

Bids sought for river corridor closure

The draft request for proposals for a Department of Energy “Phased Closure Contract” to accelerate restoration work along the Columbia River is now available. The DOE Richland Operations Office announced its availability on the Federal Business Opportunities Web site at <http://www.fedbizopps.gov/>.

“This is a critical step in our strategy to accelerate cleanup along the river and dramatically shrink the Hanford Site operational area by 2012,” said Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham. “This action also demonstrates that Hanford has risen to the challenge of getting the job of cleanup done sooner and in a more cost-effective manner — which is good for the environment, good for the community and good for taxpayers.”

The draft RFP includes several unique features:

- It pays significant fees with the potential for substantially more work, commensurate with the assumption of risks and superior performance.
- It makes the workscope, including business risks, as clear as possible.
- It takes steps to make doing work at Hanford easier and more predictable.
- It incorporates the opportunity and time for bidders to fully understand what they’re getting into.
- Rather than seeking specific DOE experience, it includes selection criteria that emphasize project-management skills, key personnel, planned corporate involvement in the project and contractor assumption of risk.
- It reduces the need for personnel with Hanford river-corridor cleanup experience in bid preparation.
- In order to attract bidders who may not be involved in Hanford cleanup or other DOE business but have successful experience with other agencies or Superfund cleanups, it actively seeks ideas on how to better use commercial “best practices.”

The work associated with the Columbia River Corridor Closure Contract includes interim safe storage or “cocooning” of six former plutonium production reactors, demolition of associated reactor structures, remediation of waste sites and demolition of aging buildings in Hanford’s 100 and 300 Areas.

A copy of the draft RFP along with associated questions and answers is available at <http://www.hanford.gov/procure/solicit/rcc/> and in the Hanford Reading Room at <http://reading-room.pnl.gov/>. DOE-RL is inviting comments on the draft RFP through Nov. 14, and intends to issue the final RFP on Jan. 23. A contract is to be awarded no later than Oct. 1, 2002. ♦