

December 1, 1995.

The Honorable John T. Conway, Chairman,
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board,
Suite 700, 625 Indiana Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, DC 20004.

Dear Chairman Conway: This letter acknowledges receipt of your Recommendation 95-2 regarding Safety Management. The issues identified in the Recommendation are extensive and may have significant impact on many of our existing and developing programs and initiatives. Accordingly, the Department will require additional time to evaluate fully these cross-cutting issues and their impact from both a headquarters and field perspective.

In accordance with 42 U.S.C. 2286d, the Department requests an additional 45 days to respond to Recommendation 95-2. If a 45 day extension is granted, the Department will respond to the Board by January 17, 1996.

Sincerely,

Hazel R. O'Leary

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BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

Privatization of Isotope Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice for Expressions of Interest.

SUMMARY: Expressions of Interest are sought concerning the possible privatization of DOE isotope activities such as selling or leasing existing DOE facilities for commercial use; sale of existing isotope inventory; isotope marketing, distribution, or technical services; and other innovative arrangements for enhanced private sector involvement in isotope operations.

DATES: This notice is effective on the date of publication and will remain effective until February 23, 1996. Responses may be submitted at any time prior to February 23, 1996. An information meeting addressing this notice will be held at the DOE facility in Germantown, Maryland, from 9:00 a.m. until noon on January 10, 1996. Information packages distributed during the January 10, 1996, meeting will be made available to interested parties after January 11, 1996. Submit requests to the programmatic information contact listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for programmatic information should be directed to: Mr. Owen W. Lowe, U.S. Department of Energy, Isotope Production and Distribution, NE-70 (GTN), 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874, (301) 903-5161.

Expressions of Interest (original plus five copies), citing this notice, should be

postmarked by February 23, 1996, and mailed to: U.S. Department of Energy, Document Control Specialist, HR-562, Headquarters Procurement Operations, 1615 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Purpose

II. Areas of DOE Interest

III. Expressions of Interest Format

I. Purpose

The DOE Isotope Program has a twofold mission. First, the Isotope Program produces and distributes certain radioisotopes and enriched stable isotopes for research or development purposes. Prices for these isotopes are set at a level designed to balance cost recovery with the national priority of meeting U.S. research needs and supporting our health care system. Second, other radioisotopes and enriched stable isotopes are produced and distributed for medical diagnostics and therapeutics, industrial, agricultural, and other useful applications on a cost-recovery basis.

The DOE Isotope Program currently produces isotopes at six locations in the United States. The isotope products and related services from these sites are provided only where: a) there is no existing domestic, private sector capability; b) unique Government facilities are needed to provide such a capacity; or c) other productive capacity is insufficient to meet pressing national needs. While continuing to assure that a reliable supply exists, DOE is encouraging privatization of DOE Isotope Program activities in order to fulfill the DOE Isotope Program's missions at a reduced cost to isotope customers and the Nation's taxpayers by greater involvement of the private sector. This notice is not intended to be a solicitation for proposals. Instead, it is an attempt to obtain information and to identify interested private sector participants in the possible privatization of some or all DOE isotope activities. Activities that fall under the scope of this notice include, but are not limited to, selling or leasing existing DOE facilities for commercial use; sale of existing isotope inventory; isotope marketing, distribution, or technical services; and other innovative arrangements for private sector isotope operations. Depending on the nature of the responses and subsequent determinations by DOE, a formal solicitation for competitive proposals may be published in the future, and awards may be made based upon an evaluation of proposals received pursuant to the evaluation criteria as stated in the solicitation.

II. Areas of DOE Interest

DOE is seeking to encourage innovative Expressions of Interest for privatization. Expressions of Interest should be structured to address:

1. The development or deployment of isotope production, distribution, and services in terms of:

a. A significant decrease over the cost of current methods through a substantial reduction in the cost of manufacturing by use of more efficient methods or technology.

b. Feasibility of approach consistent with proposed cost. The Expression of Interest must demonstrate a knowledgeable approach and an appreciation of risks.

2. Probability of success: Clarity of objectives and quality of approach. The approach should be based on well-defined objectives, milestones, and deliverables. The approach should contain a reasonable and practical plan for providing the maximum private sector participation on a financial and managerial basis and at the least cost to the Government.

3. The appropriateness of the facilities and techniques. The need for (and availability of) facilities, equipment, design and manufacturing tools; technical, financial, and administrative resources; and the protection of intellectual property.

III. Expression of Interest Format

The length of the Expression of Interest should not be more than 15 pages (double spaced) using a 12-point type font. It is left to the responder to determine how best to use the 15 pages, however, it would facilitate review if the Expression of Interest was divided into the following sections:

Section 1—Summary

Section 2—Comments on privatization of some or all DOE isotope activities

Section 3—Additional comments and recommendations

Proprietary Information

If the Expression of Interest contains information that is privileged or confidential and that the respondent does not want disclosed to the public or used by the Government for any purpose other than this notice, the respondent should place the following notice on the Expression of Interest.

Notice: The data contained in pages _____ of this Expression of Interest has been submitted in confidence and contains trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is confidential or privileged, and such data should be used or disclosed only for purposes of consideration of this