

**Financial Assistance
Notice of Funding Opportunity
Part 1**



U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* ENERGY

Department of Energy (DOE)

Office of Nuclear Energy

Staff Support to Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation

Committee for Engagement with the United States (U.S.)

Department of Energy on Radioactive Materials

Transportation Planning

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: DE-FOA-0003618

Application due: September 30, 2026, 5:00pm EST

Table of Contents

BEFORE YOU BEGIN	4
A. Navigating the Notice of Funding Opportunity	4
I. BASIC INFORMATION	5
A. Key Facts	5
1. Funding Details	6
1. Period of Performance	6
B. Executive Summary	6
C. Agency Contact Information	7
II. ELIGIBILITY	7
A. Eligible Applicants	7
1. Domestic Entities	7
2. Foreign Entity Participation	8
3. Performance of Work in the United States	8
4. Ineligible Participants	8
B. Limitation on Number of Concept Papers and Applications Eligible for Review	9
C. Cost Sharing	9
1. Cost Share Requirements	9
D. FFRDC Eligibility Criteria	9
1. DOE and Non-DOE FFRDCs as a Subrecipient	9
III. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	10
A. Background	10
B. Program Purpose	11
C. Program Goals and Objectives	11
D. Expected Performance Goals	14
E. Topic Areas	15
F. Applications Specifically Not of Interest	15
G. Statutory Authority	15
IV. APPLICATION CONTENT AND FORM	16
A. Use and Disclosure of Application Information	16
B. Summary	16
C. Application Content Requirements	16
1. Covered Individual Definition, Designation, and Responsibility	17
2. Summary of Application Requirements	17
3. Impacted Indian Tribes Documentation	19
4. Biographical Sketch	22
5. Current and Pending (Other) Support	24
6. Project Management Plan	25
D. Additional Requirements	27
1. Buy America Preference for Infrastructure Projects	28
V. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES	28
A. Submission Date and Times	28
B. Intergovernmental Review	28

VI. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION.....	28
A. Standards for Application Evaluation	29
B. Responsiveness Review.....	29
C. Review Criteria.....	29
1. Compliance Criteria.....	29
2. Technical Review Criteria	29
D. Other Selection Factors	31
VII. SELECTION AND AWARD NOTICES.....	31
VIII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION.....	31
A. Post-Award Requirements and Administration	31
1. Government Rights in Data	32
IX. OTHER INFORMATION.....	33
A. Acronyms	33

Before You Begin

A. Navigating the Notice of Funding Opportunity

To reduce the burden on applicants in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process and limit the length of the NOFO information requests, we separated the NOFO into two parts.

The NOFO Part 1 describes the DOE program goals and evaluation criteria, eligibility, and other components specific to each funding opportunity. NOFO Part 2 includes the fixed DOE requirements that generally do not change from NOFO to NOFO, including standard information for the application phase, expectations for award negotiations, and post-award requirements. You must review both parts before applying. To assist you in the process, you will find references throughout this document to additional information in Part 2.

You must also take several one-time actions before applying. Some of these actions may take several weeks, so be sure to allow yourself enough time to complete them. If you don't complete all required steps, it could interfere with application and negotiation deadlines or your ability to receive an award if selected. If you already completed these one-time registrations, make sure they are active and up to date. All registrations are free. You can find additional information about registration in [NOFO Part 2, *Get Registered*](#).

Hyperlinks are provided for the applicant's ease of reference. Links, and the information contained in them, may change over time. It is up to an individual applicant to make sure that they have the current information that is contained in the links.

This announcement is published with NOFO Part 2 Version 4.0 April 2026.

I. Basic Information

A. Key Facts

Issuing Agency	Department of Energy, Office of Nuclear Energy (NE)
Funding Opportunity Title	Staff Support to Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (TRMTC) for Engagement with the U.S. Department of Energy on Radioactive Materials Transportation Planning
Announcement Version	This is an original announcement, and DOE will only accept new applications under this initial announcement
Funding Opportunity Number	DE-FOA-0003618
Funding Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
Expected Total Available Funding	Up to \$2 Million may be available under this NOFO, subject to the availability of future appropriations. DOE anticipates making one (1) from this NOFO. Funding for this award is valued up to \$2 Million for the 5-year period of fiscal years (FYs) 2027 through 2031. Funding will be up to \$400,000.00 per year for the 5-year period of fiscal years (FYs) 2027 through 2031
Assistance Listing Number and Name	81.121
Announcement Type	Initial Funding Opportunity Announcement
Funding Opportunity Description	Staff Support to Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee for Engagement with the U.S. Department of Energy on Radioactive Materials Transportation Planning
Program Goals & Objectives	Facilitate engagement between DOE and Tribal committees throughout the United States in planning for Departmental radioactive materials shipments, both ongoing and for future large-scale DOE transportation of commercial used nuclear fuel (UNF), high-level radioactive waste (HLW), and other radioactive materials, and related DOE program issues that may impact Tribal areas.
Topic Areas	There is one (1) topic area, and DOE anticipates awarding one (1) Cooperative Agreement. Topic Area 1: TRMTC

KEY DATES

All deadlines are 5:00 p.m. ET unless indicated otherwise

Notice of Funding Opportunity Issue Date:
August 31, 2026

Application Deadline:
September 30, 2026

Anticipated Selection Notification Date:
October 22, 2026

Anticipated Award Date: November 1, 2026

Estimated Period of Performance:
November 1, 2026 – September 30, 2031

Eligible Applicants	Domestic Entities (Institutes of higher education; for-profit entities; non-profit entities; state and local government entities and Indian Tribes) are eligible to apply as prime applicants and subrecipients. Foreign entities may be eligible to apply as prime applicants and subrecipients (subject to waiver approval). FFRDCs may be eligible to apply as subrecipients but may not apply as prime applicants (subject to Contracting Officer approval).
NOFO URL and Email	Regional_State_Tribal_Groups@id.doe.gov
Grants.gov	Registration Link: https://grants.gov HELP: Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. You can call 1-800-518-4776 or email support@grants.gov . It is advised you retain your ticket number.

