

Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMPs).

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the EFP application are available by writing to Sue Salvesson, Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn: Lori Gravel.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sue Salvesson, 907-586-7228.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FMPs and the implementing regulations at 50 CFR parts 679.6 and 600.745(b) authorize issuance of EFPs to allow fishing that would otherwise be prohibited. Procedures for issuing EFPs are contained in the implementing regulations.

NMFS received a joint application for an EFP from Mr. John Gauvin, Groundfish Forum Inc. and Mr. Trevor McCabe, At-Sea Processors Association. The purpose of the EFP would be to conduct limited testing of a device for the Pacific cod fisheries in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska that would lower Pacific halibut bycatch rates without significantly lowering catch rates of cod. The project would be conducted in coordination with gear development scientists at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NMFS, who would help the applicants select the most promising Pacific halibut excluder design for testing using criteria set out in the EFP application. Results from the EFP could be used by the groundfish trawl industry, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), and NMFS to develop fishing methods or effective regulatory measures to reduce halibut bycatch in the Pacific cod trawl fisheries.

In accordance with regulations, NMFS has determined that the proposal warrants further consideration and has initiated consultation with the Council by forwarding the application to the Council. The Council will consider the EFP application during its April 12 - 17, 2000, meeting, which will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK. The applicants have been invited to appear in support of the application if the applicant desires.

A copy of the application is available for review from NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**).

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 5, 2000.

**George H. Darcy,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 00-8943 Filed 4-10-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Air Force

#### Notice of Availability (NOA) of Record of Decision (ROD) on the Realistic Bomber Training Initiative (RBTI) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

On March 24, 2000, the United States Air Force signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the RBTI training proposal, and has selected Alternative B (Lancer Military Operations Area (MOA) and Instrument Route 178) for implementation. RBTI is designed to more effectively and efficiently train B-1 and B-52 aircrews assigned to Dyess and Barksdale Air Force Bases (AFBs). RBTI proposes linking existing military training routes (with minor modifications) to the proposed Lancer MOA, and an electronic scoring site system. RBTI will provide realistic combat training by providing sequenced training scenarios closely resembling combat situations that require every crewmember working together to successfully complete. Lastly, RBTI will also make more efficient use of limited flight hours by reducing low-value transit time to current training ranges.

Based on the analysis presented in the FEIS released in February, agency input, and public comments, the Air Force has selected the alternative that will best achieve their goal of balancing readiness training with environmental and community concerns. Where feasible, the Air Force developed mitigation measures and/or management actions to minimize the environmental impact and address concerns and comments of agencies and the public. Additionally, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was a cooperating agency in the preparation of the FEIS. The Air Force will continue to work with the FAA, other federal and state agencies, and local communities to solicit their inputs during and after the establishment of the RBTI.

Any questions regarding this matter should be directed to the Dyess AFB Public Affairs Office, 466 5th Street, Dyess AFB, TX 79607 or call 915-696-2861.

**Janet A. Long,**

*Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.*  
[FR Doc. 00-8863 Filed 4-10-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001-05-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Air Force

#### Notice of Intent To Grant Exclusive Patent Licenses

Pursuant to the provisions of Part 404 of Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs), which implements Public Law 96-517, the Department of the Air Force announces its intention to grant PDR, Inc., a company doing business in Foxboro, MA, exclusive licenses in any right, title and interest the Air Force has in U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/299,928 and 09/300,053, respectively. The first listed invention is entitled "Method and Apparatus for Depositing Thin Films of Group III Nitrides and Other Films and Devices Made Therefrom" with the second invention entitled "Process for the Manufacture of Group III Nitride Targets for Use in Sputtering and Similar Equipment." Each invention is related to making GaN films and products and both applications were filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 27, 1999.

Each license described above will be granted unless an objection thereto, together with a request for an opportunity to be heard, if desired, is received in writing by the addressee set forth below within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice. Information concerning the application may be obtained, on request, from the same addressee.

All communications concerning this Notice should be sent to Mr. Randy Heald, Associate General Counsel (Acquisition), SAF/GCQ, 1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 304, Arlington, VA 22209-2310. Mr. Heald can be reached at 703-588-5091 or by fax at 703-588-8037.

**Janet A. Long,**

*Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.*  
[FR Doc. 00-8864 Filed 4-10-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001-05-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

#### Notice of Availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL).

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy announces that it intends to conduct a competitive Program Solicitation (DE-PS26-00BC15304) and award financial assistance (cooperative agreements) for

the program entitled "Identification and Demonstration of Preferred Upstream Management Practices (PUMP) for the Oil Industry." The Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), on behalf of the National Petroleum Technology Office (NPTO), seeks cost-shared research and development applications for identification of preferred management practices (PMP) addressing a production barrier in a region and the documentation of these practices for use by the oil industry. The near-term goal is to increase current domestic oil production quickly.

