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[FR Doc. 94-18610 Filed 7-29-94; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

Morgantown Energy Technology Center, Financial Assistance Award; (Solicitation Announcement)

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Morgantown Energy Technology Center.

ACTION: Solicitation available notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy is announcing its intent to issue solicitation number DE-SC21-94MC31173, for cooperative agreement proposals for work entitled "Industrial

Advanced Turbine Systems (ATS) Development and Demonstration.

Authority for this action is the DOE Organization Act, Public Law 95-91 and the DOE Financial Assistance Regulations 10 CFR 600. Multiple cooperative agreement awards are anticipated and will consist of a 3-phase effort having a total estimated period of performance of sixty (60) months. A determination will be made whether or not to continue funding during subsequent phases based upon successful accomplishments, completion of objectives, and available funding. DOE plans to make available funds totalling approximately \$99M over the project duration. For the purposes of this solicitation, an industrial gas turbine shall comprise those gas turbines with air inflow of the compressor of 15 to 55 kilograms per second at International Standards Organization (ISO) conditions. A minimum cost share requirement is 35 percent for the beginning phase and shall increase to 50 percent of cost share by the start of the last phase. The minimum overall cost share shall be 41 percent of the total estimated cost for the completion of all phases. In addition, the applicant must be in the business of final assembly, testing, and marketing of complete gas turbines.

DATES: The solicitation will be issued on or about August 2, 1994, with a proposal due date 60 days after issuance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly J. Harness, I-07, U.S. Department of Energy, Morgantown Energy Technology Center, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, West Virginia 26507-0880, Telephone: (304) 291-4089, Procurement Request No. 21-94MC31173.000

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The objective of this solicitation is to join the DOE with industry in research and development activities that will lead to commercial implementation of ATS. The successful offeror(s) will be tasked with (1) developing the core engine of the ATS including design, manufacture, and testing of full-scale engine components; (2) developing integrated subsystem components; (3) performing system testing and providing information for permitting; and (4) construction, installation, and testing of the full-scale ATS. A separate Federal Register notice will be issued for solicitation number DE-SC21-94MC31176 for research titled "Utility Advanced Turbine Systems (ATS) Technology Readiness Testing and Pre-Commercial Demonstration". Only written requests for the solicitation will be honored. The solicitation package

will be provided on electronic media utilizing Word Perfect Version 5.1.

Letters requesting the solicitation should be addressed to Beverly J. Harness at the address above and must identify the SCAP number, DE-SC21-94MC31173.

Randolph L. Kesling,

Acting Director, Acquisition and Assistance Division, Morgantown Energy Technology Center.

[FR Doc. 94-18668 Filed 7-29-94; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-62136; FRL-4744-1]

Advisory Regarding Availability of an Improved Asbestos Bulk Sample Analysis Test Method; Supplementary Information on Bulk Sample Collection and Analysis

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of advisory.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of an improved asbestos bulk sample analysis test method for use with bulk samples collected for identification of asbestos-containing materials under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) regulations and the asbestos National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP). Supplementary information on the collection of bulk samples and analysis of these samples by the improved method is also provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan B. Hazen, Director, Environmental Assistance Division (7408), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: (202-554-1404), TDD: 554-0551.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA recently developed an improved test method entitled "Method for the Determination of Asbestos in Bulk Building Materials" (EPA/600/R-93/116). Copies of the test method are available by telephoning the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) at (800)553-6847. The NTIS identifier for the test method is PB93-218576.

The test method provides clarifications and improvements to the 1982 EPA "Interim Method for the Determination of Asbestos in Bulk Insulation Samples" (as found in 40 CFR part 763 Appendix A to Subpart F). Specifically, use of the improved

method can provide more precise analytical results especially at low asbestos concentrations, enhanced analysis of floor tiles which may contain thin asbestos fibers below the limits of resolution of the polarized light microscope (PLM), and clearer instruction on the analysis of bulk materials, particularly where multiple layers are present.

The 1982 method is limited in that it does not provide guidance for analyzing materials that contain thin (<0.25 micrometers) asbestos fibers. As a consequence, floor tiles which were analyzed according to the 1982 method and for which negative results were reported may actually contain undetected asbestos. At this time EPA does not have data to support identification of other materials which may have thin fibers.