1. Funding Details

Single Topic Area

- Approximate total available funding: up to \$2,000,000.00
- Approximate number of awards: 1 award
- Approximate dollar amount of individual awards: \$1,800,000.00 - \$2,000,000.00
- Approximate award project period: 60 Months
- Anticipated length of budget periods: 12 Months

1. Period of Performance

We anticipate making awards under multiple budget periods. If applicable, project continuation will depend on available funding and our Go/No-Go decision which will be made at the conclusion of a budget period. You can find a complete list of post-award requirements and more information on the Go/No-Go review in **NOFO Part 2, Award Administration Information**. Funding for all budget periods, including the initial budget period, is not guaranteed. DOE reserves the right to make more awards, or no awards at all, depending on funding availability and/or the quality of the applications.

B. Executive Summary

The purpose of this Cooperative Agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Recipient is to facilitate engagement among Tribal government officials from federally recognized Tribes with DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy, Office of Storage and Transportation (DOE-S&T), and DOE's Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM), Office of Packaging

and Transportation (DOE-OPT) for planning and coordination for Departmental radioactive materials shipments, both ongoing DOE shipments of radioactive wastes and materials and for future large-scale DOE transportation of commercial used nuclear fuel (UNF)¹, high-level radioactive waste (HLW), and other radioactive materials. This facilitation is an essential component of developing and implementing a successful large-scale UNF transportation program that is safe, secure, and merits public trust and confidence.

C. Agency Contact Information

For questions relating to this NOFO, email us at Regional_State_Tribal_Groups@id.doe.gov.

II. Eligibility

To be considered, your submission must meet the criteria set forth below. If your application does not meet these eligibility requirements, it will be removed from consideration for any award. DOE will not determine eligibility for potential applicants before the application due date. The information in this document is specific to this NOFO. You can find the eligibility requirements that apply to all NOFOs in **NOFO Part 2, Eligibility**.

A. Eligible Applicants

1. Domestic Entities

- The following types of domestic entities are eligible to participate as a recipient or subrecipient of this NOFO: Institutions of higher education (as defined in [Title 20 U.S.C. § 1001](#))
- For-profit organizations
- Nonprofit organizations
- State and local government entities
- Indian Tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, 25 U.S.C. § 5304)²

To qualify as a domestic entity, the entity must be:

- Organized, chartered, or incorporated (or otherwise formed) under the laws of a state or territory of the United States or under the laws of the United States

¹ The term “used nuclear fuel” is intended to be synonymous with the term “spent nuclear fuel” as used and defined in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended, and the Standard Contract for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and/or High-Level Radioactive Waste (10 C.F.R. Part 961).

² “Indian Tribe,” as defined in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act ([25 U.S.C. § 5304](#)), means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established according to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act ([85 Stat. 688](#)) [[43 U.S.C. § 1601, et seq.](#)], is eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

- Have majority domestic ownership and control
- Have a physical place of business in the United States

Participant Limitations

Participation of the following entities is limited as follows:

- Provided there is no conflict, DOE FFRDCs³ are eligible to apply for funding as a subrecipient but are not eligible to apply as a recipient.
- Non-DOE FFRDCs are eligible to participate as a subrecipient but are not eligible to apply as a recipient
- Federal agencies and instrumentalities (other than DOE) are eligible to participate as a subrecipient but are not eligible to apply as a recipient
- NETL is eligible to apply as a subrecipient

2. Foreign Entity Participation

In general, foreign entities are not eligible to apply as either a recipient or subrecipient. In limited circumstances, we may approve a waiver to allow a foreign entity to participate as a recipient or subrecipient.

A foreign entity may apply to this NOFO, but the application must be accompanied by an explicit written waiver request. Likewise, if you want to include a foreign entity as a subrecipient, you must submit a separate explicit written waiver request in your application for each proposed foreign subrecipient. *NOFO Part 2, Application Content Requirements*, explains the requirements for submitting a foreign entity waiver request. DOE's determination of a waiver request is final and you cannot appeal an adverse decision on a waiver request.

3. Performance of Work in the United States

All work for the awards under this NOFO must be performed in the United States. To request a waiver of this requirement, you must submit an explicit waiver request in the application. Without an approved waiver, such costs will not be allowed under the award. *NOFO Part 2, Application Content Requirements*, lists the requirements for submitting a foreign work waiver request.

4. Ineligible Participants

The following entities are ineligible for this NOFO as a recipient, subrecipient, or subcontractor:

- In accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.214, Entities banned from doing business with the U.S. Government, such as entities debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participating in Federal programs (2 C.F.R. § 200.214)

³ FFRDCs are federally funded research and development centers that conduct research for the U.S. Government. You can find a list of FFRDCs at <https://nces.nsf.gov/resource/master-gov-lists-ffrdc>.

