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provided by manufacturing extension centers.

Development of Environmentally Related Technical Assistance Tools and Techniques: to support the initial development and implementation of tools or techniques which will aide manufacturing extension organizations in providing environmentallyrelated services, and especially pollution prevention services, to smaller manufacturers and which also may be of direct use by the smaller manufacturers themselves. Specific industry sectors and categories of tools and techniques may be specified in solicitations.

Pilots for National Industry-Specific Pollution Prevention and Environmental Compliance Information Centers: to support the pilot implementation of national centers for specific industry sectors specified in solicitations. The centers will provide easy access to relevant, current, reliable and comprehensive information on innovative technologies, pollution prevention opportunities and regulatory compliance.

Integration projects are open to existing manufacturing extension affiliates of the NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

Projects for development of tools or techniques and national information centers are open to all nonprofit organizations including universities, community colleges, state governments, and independent nonprofit organizations.

Announcements of solicitations will be made in the Commerce Business Daily.

In accordance with the provisions of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(b)(1) and (c)(3) and 2781), as amended, NIST will provide assistance to integrate environmentally-related services and resources into the national manufacturing extension system. This assistance will be provided by NIST often in cooperation with other federal agencies such as the EPA. Under the NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), NIST will periodically make merit-based awards to existing MEP manufacturing extension affiliates for integration of environmental services into extension centers and to non-profit organizations for development of environmentallyrelated tools and techniques. In addition, NIST will initiate pilot centers providing environmental information for specific industrial sectors to be specified in solicitations. MEP assumes a broad definition of manufacturing, and recognizes a wide range of technology and concepts, including durable goods production; chemical, biotechnology, and other materials processing; electronic component and system fabrication; and engineering services associated with manufacturing, as lying within the definition of manufacturing.

Classification

This notice relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts is exempt from all requirements of section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2) including notice and opportunity for comment. Therefore, a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is not required and was not prepared for this notice for purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 603 and 604). The program is not a major Federal action requiring an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act. This notice does not contain policies with Federalism implications sufficient to warrant preparation of a Federalism assessment under Executive Order 12612. This notice contains collection of information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act which have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB Control Number 0693-0010, 0348-0043 and 0348-0044). Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 40 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the address shown above; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.

It has been determined that this rule is not significant for purposes of EO 12866.

List of Subjects in 15 CFR Part 291

Environmental projects, Environmental compliance assistance, Manufacturing extension, Pollution prevention assistance, Technical assistance.

Dated: January 13, 1995.

Samuel Kramer,

Associate Director.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 15 CFR part 291 is added as set forth below.

PART 291—MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP; ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Sec.

- 291.1 Program description.
- 291.2 Environmental integration projects.
- 291.3 Environmental tools and techniques projects.

- 291.4 National industry-specific pollution prevention and environmental compliance resource centers.
- 291.5 Proposal selection process.291.6 Additional requirements.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. § 272(b)(1) and (c)(3) and § 2781.

§291.1 Program description.

(a) In accordance with the provisions of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. § 272(b)(1) and (c)(3) and § 2781), as amended, NIST will provide financial assistance to integrate environmentallyrelated services and resources into the national manufacturing extension system. This assistance will be provided by NIST often in cooperation with the EPA. Under the NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), NIST will periodically make merit-based awards to existing MEP manufacturing extension affiliates for integration of environmental services into extension centers and to non-profit organizations for development of environmentallyrelated tools and techniques. In addition, NIST will initiate pilot centers providing environmental information for specific industrial sectors to be specified in solicitations. MEP assumes a broad definition of manufacturing, and recognizes a wide range of technology and concepts, including durable goods production; chemical, biotechnology, and other materials processing; electronic component and system fabrication; and engineering services associated with manufacturing, as lying within the definition of manufacturing.

(b) Announcements of solicitations. Announcements of solicitations will be made in the Commerce Business Daily. Specific information on the level of funding available and the deadline for proposals will be contained in that announcement. In addition, any specific industry sectors or types of tools and techniques to be focused on will be specified in the announcement.

(c) *Proposal workshops.* Prior to an announcement of solicitation, NIST may announce opportunities for potential applicants to learn about these projects through workshops. The time and place of the workshop(s) will be contained in a Commerce Business Daily announcement.

(d) *Indirect costs.* The total dollar amount of the indirect costs proposed in an application under this program must not exceed the indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by a cognizant Federal agency prior to the proposed effective date of the award or 100 percent of the total proposed direct costs dollar amount in the application, whichever is less.