of opportunity in one or more tight gas fractured reservoirs in one or more priority basins. The project effort[s] require fifty percent [50.0%] cost participation, with the Government funding *only* the costs of the technology being tested. Applications will be subjected to a technical merit review by a DOE technical panel, and awards will be made to a limited number of

applicants on the basis of the scientific merit of the application and the availability of funds.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Beth J. Pearse, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Technology Center, Acquisition and Assistance Division, P.O. Box 10940, MS 921-143, Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940, Internet e-mail to pearse@fetc.doe.gov, or FAX to (412) 892-6216. Solicitation DE-PN26-97FT34181 is expected to be released on or about May 5, 1997 with the expected closing date for submission of proposals on June 5, 1997. This solicitation will only be available via internet and will not be distributed in paper form. The solicitation will be accessible as a Word Perfect 6.1 (Windows) document or in the Portable Document Format (PDF), on the World Wide Web (WWW) at <http://www.petc.doe.gov/business.html> (select "solicitations"). Those who obtain a copy of the solicitation through the WWW should check the location frequently for any amendments. Additional information on this solicitation's requirements can be found on the PETC Home Page at <http://www.petc.doe.gov/business.html> [select "solicitations"], PON DE-PN26-97FT34181, entitled "Advanced Diagnostics Tests in Priority Basins." All inquiries regarding this solicitation should be directed to the Point-of-Contact, Mary Beth J. Pearse, as stated in this section.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title of Solicitation:* "Advanced Diagnostics Tests in Priority Basins".

*Objectives:* Through Program Opportunity Notice (PON) No. DE-PN26-97FT34181, the Department of Energy seeks applications that will ultimately reduce the technical risks and the economic uncertainty standing in the way of increased industry development of the low permeability (tight) gas resources of the Rocky Mountain and Mid-Continent gas basins. This will be done by demonstrating increased efficiency through field tests of improved or emerging E&P technologies. The goal is to encourage development of the tight gas resources by industry through testing E&P technologies in priority tight gas basins.

*Eligibility:* Eligibility for participation in this solicitation is unrestricted. All responsible individuals, corporations, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and state or local governments may submit proposals for consideration.

*Awards:* DOE anticipates issuing one [1] to three [3] financial assistance [cooperative agreement] fifty percent

[50.0%] cost participation awards. DOE reserves the right to support or not support any or all applications received in whole or in part, and to determine how many awards may be made through the solicitation subject to funds available in this fiscal year.

Approximately \$1,198,000.00 is planned for this solicitation. The total should provide support for approximately one [1] to three [3] demonstration application selections.

**Solicitation Release Date:** The Program Solicitation is expected to be ready for release on or about May 5, 1997. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions and forms contained in the Program Solicitation. To be eligible, applications must be submitted to the designated DOE office by the closing date specified in the Program Solicitation (anticipated to be on or about June 5, 1997).

**Richard D. Rogus,**

*Contracting Officer, Acquisition and Assistance Division.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP94-161-007]

#### **Avoca Natural Gas Storage; Notice of Amendment and Notice of Extension of Time To File Comments on Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Avoca Gas Storage Project Supplement**

April 28, 1997.

Take notice that on April 14, 1997, Avoca Natural Gas Storage (Avoca), One Bowdoin Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, filed in Docket No. CP94-161-007, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act, significant project alterations which the Commission construes as an amendment to its pending amendment filed in Docket No. CP94-161-006, requesting modifications to its proposal to construct a brine pipeline, all as more fully set forth in the amendment which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. In addition, in response to several requests, the Commission will extend the period for making environmental comments on the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Avoca Gas Storage Project Supplement and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues (NOI).

Specifically, Avoca seeks to make the following alterations to its pending filing in Docket No. CP94-161-006:

- eliminate the 42.4 mile, 6-inch-diameter residual water return line and the residual water tank at the Akzo Nobel Salt Company (Akzo);
- deliver brine to Akzos brine field north of Akzos plant rather than directly to the plant which would result in the elimination of 1 mile of the 8-inch-diameter brine pipeline between mileposts (MP) 4.5C and 5.5C and rerouting about 1,500 feet of the brine pipeline from about MP 4.5C northward to Akzos brine field;

- construct a brine storage tank at Akzos brine field rather than within the Akzo plant yard;

- modify the 8-inch-diameter pipeline route between MPs 3.46C and 3.77C from 25 feet to the east of the Seneca West pipeline to 25 feet to the west of New York State Electric and Gas Corporations (NYSEG) Seneca West pipeline;

- modify the 10-inch-diameter pipeline route between MP 14.48 and 14.80 to follow the edge of a landowners field rather than diagonally cutting across the field (at the request of the landowner and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets):
- modify the 6-inch-diameter pipeline route into the Cargill, Inc. (Cargill) plant from MP 39.50 to MP 39.73 (at the landowners request) to a location that would follow a railroad spur and enter Cargill about 200 feet west of the originally proposed route;

- modify the 10-inch-diameter pipeline route between MPs 34.84 and 35.56 so that it would be 25 feet east of the Texas Eastern Products Pipeline Corporation (TEPPCO) pipeline rather than 25 feet east of the Seneca West pipeline;

- directionally drill the crossing of Hamilton Creek (MP 35.31); and
- add an access road at MP 37.24 that was omitted from the application.

Avoca has also indicated that Cargill would need to construct facilities to accept brine from Avoca within its existing facility. These facilities would include:

- pipeline with a three-valve manifold and associated valves, controls, and equipment to tie-in to existing piping; and

- heat exchange equipment to meet temperature specifications for salt processing.

Seneca Lake Pure Waters Associations Inc., Schuyler County Environmental Management Council, Schuyler County Soil & Water Conservation District,

Barbara J. Halpin of the Schuyler County Legislature, Kevin Hughey, and John H. and Deborah G. Ball have requested that the Commission extend the period for public comment on environmental issues pursuant to the NOI issued on March 10, 1997. The parties contend that more time is needed to evaluate the project. Upon consideration, the Commission will extend the comment period for the NOI until May 19, 1997.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said amendment should on or before May 19, 1997, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426, its comments on environmental issues, or a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) 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. 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.

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 Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this amendment if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the certificate is required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for Avoca to appear or be represented at the hearing.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

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