- Entities identified on the Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control Treasury's Sanctions Program Specially Designated Nationals list. ([OFAC – Sanctions List Service \[treas.gov\]](#))
- Nonprofit organizations described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that engaged in lobbying activities after December 31, 1995

Entity of Concern Prohibition

Entities of Concern are prohibited from participating in projects under this NOFO. You can find details and definitions in [NOFO Part 2, Eligibility, Other Eligibility Information, Entity of Concern Prohibition](#).

B. Limitation on Number of Concept Papers and Applications Eligible for Review

You can submit only one application to this NOFO.

C. Cost Sharing

You must follow through on the estimated cost share commitments you proposed in your application if selected for award negotiations. You can find more information on cost sharing in [NOFO Part 2, Eligibility](#).

1. Cost Share Requirements

Cost sharing is not required under this NOFO. Cost sharing is not required for this NOFO. If an applicant chooses to offer voluntary cost share, and such cost share is incorporated into the negotiated award, it becomes a binding commitment.

D. FFRDC Eligibility Criteria**1. DOE and Non-DOE FFRDCs as a Subrecipient**

As long as no conflict exists, DOE and non-DOE FFRDCs may be proposed as subrecipients on another entity's application subject to the following guidelines.

Authorization for non-DOE FFRDCs

The Federal agency sponsoring the FFRDC must authorize in writing the FFRDC's participation on the proposed project, and you must submit this authorization with the application. The FFRDC's use must be consistent with its authority under its award.

Authorization for DOE FFRDCs

The Cognizant Contracting Officer for the FFRDC must authorize in writing the FFRDC's participation on the proposed project, and you must submit this authorization prior to any award. The FFRDC's use must be consistent with the contractor's authority under its award.

Funding and Subaward with FFRDCs

The recipient and FFRDC must enter into an appropriate sub-award agreement that will govern, among other things, how the recipient funds the FFRDC portion of the work under its

DOE award. This agreement must be fully executed before the FFRDC starts work directly related to the financial assistance award. The DOE funding office will fund the [DOE FFRDC or non-DOE FFRDC](#) participating as a sub-awardee under the DOE financial assistance award to the recipient.

You should prepare the budgets in your application using rates that would fund the FFRDCs through sub-awards. Your cost share requirement will be based on the total cost of the project, including the applicant's, all subrecipient's, and all FFRDC's portions of the project.

Responsibility

The recipient is the responsible authority for settling and satisfying all contractual and administrative issues, including but not limited to disputes and claims arising out of any agreement between the recipient and the FFRDC.

Limit on FFRDC Effort

The FFRDC's scope of work should not be more significant than the applicant's scope of work.

III. Program Description

A. Background

The Office of Nuclear Energy is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

The DOE is conducting activities in preparation for an integrated management approach to the backend of the fuel cycle and disposition of commercial UNF and certain radioactive wastes and to continue addressing the Cold War environmental legacy resulting from decades of nuclear weapons production and government-sponsored nuclear energy research and managing the remaining nuclear materials, including transportation. These activities include, but are not limited to, site preparation activities at nuclear power plant sites, evaluation of regional transport considerations, and transportation coordination efforts as part of an integrated waste management system. The working relationship between DOE-S&T, EM's Office of Packaging and Transportation (DOE-OPT), and the Tribes under this Cooperative Agreement will be based on cooperation and consultation and will build on the successful collaborations among Tribes, States, and DOE on other shipping campaigns.

The Statement of Objectives (SOO) (Attachment 1) outlines activities to be conducted by the Recipient to assist DOE-S&T in preparing for, and if applicable, implementing an integrated waste management program and DOE-OPT in facilitating communication and training with the Tribal stakeholders. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- evaluation of transportation infrastructure and site preparation activities around nuclear reactor and UNF storage sites;
- efforts to complete the policy and procedures for a DOE emergency response training and technical assistance funding program for UNF shipments;

- addressing outstanding questions related to a rail, highway, or waterway based UNF transportation system;
- developing a framework for DOE rail, highway, and waterway safety inspections;
- information sharing on DOE development of specialty railcars;
- assisting in developing general plans and procedures for DOE UNF shipping campaigns, including providing regional or tribal specific data and information;
- supporting Tribal participation in meetings and technical conferences including DOE's Annual NTSF Meeting, as appropriate;
- hosting the NTSF annual meeting on rotation with the State Regional Groups;
- providing travel support to training and meetings; and
- other activities specific to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended and/or management of commercial UNF by DOE.

B. Program Purpose

The purpose of this Cooperative Agreement between DOE and the Recipient is to facilitate engagement between the TRMTC, and the Federally recognized Tribes that are members of TRMTC, and DOE-S&T and DOE-OPT for planning and coordination for Departmental radioactive materials shipments, both ongoing DOE shipments of radioactive wastes and materials and for future large-scale DOE transportation of commercial used nuclear fuel (UNF), high-level radioactive waste (HLW), and other radioactive materials.

This facilitation is an essential component of developing and implementing a successful large-scale UNF transportation program that is safe, secure, and that merits public trust and confidence.

The Recipient shall complete the tasks and deliverables as described in the SOO for the Tribal areas and engagement with Tribal committees and leaders located throughout the United States.

