**ACTION:** Notice of availability of a financial assistance solicitation for cooperative agreement proposals.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Advanced Automotive Technologies (OATT) announces its interest in receiving applications from colleges and universities with accredited graduate engineering programs in the United States to develop Centers of Automotive Technology Excellence under the Graduate Automotive Technology Education (GATE) Program. The Centers are intended to provide multi-disciplinary engineering training for graduate students in specific areas of advanced automotive technology. The goal of the GATE Program is to overcome technology barriers preventing the development and production of cost-effective high-efficiency vehicles for the U.S. market.

**DATES AND ADDRESSES:** The complete solicitation document will be available on the Internet on or about May 18, 1998 by accessing the DOE Chicago Internet Home Page at http://www.ch.doe.gov/business/ACQ.html under the heading ''Current Acquisition Activities'' Solicitation No. DE–SC02–98EE50519. Applications are due no later than 3:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time (CDT), on July 17, 1998. Any amendments to the solicitation will continue to be posted on the Internet. Please note that users are not alerted when the solicitation is issued or when amendments are posted. Prospective offeror(s) are therefore advised to check the above Internet address on a daily basis. Awards are anticipated by August 30, 1998.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Completed applications referencing Solicitation No. DE–SC02–98EE50519 must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy, Chicago Operations Office, Attn: Dennis L. Wilson, Bldg. 201, Rm. 3F–08, 9800 South Cass Avenue, Argonne, IL 60439–4899. As a result of this solicitation, DOE may award five (5) cooperative agreements, one for each desired technology area. The period of performance is expected to be September 1, 1998 to August 30, 2000. Available funding, irrespective of the number of offerors selected, is $500,000.00 in FY 1998, and follow-on funding of approximately $500,000.00 for FY 1999. Colleges and universities that respond to this solicitation must already have significant experience with one or more of the desired technologies and have access to laboratory facilities and equipment to support their proposed programs.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dennis L. Wilson, Acquisition and Assistance Group, Chicago Operations Office, 9800 South Cass Avenue, Argonne, Illinois 60439; Telephone No. (630) 252–2413; Fax No. (630) 252–5045, or by e-mail at dennis.wilson@ch.doe.gov

Issued in Chicago, Illinois on April 30, 1998.

**James Bieschke,**

*Director of Operations Division, Acquisition and Assistance Group.*

[FR Doc. 98–12680 Filed 5–12–98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Department of Energy, Los Alamos National Laboratory

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, 86 Stat. 770) notice is hereby given of the following Advisory Committee meeting: Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Los Alamos National Laboratory.

**DATES:** Thursday, May 28, 1998: 6 p.m.–9 p.m., 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. (public comment session).

**ADDRESSES:** Taos Convention Center, Taos, New Mexico.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Ann DuBois, Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board, Los Alamos National Laboratory, 528 35th Street, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544, (505) 665–5048.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Purpose of the Board:* The purpose of the Advisory Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

*Tentative Agenda:*

6:00 p.m. Call to Order by DOE
6:00 p.m. Welcome by Chair, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda and Minutes from March 21, 1998 and April 28, 1998 Meetings
6:30 p.m. Public Comments
7:00 p.m. Break
7:15 p.m. Board Business—Formation of Committees, Charter, Budget Status, Workshop Announcements
8:30 p.m. Review of Outstanding Environmental Restoration/Waste Management Recommendations
9:00 p.m. Adjourn

*Public Participation:* The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Committee either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Ms. Ann DuBois, at (505) 665–5048. A sign-up sheet will also be available at the door of the meeting room for members of the public to indicate their desire to address the Board. Requests must be received 5 days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Designated Federal Official is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

*Minutes:* The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E–190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday–Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to Mr. Mat Johansen, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, Department of Energy, Los Alamos Area Office, 528 35th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87185–5400.

Issued at Washington, DC on May 7, 1998.

**Rachel Samuel,**

*Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98–12679 Filed 5–12–98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

### Notice of Solicitation for Research and Development for Fuel Cells, Direct Injection Engines, and Fuels: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technology for Transportation and Buildings

**AGENCY:** Chicago Operations Office, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of solicitation availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy announces its interest in receiving financial assistance applications for research and development (R&D) on automotive fuel cells, direct injection engines, and fuels in support of the Government/automotive industry Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles (PNGV). The Partnership is

developing light-duty vehicles that achieve up to 3 times the fuel economy of comparable conventional vehicles, meet emissions standards, and offer the same level of performance and cost as today's vehicles. Direct injection engines and fuel cells have been selected for their potential for attaining the goal of 80-mpg fuel economy in a six-passenger sedan. In support of the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy fuel cell cross-cutting technologies, the Office of Building Technologies also plans to acquire research and development (R&D) of fuel cell technologies for building applications.

