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technical bulletin

Municipal Technical Advisory Service
Institute for Public Service, The University of Tennessee
In cooperation with the Tennessee Municipal League

January 10, 1978

DOE TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS FOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF SMALL HYDROELECTRIC SITES

The Department of Energy (DOE) has launched a \$2.5 million program to determine the feasibility of installing or developing hydroelectric generating facilities at a variety of small dam sites throughout the country.

DOE expects to award approximately 50 contracts for assessment studies under what is called a Program Research and Development Announcement (PRDA ET-78-D-07-1706). Individuals, privately owned firms, institutions, and state and local agencies are eligible to apply for the awards.

Proposals must involve an existing dam site and may include enlargement or rehabilitation of the site, reactivating a site that has fallen into disuse, or construction of hydropower facilities at an existing non-hydropower dam. The feasibility studies should take no more than six months to complete.

Small, "low head" dams are defined as those less than 65 feet in height that have the potential to generate less than 15 megawatts of electricity. According to a recent study done by the Army Corps of Engineers, these small dam sites could supply an additional 54,000 megawatts of power to the U.S. energy supply.

DOE's Division of Geothermal Energy has been appropriated \$10 million in Fiscal Year 1978 to be used for research, development, and demonstration of low head hydroelectric power.

This PRDA for feasibility studies is the first of a planned series of solicitations that should lead to cost-sharing demonstration projects at dam sites across the country.

Information on, and copies of the PRDA for feasibility studies may be obtained by writing C.A. Benson, Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, 550 Second Street, Idaho Falls, ID 83401.

Deadline for submission of proposals is February 22, 1978. Final contract awards are expected to be made in April.

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