C. Program Goals and Objectives

The Statement of Objectives (SOO) is divided into two parts. The first part consists of Principal Program Tasks and Principal Deliverables which will be conducted throughout the performance period of the Cooperative Agreement and are described below. DOE-S&T considers the Principal Program Tasks and Principal Deliverables to be priorities and are consistent across all DOE-S&T Cooperative Agreement Recipients. The second part comprises Supplemental Program Tasks that may be proposed each year by the Recipient and entail specific objectives, work products, and schedules of activities to be conducted during the ensuing funding year. Supplemental Program Tasks will be proposed by the Recipient to DOE-S&T for approval prior to the start of each Federal fiscal year in the performance period. Activities proposed as Supplemental Program Tasks should be consistent with DOE S&T's current program direction,

planning and analysis activities, and other DOE policies, and include initiatives intended to meet informational, technical, and other needs of participating State representatives in the region within the overall scope of the SOO.

1. PRINCIPAL PROGRAM TASKS

A. Tribal Engagement

1. Recipient will provide primary staff support to TRMTC in accordance with their Administrative Guidance and Responsibilities document (appendix, attachment provided with FOA package), identify topics and issues of interest to TRMTC members related to DOE transport of UNF, HLW, and other radioactive materials, lead or support TRMTC's strategic planning, support interfacing between TRMTC and other State Regional Group committees similarly engaged with DOES&T and DOE-OPT, and communicate directly with DOE-S&T and DOE-OPT staff on related topics.
2. Recipient will convene two TRMTC committee meetings each year, with additional conference calls and/or web-meetings, as needed.
 - a. It is expected that one meeting each year will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of DOE's National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF)
 - b. Recipient will provide logistical support for each TRMTC meeting/call including, in consultation with TRMTC members and TRMTC Executive Committee, preparation of agendas and briefing materials; assembling meeting handouts and presentations; staffing meeting operations; sending follow-up materials including meeting summaries; and preparing reports of actions to be taken or decisions made, when warranted.
3. Recipient will work with and assist TRMTC as they host one of the NTSF annual meetings every five (5) years.
4. Recipient will participate in, and recruit TRMTC representatives to participate in, DOE-S&T and DOE-OPT efforts to identify, evaluate, and prioritize public policy issues regarding development of the transportation system to support shipments of UNF, HLW and other radioactive materials.
5. Recipient will work to increase TRMTC member participation in meetings of the four SRGs to improve Tribal-State relations.
6. Recipient will work with DOE-OPT to create and maintain lists of Tribal contacts to support DOE Order 460.2B, Departmental Materials Transportation Management.

B. Shipment Planning and Preparedness

1. Recipient will participate in, and recruit Tribal representatives to participate in, ad hoc working groups to address policy issues and planning activities related to DOE's program activities, such as the NTSF Section 180(c) Ad Hoc Working Group, and others. This includes both in-person and/or virtual meetings for the purpose of revising training modules.
2. Recipient will coordinate participation of a few TRMTC members in DOE-S&T's Transportation Core Group, including attendance at in-person and/or virtual meetings for the purpose of discussing DOE-S&T program progress, future plans, and other outstanding issues.
3. Recipient will support the assessment of routing and infrastructure issues related to transporting UNF, HLW, and other radioactive materials in proximity to Tribal lands, including rail, highway, bridges, and port facilities, by facilitating connections between DOE-S&T and DOE-OPT staff and appropriate participating Tribal government points of contact.
4. As needed, Recipient will participate in and/or recruit Tribal representatives to participate in DOE-S&T site visits to nuclear power plant sites in their region.

C. Communications and Work Products

1. Recipient will, in consultation with TRMTC members, assist DOE-S&T in developing and distributing public information and communication materials associated with the transportation of UNF and HLW.
2. Recipient will, in consultation with TRMTC members, coordinate Tribal review and comment of DOE-S&T documents, web-materials, information products, DOE Orders, and other activities, as requested by DOE-S&T & DOE-OPT.
3. Recipient will maintain a website for the purpose of providing relevant information to TRMTC representatives, and other stakeholders.
4. Recipient will collaborate with the SRGs to collectively and strategically address issues impacting both Tribes and States.
5. Recipient will coordinate with DOE-S&T program staff to schedule quarterly conference calls/meetings to review the status and progress of activities under the Cooperative Agreement, and emerging issues relevant to the program. DOE-OPT staff along with two TRMTC Executive Committee representatives will participate in these quarterly calls.
6. Recipient will work with the Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program Ad Hoc Working Group to include Tribal input on training products.

D. Other

1. As requested by participating Tribes, Recipient will enter into financial assistance agreements to support participating Tribal engagement in activities, including but not limited to training and exercises.

D. Expected Performance Goals

Required performances and deliverables:

A. TRMTC Committee Operations

1. Within 30 days from the start of the performance period, the Recipient will provide DOE-S&T and DOE-OPT with a list of current TRMTC member with contact information, to include elected officials of participating Tribal governments (or their designated employees with authority to act on their behalf) acting in their official capacity capacities through the Cooperative Agreement to engage with DOE-S&T and DOE-OPT on the topics covered in the SOO.
 - a. The Recipient will provide DOE-S&T and DOE-OPT with updated contact information within 30 days of any change in TRMTC representatives.
2. Within 45 days of each semi-annual committee meeting, Recipient will prepare meeting summaries, which include action items and/or agreements made, and send a copy, or public web-link to the DOE-S&T and DOE-OPT Program Managers.
3. Within 30 days from the end of each quarter of each Federal fiscal year, the Recipient will submit a quarterly progress report on the status of the implementation of the Cooperative Agreement. Quarterly reports will follow the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist and Instructions (examples of appropriate formats can be provided). The Recipient will submit periodic financial reports as specified in the Administrative and National Policy Requirements section of the Cooperative Agreement.