The improved method addresses the thin fiber limitation of the 1982 method by providing directions for using transmission electron microscopy (TEM). The test method includes improved procedures for reducing matrices so that fibers may be made available for microscopic analysis. The improved method also directs laboratories to analyze the individual strata or layers and report a single result for each layer. The 1982 method provided that the analytical result for a multi-layered sample with discrete strata be reported as one result across all layers. Because the 1982 method allowed the result to be reported as one number, multi-layered samples which may contain asbestos in a single layer may have been reported by laboratories as nonasbestos-containing. The improved method directs laboratories to analyze and report a result for individual layers. Thus, more than one result will be reported for multi-layered samples, and a multi-layered sample which previously was determined to be nonasbestos-containing may now have layers which will be classified as asbestos-containing based on the presence of asbestos in greater than 1 percent.

In light of the availability of the improved method, EPA recommends that local education agencies (LEAs) use the improved method in place of the 1982 procedures as found in 40 CFR part 763 Appendix A to Subpart F. EPA has made the determination that the improved method is more capable of producing accurate results than the 1982 protocol and thus serves as a preferred substitute method. Further, EPA recommends that LEAs which have PLM laboratory results indicating floor tiles to be nonasbestos-containing (asbestos present in less than or equal to

1 percent) reconsider whether these materials may have thin asbestos fibers. LEAs should also consider whether other materials sampled previously may contain multiple layers, whether each of these layers was analyzed separately, and whether results were reported separately by layer. (Note: For purposes of this analysis, drywall or gypsum board is considered a single-layered material.) LEAs are encouraged to determine from sampling and analysis records whether multi-layered systems were sampled and analyzed separately. (A system is an integrated group of building components which form a unit, i.e., a wall system composed of a browncoat layer as well as other plaster layers.) Although there is no modification of the AHERA requirements at this time and results obtained by following the 1982 protocol and the AHERA sampling rules meet the AHERA legal requirements, it may be prudent for LEAs to assume floor tiles and multi-layered materials with previously negative results to be asbestos-containing or resample and analyze them by the 1993 EPA Test Method.

This approach should be considered for the following circumstances: (1) Floor tiles which may contain thin fibers and which were analyzed under the 1982 PLM method and found not to be asbestos-containing; and (2) materials such as hard wall and acoustical plaster, stucco or other similar multi-layered materials or systems which were not analyzed and reported by layers (discrete strata). LEAs are reminded that they are also required to comply with the asbestos NESHAP regulation when disturbing asbestos-containing building materials. Although building owners/operators are not required by the asbestos NESHAP to collect bulk samples of building products prior to disturbance, they are responsible for knowing whether asbestos is contained in the building product. Often, identification of asbestos content may be obtained only by sampling and analyzing the material. EPA has provided guidance on how to sample and interpret analytical results for multi-layered samples for the asbestos NESHAP in the Federal Register notice of January 5, 1994 (59 FR 542). Before undertaking activities which might trigger asbestos NESHAP requirements, it is recommended that LEAs consider resampling multi-layered materials which have been found to be nonasbestos-containing for AHERA purposes or assume them to be asbestos-containing prior to disturbance according to the guidance in the January 5, 1994 notice.

this current notice, in the January 5, 1994 NESHAP Federal Register notice, and in the improved analytical method to avoid potential violation of the asbestos NESHAP.

All previous positive results (asbestos present in greater than 1 percent) are acceptable regardless of the EPA method by which they were sampled or analyzed. For AHERA and NESHAP purposes, materials may always be assumed to be asbestos-containing in lieu of sampling and analysis.

EPA is in the midst of preparing a guidance bulletin to assist LEAs in implementing the recommendations discussed in this notice. The guidance will be available in summer 1994. To obtain a single copy of the bulletin, you must send a written request for the "Asbestos Sampling Bulletin" and an 9 1/2 inch by 12 inch self-addressed and stamped envelope (at least \$0.75 in postage applied to the envelope) to: TSCA Assistance Information Service, Environmental Assistance Division (7408), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Requests for the bulletin that are not accompanied by the self-addressed and stamped envelope will not be honored. Multiple copies are not available. Copies will be distributed only in the previously described manner.

Dated: July 21, 1994.

Lynn R. Goldman,
Assistant Administrator, Office of Prevention,
Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

[FR Doc. 94-18665 Filed 7-29-94; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 5540-01-F

[FRL-5025-1]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), this notice announces the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) responses to Agency PRA clearance requests.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Sandy Farmer (202) 260-2740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Responses to Agency PRA
Clearance Requests

OMB Approvals

OMB has approved the following information collection activities under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.):