Awards will be made to a limited number of applicants based on the economic and technical merit of the application, the integrated approach and technical understanding, the technical and management capabilities of the applicant organization(s), the planned technology transfer activities, and availability of DOE funding.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Keith R. Miles, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, Acquisition and Assistance Division, P.O. Box 10940, MS 921-143, Pittsburgh PA 15236-0940, Telephone: (412) 386-5984, FAX: (412) 386-6137, E-mail: miles@netl.doe.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Solicitation Number:* DE-PS26-00BC15304.

*Awards:* DOE anticipates issuing financial assistance (cooperative agreements) for each project selected. DOE reserves the right to support or not support, with or without discussions, any or all applications received in whole or in part, and to determine how many awards will be made. Subject to availability of funding, DOE expects to provide funds totaling \$4.8 million. The program seeks to sponsor projects for a single budget/project period of 24 months or less. Due to the low risk and near-term nature of the PUMP program and the potential for a process or technology demonstration, all applicants are required to cost share at a minimum of 50% of the project total. Details of the cost sharing requirement, and the specific funding levels are contained in the solicitation.

*Solicitation Release Date:* This Program Solicitation (available in both WordPerfect 6.1 and Portable Document Format (PDF)) is expected to be ready for release on or about April 15, 2000 and will be available from NETL's World Wide Web Server Internet System at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business>. Telephone requests, written requests, E-mail requests, or facsimile requests for a copy of the solicitation package will

not be accepted and/or honored. Applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions and forms contained in the solicitation. The actual solicitation document will allow for requests for explanation and/or interpretation.

*Background:* The National Petroleum Technology Office of the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy (FE) has authorized DOE's National Energy Technology Lab (NETL) to act on its behalf and solicit cost-shared applications for identification of preferred management practices (PMP) addressing a production barrier in a region and the documentation of these practices for use by the industry. The near-term goal is to increase current domestic oil production quickly.

The mission of the Department of Energy's Fossil Energy Oil Program is driven by the needs of the oil producers. The overall program is designed to develop unique technologies and processes to locate untapped resources; to extend the life of domestic energy resources; and to reduce well abandonment—all essential to maximizing the production of domestic resources while protecting our environment. The National Petroleum Technology Office's Preferred Upstream Management Practices (PUMP) program as a part of this overall goal is designed to facilitate production of existing oil reserves more quickly without sacrificing efficiency or environmental protection.

Based on prior successful results from demonstrations of under-utilized or advanced technology coupled with reservoir characterization, the DOE Oil Program seeks to demonstrate that the identification and use of PMP can overcome regional constraints to increased production. The program will accept proposals that combine the identification of preferred management practices (PMP) to overcome regional production constraints and aggressive technology transfer that will promote the use of those practices. Barriers can be identified as technical, physical, regulatory, environmental, or economic. The selected projects are expected to employ the following four (4) strategies in order to have a rapid impact on production: (1) focus on regions that present the biggest potential for additional oil production quickly, (2) integrate solutions to technological, economic, regulatory, and data constraints, (3) demonstrate the validity of these practices either through field demonstration during the project or documentation of well-run successful past demonstration, and (4) use known technology transfer mechanisms.

Using a regional approach where the projects will have a wide applicability, an integrated approach scheduling tasks along parallel paths to facilitate a quicker response, and operating with existing networks, the production results in the field should be accelerated. The documentation and evaluation of the PMP will be a valuable resource to all producers in the applicable area and possibly other regions as well.

This program expects near-term results and actions that will create data or technological resources suitable for long-term use. Teaming is encouraged and the proposal partners could include, but not be limited to, producers, producer organizations, universities, service companies, State agencies or organizations, non-Federal research laboratories, and Native American Tribes or Corporations. They will demonstrate practices and/or technologies that can increase production, increase cost savings, or rapid returns on the capital investments of the operators. New technologies/processes or under-used but effective applications of existing technologies/processes critical to a region will be demonstrated.

The DOE will make publicly available over the Internet the data on preferred practices resulting from this program. The resulting publicly available databases of the preferred practices will be interactive, Internet accessible, should include both technologies and practices, and address constraints in the exploration, production, or environmental areas.

Issued in Pittsburgh, PA on April 4, 2000.

**Dale A. Siciliano,**

*Deputy Director, Acquisition and Assistance Division.*

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**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP00-142-000]

#### Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

April 5, 2000.

Take notice that on March 29, 2000, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia), 12801 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-1046, filed a request with the Commission in Docket No. CP00-142-000, pursuant to section 157.205 and 157.21(b) of the