B. Feedback on Support Services

1. Every Federal fiscal year, the Recipient shall obtain, in a manner to be determined by the Recipient, and provide to DOE-S&T and DOE-OPT independent feedback from TRMTC members. This feedback should focus on the type and quality of support services provided to the Tribal representatives by the Recipient. The Recipient shall convey this information to DOE-S&T and DOE-OPT in a written report that summarizes the views expressed by each member Tribe and demonstrates the extent to which the Recipient is meeting Tribal information and communication needs, is knowledgeable about the issues that are most important to the TRMTC members, is providing suitable support to help Tribal representatives understand or address key issues, and is otherwise adequately facilitating engagement between Tribal representatives and DOE.

C. Communication and Work Products

1. Recipient will maintain a public website for TRMTC, with designs, marketing, branding, and content development determined in consultation with TRMTC members.
2. Recipient will provide DOE-S&T and DOE-OPT with electronic copies of reports, policy papers, technical papers, official letters, web-materials, training materials, presentations, and public communication materials produced under this Cooperative Agreement.

SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM TASKS

Supplemental program tasks may be proposed each year by the Recipient after consultation with TRMTC members, and entail specific objectives, work products, and schedules of activities to be conducted during the ensuing funding year. Supplemental Program Tasks will be proposed to DOE-S&T and DOE-OPT for approval at least 60 days prior to the start of each Federal fiscal year in the performance period (functionally, this will be part of the annual continuation award renewal process). Activities proposed as Supplemental Program Tasks should focus on initiatives that meet informational, technical, and other needs of Tribal representatives that are directly related to the purpose of the Cooperative Agreement.

SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM DELIVERABLES

Will be determined annually and correspond to the DOE-S&T/DOE-OPT-approved Supplemental Program Tasks proposed by the Recipient.

E. Topic Areas

Topic Area 1: TRMTC

F. Applications Specifically Not of Interest

DOE will not review or consider the following types of applications as determined by DOE without appeal (also refer to the [Responsiveness Review](#) section below):

- Applications that fall outside the technical parameters specified in [Background and Context](#) and [Topic Areas](#)
- Applications for proposed technologies that are not based on sound scientific principles (e.g., violates the laws of thermodynamics)
- Project concepts or approaches not based on established scientific principles.

G. Statutory Authority

The programmatic authorizing statutes are the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, including 42 U.S.C. §§ 2011, 2013-2014, 2073-2075, 2111, 2201; the Department of Energy Organization Act of 1977, as amended, including 42 U.S.C. § 7256.

Funding for the cooperative agreement awarded under this FOA is subject to Congressional appropriations in P.L. 119-74 (2026). The cooperative agreement will be awarded in accordance with Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200 (2 CFR Part 200) and Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 910 (2 CFR Part 910).

Awards made under this announcement are subject to the OMB Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance (e.g., 2 C.F.R. Part 200) as adopted and DOE's Financial Assistance Regulations, 2 C.F.R. Part 910.

IV. Application Content and Form

This section includes application information specific to this NOFO. Refer to **NOFO Part 2, *Application Content and Form***, for standard information that applies to all DOE NOFOs, such as formatting and content requirements and other requirements.

A. Use and Disclosure of Application Information

In addition to the information provided in **NOFO Part 2, *Use and Disclosure of Application Information***, for compliance with implementation of Presidential Memorandum Simplifying the Funding of Energy Infrastructure and Critical Mineral and Material Projects, the Department of Energy may share and use within the Government any application information provided by or on behalf of the applicant. Accordingly, in accordance with applicable law and notwithstanding any other provisions herein, by submitting an application or agreeing to a financial assistance arrangement with the Department of Energy under this NOFO, the applicant is providing consent for any properly marked trade secret, confidential, proprietary, privileged or otherwise sensitive application information provided by or on behalf of the applicant to be disclosed to the Executive Office of the President and relevant Agencies offering loans, grants, equity, guarantees or other Federal funding, for the purposes of the Presidential Memorandum on Simplifying the Funding of Energy Infrastructure and Critical Mineral and Material Project.

B. Summary

The application process includes submission of an application and replying to reviewer comments.

Application Submission Phase	Eligibility for Submission
Application	Must be submitted by the specified due date and time to be eligible for comprehensive merit review.
Replies to Reviewer Comments	Must be submitted by the specified due date and time to be considered

C. Application Content Requirements

Each application must be limited to a single concept. Applications must conform to the following requirements and must not exceed the stated page limits. **NOFO Part 2, *Application Content and Form***, includes a complete list of application requirements. You can find detailed

guidance on the content and form of NOFO-specific requirements in the [Summary of Application Requirements](#) table below.

1. Covered Individual Definition, Designation, and Responsibility

Several of the Application Content Requirements in the table below and in the NOFO Part 2 are required for Covered Individuals.

For this NOFO, Covered Individual is an individual who:

- Contributes in a substantive, meaningful way to develop or execute the scope of work of a project proposed for funding by DOE
- Is designated as a Covered Individual by DOE.