**DATES AND ADDRESSES:** The complete solicitation document will be available on or about July 1, 1998 on the DOE Chicago Internet Home Page at http://www.ch.doe.gov/business/ACQ.htm under the heading ''Current Acquisition Activities,'' Solicitation No. DE–SC02–98EE50526 with applications due August 17, 1998. Any amendments to this solicitation will be posted on the Internet. Please note that users will not be alerted when the solicitation is issued on the Internet or when amendments are posted on the Internet. Prospective applicants are therefore advised to check the above Internet address on a daily basis. The cooperative agreements are expected to be awarded on or about March 1, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John O'Keefe, at (630) 252–2125, U.S. Department of Energy, 9800 South Cass Avenue, Argonne, IL 60439–4899; by fax at (630) 252–5045; or by e-mail at john.o'keefe@ch.doe.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Topic 1 includes research on proton-exchange-membrane (PEM) fuel cells for transportation and buildings. Proposals for light-duty transportation applications are sought in three areas and building applications in another area: (1) Fuel cell system integration issues, including delivery of complete sub-scale fuel cell power systems; one to DOE for experiments to validate fuel cell system models, another for use at the contractor(s) laboratory facilities to develop engineering solutions for operation at extreme conditions while ensuring water balance and demonstrating freeze-thaw capability. DOE also seeks to update existing cost analyses incorporating the principles of design for manufacturability. (2) Fuel cell component R&D, including development of CO tolerant anodes, higher activity cathodes, manufacturing technologies, air compressor/expanders, controls and sensors, coolants, stack sealants, gaskets, and adhesives for stack durability. (3) Fuel processing R&D, including CO clean-up and design for manufacturability of preferential oxidation system(s), start-up and transient response, durability, and innovative ideas for reducing size, weight, and cost of the fuel processing system. (4) The Fuel Cell for Buildings Program seeks advanced components for PEM fuel cell cogeneration systems which are simple in construction with no heavily loaded mechanical subsystems that limit life and reliability; operate at a pressure of 1.5 atm or below; have heat rejection temperatures in excess of 100°C to provide access to a broad range of applications for cogeneration systems and reduce the cost of heat rejection when operating in a power only mode; and are highly reliable during long-term operation on natural gas reformate from low-cost fuel processors. PEM fuel cell technologies based on Nafion™ or similar materials as an electrolyte are unlikely to meet these system requirements. In an activity which cross-cuts with the needs of the transportation fuel cell program, the Fuel Cell for Buildings Program seeks to acquire research and development of advanced high temperature membrane(s) with performance equal to or better than that of Nafion™.

Topic 2 includes research in three areas: (1) Compression-ignition direct injection engines (CIDI), (2) spark-ignition direct injection engines (SIDI), and (3) innovative concepts. The primary technical barrier facing automotive DI engines is the development of combustion and emission control technology able to reliably meet stringent emission regulations. (1) The focus of the CIDI engine research is on $NO_X$ and particulate matter (PM) emissions control technology for light-duty vehicle applications. Emission control component development includes research on advanced after-treatment technologies that will enable PNGV-candidate CIDI engines (operating on low-sulfur diesel fuel) and SIDI engines (operating on reformulated gasoline) to meet $NO_X$ and PM emissions targets (0.2 g/mi $NO_X$ and 0.01 g/mi PM) as well as other requirements (e.g., cost and efficiency). Examples of components being sought are advanced fuel injection systems (high-pressure, rate shaping) and exhaust gas recirculation in combination with after-treatment approaches such as lean $NO_X$ catalysts, non-thermal plasma, and regenerative particulate traps. (2) The focus of the SIDI efforts will be the development of durable fuel injectors and associated equipment for light-duty vehicles. After treatment devices and associated sensors for SIDI engines are needed as well. (3) In addition, proposals are sought for innovative, high-risk research into novel means of reducing emissions or improving the efficiency of SIDI, CIDI or conventional gasoline-fueled, spark-ignition engines. New, forward thinking devices and systems that make significant improvements in engine performance and are practical to implement are sought.

Topic 3 includes research on fuels and lubricants. Proposals are sought in four areas: (1) Optimized CIDI fuels, including research on advanced fuel formulations, fuel characterization test development, and lubricity additive performance mechanisms. Advanced CIDI fuel formulations including but not limited to oxygenate additives and cetane enhancers which facilitate meeting future passenger car emission standards are being sought. Recommendations for fuel characterization test methods may include, among others, means for determining compatibility with CIDI after-treatment systems, storage stability, thermal stability, fuel system and engine deposit forming potential, compatibility with engine and fuel system materials, blending compatibility with petroleum fuels, combustion particulate forming potential, cold start, and low-temperature operation. Determination of CIDI fuel lubricity additive performance will include evaluation of additive mechanisms such as surface adsorption at the temperature and pressure of operation. (2) CIDI engine lubrication research, including advanced lubricant formulations to help meet vehicle fuel economy and exhaust emission targets, demonstrated through lubricant bench test characterization methods. (3) Research to identify, characterize, and test fuels specifically optimized for automotive fuel cells. The work may include an analysis and/or formulation of fuels that offer advantages for on-board reforming processes (e.g., less coking, ease of operation at extreme ambient conditions, greater hydrogen yield, and emissions reductions) and a determination of the cost of producing these fuels and the impact of these fuels on the fueling infrastructure and oil imports. Offerors should assess candidate fuels using current automotive-type partial oxidation reformers as the fuel processing baseline. (4) Research on innovative natural gas compressors to reduce the size, noise, and cost of the compressor island, significantly lower energy