DOE designates as Covered Individuals any:

- Principal investigator (PI)
- Project director (PD)
- Co-principal investigator (Co-PI)
- Co-project director (Co-PD)
- Project manager
- Any individual functionally performing as a PI, PD, Co-PI, Co-PD, or project manager
- Technical staff (e.g., postdoctoral fellows/researchers and graduate students)

DOE may further designate Covered Individuals during award negotiations or the award period of performance.

If selected, throughout the life of the award, you have an ongoing responsibility to submit:

- Current and pending support disclosure statements and resumes or biosketches for any new Covered Individuals
- Updated disclosures if a current and pending support disclosure statement, resume, or biosketch previously submitted to DOE changes

2. Summary of Application Requirements

Component	File Format	Page Limit	File Name
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 13)	PDF	n/a	Applicant _ 424
Impacted Indian Tribes Documentation (If applicable) (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 14)	PDF	n/a	Applicant _ Impacted Tribes
Statement of Objectives (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 13)	MS Word	n/a	Applicant _ Statement of Objectives

Project Management Plan/Project Narrative (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 14)	PDF	20	Applicant _ PMP
Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A) (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 14)	PDF	n/a	Applicant _ Budget Information
Budget Justification Workbook (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 14)	MS Excel	n/a	Applicant _ Budget_Justification
Subrecipient Budget Justification (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 14)	MS Excel	n/a	Applicant _ Subrecipient Budget Justification
Work application for FFRDC, (see DOE O 412.1A) (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 17)	PDF	n/a	Applicant _ FFRDC WP
Authorization for Non-DOE or DOE FFRDCs (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 17)	PDF	n/a	Applicant _ FFRDC Auth
Waiver for Foreign Entity Participation (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 17)	PDF	n/a	Applicant _ FEW
Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver) (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 17)	PDF	n/a	Applicant _ FWW
Biosketch (for each Covered Individual) (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 17)	PDF	n/a	Applicant _ Biosketch
Current and Pending Support (for each Covered Individual) (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 35)	PDF	n/a	Applicant _ CPS
Transparency of Foreign Connections (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 17)	PDF	n/a	Applicant _ TFC
Potentially Duplicative Funding Notice (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 18)	PDF	n/a	Applicant _ PDFN
Locations of Work (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 18)	Excel	n/a	Applicant _ LOW
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, if applicable (SF-LLL) (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 19)	PDF	n/a	Applicant _ SF-LLL
Certification Regarding Lobbying (OMB 4040-0013) (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 19)	PDF	n/a	Applicant _ Cert Lobbying
Summary for Public Release (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 20)	PDF	1	Applicant _ Summary

Summary Slide (NOFO Pt. 2 pg. 20)	MS Power Point	1	Applicant _ Slide
--------------------------------------	----------------------	---	-------------------

3. Impacted Indian Tribes Documentation

For any application that potentially impacts Indian Tribes,⁴ including when the potentially impacted Indian Tribe is the applicant, you must submit additional documentation:

- For projects sited on Tribal lands⁵ or intersecting with Tribal subsurface rights:
 - You must submit documentation of support from the relevant Indian Tribes with the application. See below for [Requirements for Documentation of Tribal Support](#).
- For applications potentially impacting Indian Tribes' resources and reserved rights in other ways:
 - We encourage you to submit documentation of support from the relevant Indian Tribes. You must, at a minimum, provide documentation confirming that an authorized representative from each potentially impacted Indian Tribe is aware of the application's nature and its potential impacts to the Indian Tribe. See below for helpful resources for evaluating potential impacts and requirements for documenting Tribal awareness.

We encourage you to reach out to Indian Tribes as early as possible to give them ample time to evaluate and respond. Documentation will not be scored; however, if you do not submit documentation of an Indian Tribe's awareness or a letter of support, it may result in determining your application ineligible, non-responsive to the NOFO, not subject to further review, or not otherwise subject to selection or award.

Documentation of Tribal Support	
Item	Criteria
Letter of Support from Tribal Leadership	The letter must be signed by an authorized representative ⁶ of the Indian Tribe and express support for the project. The signers must be holding their positions while the NOFO is open for applications or when subsequently submitted.

⁴ Indian Tribe as defined in 25 U.S.C. § 5304 and includes Alaska Native Villages and Alaska Native Corporations.

⁵ Tribal land is as defined in 25 U.S.C. §§ 3501(2), (3), (4)(A) and (13).

⁶ An authorized representative must be an elected official or designated leader according to the traditions, constitution, or charter of the Indian Tribe, or someone with relevant delegated authority within the Tribal government. Examples include Chief, Chairman, Chairwoman, Governor, Nation Representative, President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Speaker of the Council, Speaker of the Congress, Tribal administrator.

Tribal Council Resolution, Board Resolution, or similar act passed by the legislative body of the Tribal government or Board of Directors of an Alaska Native Corporation	Must express support for the project.
---	---------------------------------------

Documentation of Tribal Awareness	
Item	Criteria
Any Documentation of Tribal Support (see above)	See above
An email reply or documentation of certified mail delivery	Must demonstrate that an authorized representative ⁶ of the Indian Tribe is the one who was notified and made aware of the nature of the project and its potential impacts to the Indian Tribe.

The following resources and guidance may be useful to help determine if a project may impact Indian Tribe resources or reserved rights and to find the appropriate contacts. These resources are not exhaustive, and many Indian Tribes have resources or reserved rights that extend beyond their Tribal lands or are covered within treaties, statutes, or case-law. You should do additional research, while respecting Tribal privacy over sacred sites. Any outreach, impact assessment, and mitigation plans must be documented and made available to DOE on request after award selection or during award negotiation. If the applicant is an Indian Tribe, we recommend these resources and guidance be used to ascertain impacts to other Indian Tribes.

Resources for Evaluating a Project's Potential Impact on an Indian Tribe	
Item	Location
Map of Indian Lands	https://bia-geospatial-internal.geoplatform.gov/indianlands/
Tribal Directory Assessment Tool (TDAT)	https://egis.hud.gov/TDAT/
Tribal Treaties Database	https://treaties.okstate.edu/
Directory of Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal leaders	https://www.bia.gov/service/tribal-leaders-directory
Best Practices for Identifying and Protecting Tribal Treaty Rights, Reserved Rights, and Other Similar Rights in Federal Regulatory Actions	Best Practices For Identifying And Protecting Tribal Treaty Rights, Reserved Rights, And Other Similar Rights In Federal Regulatory Actions And Federal Decision-Making

Guidance on Assessing Potential Impacts to Indian Tribe Resource or Reserved Rights		
Type of Action	Assessment	Mitigation

Research and Development (R&D)	- Identify any resources you will quantify or model on or near Tribal land, traditional homelands, Tribal historic sites, sacred sites, or in areas where an Indian Tribe maintains rights to these resources - Identify which Indian Tribes may be impacted - Explain any instances of uncertainty or need for confidentiality	Explain any actions you took to mitigate or address any potential impacts identified, including engaging with the potentially impacted Indian Tribes, in the application.
Surface Impacts	- Identify any Indian Land (as defined in 25 U.S.C. § 3501), traditional homelands, or Tribal historic and sacred sites that will be crossed or are near to the proposed infrastructure - Identify which Indian Tribes might be impacted - Explain any instances of uncertainty or confidentiality	
Subsurface Resource Activities (e.g., carbon sequestration, oil & gas, geothermal, critical minerals, groundwater)	- Identify any Tribal mineral rights, subsurface, or water rights at or near the proposed project location - Explain any relevant studies already performed, such as groundwater studies - Identify which Indian Tribes might be impacted - Explain any instances of uncertainty and any potential for subsurface resource migration that has been considered	
Hydropower, Offshore Wind, or Other Water Related Projects	- Identify any Tribal resources or reserved rights (e.g., water, fishing, or other treaty rights) that could be impacted by the proposed project - Identify any Tribal historic sites, sacred sites, or relevant vistas that could be impacted by the project - Identify the potentially impacted Indian Tribes and explain any sources of uncertainty or confidentiality	
Other Actions Not Categorized Above	- Identify any other proposed actions that may impact an Indian Tribe's resources or reserved rights. Tribal resources and reserved rights include, and are not limited to: - An Indian reservation or land (as defined in 25 U.S.C. § 3501) - Intersecting Tribal sub-surface rights - Historic homelands they were removed from	

	○ Cultural sites ○ Sacred sites ○ Water rights ○ Mineral and other subsurface rights ○ Fishing rights ○ Hunting rights. ● Identify the Tribes potentially impacted and any sources of uncertainty or confidentiality	
--	--	--

We may share any application that could impact Indian Tribes with those Indian Tribes, subject to any proper Proprietary Information markings on the submission. Accordingly, you should include a “Notice of Restriction on Use and Disclosure of Information” to identify any Proprietary Information ([NOFO Part 1](#), *Use and Disclosure of Applicant Information*). After selection, you may be asked to include a “Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data” to identify any Proprietary Information. Properly marked application information will only be used or disclosed for evaluation purposes when we must determine if the proposed project impacts an Indian Tribe, and we will only share that information with the potentially impacted Tribes.

Data you submit once under award that could impact Indian Tribes may be shared with the potentially impacted Indian Tribes, subject to any restrictions included on properly marked data per the award terms.

If you or DOE determines an Indian Tribe will be impacted, you must provide information on the project location, potential impacts, and how you will engage with Indian Tribes during the performance period of the agreement and, if necessary, after the end of the agreement. In addition to your engagement, we will determine if formal government-to-government consultation could be appropriate, and we will conduct that consultation accordingly.

4. Biographical Sketch

Every Covered Individual at the applicant and subrecipient levels must submit a biographical sketch (biosketch). Use [SciENCv \(Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae\)](#) to produce a DOE-compliant PDF version of the biosketch. The biosketch does not have page limits, though some fields in SciENCv have character limitations for consistency.

Use the NOFO-Specific Biosketch Instructions and the [NSPM-33, Implementation Guidance Pre- and Post-Award Disclosures Relating to the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending \(Other\) Support](#)⁷ to develop the biosketch.

Instructions for First-Time SciENCv Users:

1. Navigate to [SciENCv \(Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae\)](#)

⁷ This table supersedes in its entirety Table 2a and Paragraph 7 of the Disclosure Requirements and Standardization Section of the NSPM-33 Implementation Guidance.

2. To log in, click More Options, Login.gov, then sign in
3. From the dashboard, click Manage SciENCv, then click Create New Document
4. Select DOE Biographical Sketch
5. From there, it's an easy web interface to add education and work history
6. When ready, click Download PDF, which will prompt the user to certify their responses, then the document will download and can be added to the NOFO application

The biosketch and CPS Common Forms must together include a list of all sponsored activities, awards, and appointments, whether:

- Paid or unpaid
- Full-time, part-time, or voluntary
- Faculty, visiting, adjunct, or honorary
- Cash or in-kind
- Foreign or domestic
- Governmental or private-sector
- Directly supporting your research
- Indirectly supporting your research by supporting students, research staff, space, equipment, or other research expenses.