consumption for compression, and reduce maintenance requirements. Innovative concepts for gas storage, gas dispensing, operating strategies for the storage capacity, and providing the small amount of highest-pressure gas needed to complete vehicle fueling are desired. Research is also sought in the area of truly conformable tank technology (i.e., storage devices that are integral to the vehicle), either with or without storage density enhancement techniques. The objective is to develop storage vessels in non-cylindrical shapes that are conducive to incorporation into automobiles and light trucks.

A major DOE program objective is to increase the involvement of the automotive industry supplier base in key engine-related R&D programs.

The Department of Energy anticipates that approximately twenty-five cooperative agreements will result from this solicitation. Under Topic 1 there will be approximately twelve awards, with periods of performance ranging from eighteen to thirty months and total estimated DOE funding of $10,000,000.00 to $30,000,000.00. Under Topic 2 there will be approximately five awards, with periods of performance of thirty months and total estimated DOE funding of $40,000,000.00. Under Topic 3 there will be approximately eight awards with periods of performance of thirty-six months and total estimated DOE funding of $10,000,000.00. Cost sharing requirements will vary from zero to fifty percent, depending on the topic area, and will be specified in the solicitation. Awards are subject to the availability of funds and the solicitation will not obligate DOE to make any award(s). Any non-profit or for-profit organization, university or other institution of higher education, or non-federal agency or entity is eligible to apply. Federal laboratory participation shall be minimal and will be subject to DOE approval. The solicitation will provide further guidance in this area. Awards resulting from this solicitation will be subject to the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 which in general requires that the awardee be a United States-owned company (including certain non-profits) or that the foreign country in which the parent company is located meets certain conditions of reciprocity in the treatment of investments, access to research and development programs, and protection of intellectual property. All responsible sources, as indicated above, may submit an application which shall be considered by the government.

Issued in Chicago, Illinois on May 4, 1998.

**J. D. Greenwood,**

*Acquisition and Assistance Group Manager.*

[FR Doc. 98–12677 Filed 5–12–98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

**[Docket No. CP98–114–001]**

### K N Interstate Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Amendment to Application

May 7, 1998.

Take notice that on May 1, 1998, K N Interstate Gas Transmission Company (Applicant), P.O. Box 281304, Lakewood, Colorado 80228, filed a request in Docket No. CP98–114–001 to amend its application filed December 4, 1997, in Docket No. CP98–114–000. Applicant had filed in Docket No. CP98–114–000 pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.212 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act for authorization to construct and operate thirteen new delivery taps, under blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP83–140–000, *et al.*[1] Applicant's application to amend its request for authorization is on file with the Commission and open for public inspection.

Applicant proposed in Docket No. CP98–114–000 to construct thirteen new delivery taps located in Adams, Antelope, Buffalo, Custer, Pierce, and Sherman Counties, Nebraska and Kearny County, Kansas.[2] Pursuant to Rule 215 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, Applicant proposes to amend its application pending in Docket No. CP98–114–000 to delete from its request ten delivery tap facilities. Applicant has been advised that certain of the retail customers who initially requested service at the proposed taps described in Docket No. CP98–114–000 as Tap Nos. 1 through 6, 9 through 11, and 13 no longer desire natural gas service at the locations specified in that application.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said application should on or before May 14, 1998, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20426, a petition 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 petition to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the 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 application if no petition 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 petition for leave is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is require, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

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

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98–12663 Filed 5–12–98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717–01–M**

[1] *See,* 22 FERC ¶ 62,330 (1983).

[2] On January 26, 1998, the Kansas Corporation Commission filed a timely protest in Docket No. CP98–114–000. Since the protest was neither withdrawn nor resolved within the 30-day resolution period the prior notice request converted to a Section 7 proceeding.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

**[Docket No. CP–403–000]**

### NorAm Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Application for Abandonment

May 7, 1998.

Take notice that on April 29, 1998, NorAm Gas Transmission Company (NGT), 1111 Louisiana Street, Houston Texas 77210–4455 filed in Docket No. CP98–403–000, an application pursuant to Section 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's Regulations for an order permitting and approving the abandonment of certain pipeline facilities in Panola County, Texas, all as more fully set forth in the request which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.