Every covered individual must also identify all connections with malign foreign talent recruitment programs.

Please note the following:

- All definitions in the biosketch except Covered Individual (which is defined in the **NOFO Part 1, Application Content and Form—Application Content Requirements, Covered Individual Definition, Designation and Responsibility**) are available at: [NSPM-33, Definitions](#).
- If the NOFO-Specific Biosketch Instructions conflict with the [NSPM-33, Implementation Guidance Pre- and Post-Award Disclosures Relating to the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending \(Other\) Support](#), follow the DOE NOFO-Specific Biosketch Instructions.

DOE/NNSA NOFO-Specific Biosketch Instructions	
Persistent Identifier (PID) of the Covered Individual	The PID field is required for all NOFOs and awards for R&D activities or technical assistance to support R&D activities. For NOFOs and awards that do not meet the criteria above, the PID field is optional.
Appointments and Positions Reporting Timeframe	Identify all domestic and foreign professional appointments and positions, both inside and outside the primary organization. There should be no lapses in time over the past 10 years or since age 18, whichever is shorter.

**Products:
Limitation on
Number Provided**

List up to 10 products or activities most closely related to the proposed project. Products may also include professional and scholarly activities related to the proposed effort (e.g., conference or committee participation).

5. Current and Pending (Other) Support

Current and pending (other) support (CPS Common Form) helps us identify potential duplication, overcommitment, potential conflicts of interest or commitment, and all other sources of support.

Every Covered Individual at the applicant and subrecipient levels must submit a CPS Common Form. Use [SciENcv \(Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae\)](#) to produce a DOE-compliant PDF version of the CPS Common Form. The *CPS Common Form* does not have page limits, though some fields in SciENcv have character limitations for consistency.

Use the [NSPM-33 Implementation Guidance Pre- and Post-award Disclosures Relating to the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending \(Other\) Support](#)⁸ and the DOE NOFO-Specific CPS Instructions below to develop the CPS Common Form. The *CPS Common Form* and *Biosketch Common Form* must together include a list of all sponsored activities, awards, and appointments, whether:

- Paid or unpaid
- Provided as a gift with terms or conditions
- Full-time, part-time, or voluntary
- Faculty, visiting, adjunct, or honorary
- Cash or in-kind
- Foreign or domestic
- Governmental or private-sector
- Directly supporting your research
- Indirectly supporting your research by supporting students, research staff, space, equipment, or other research expenses.

All connections with malign foreign talent recruitment programs in current and pending support.

Please note:

- All definitions in the CPS Common Form, except Covered Individual (which is defined in the *NOFO Part 1, Application Content and Form—Application Content Requirements, Covered Individual Definition, Designation and Responsibility*) are available at: [NSPM-33, Definitions](#).
- If the DOE NOFO-Specific CPS Instructions conflict with [NSPM-33, Implementation Guidance Pre- and Post-Award Disclosures Relating to the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending \(Other\) Support](#), follow the DOE NOFO-Specific CPS Instructions.

⁸ This table supersedes in its entirety Table 2a and Paragraph 7 of the Disclosure Requirements and Standardization Section of the NSPM-33 Implementation Guidance.

DOE/NNSA NOFO-Specific CPS Instructions	
Persistent Identifier (PID) of the Covered Individual	The PID field is required for all NOFOs and awards for R&D activities or technical assistance to support R&D activities. For NOFOs and awards that do not meet the criteria above, the PID field is optional.
Reporting Timeframe for Proposals, Projects, and In-Kind Contributions	Disclose only current and pending support, as defined in the “Status of Support” field of the SciENCv CPS Common Form.
Types of Proposals and Active Projects to Disclose	“Current and pending support” is a term most relevant to R&D activities in the academic setting. For individuals employed by for-profit entities or individuals who do not conduct R&D, examples of activities to report on the Current and Pending Support form include: • Consulting activities that are outside your full-time employment • Any “moonlighting” • Honoraria and appointments
Disclosure Instructions for In-Kind Travel	Follow the disclosure instructions for travel in NSPM-33, Implementation Guidance Pre- and Post-Award Disclosures Relating to the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support.
Current and Pending (Other) Support Addendum	All Covered Individuals who submit a Current and Pending (Other) Support disclosure must also submit the Current and Pending (Other) Support Addendum. The Addendum is available on SciENCv at the bottom of the SciENCv Current and Pending Other Support form.

6. Project Management Plan

The project management plan must conform to the following content and form requirements. This project management plan must address the project management criteria as discussed in [project management plan criteria](#).

In the project management plan, the applicant must specifically apply to Tribal engagement throughout the United States.

Applicants must provide sufficient citations and references to the primary research literature to justify the claims and approaches made in the project management plan. However, DOE and reviewers are under no obligation to review cited sources.

The project management plan to the application may not be more than 20 pages, including the cover page, table of contents, and all citations, charts, graphs, maps, photos, or

other graphics, and must include all information below. The applicant should consider the weighting of each of the project management plan content requirements criteria (see [Project management plan criteria](#)) when preparing the project management plan.

Project Management Plan Content Requirements Overview	
Section	Approximate Percent Content of the project management plan
Cover Page	N/A
Management and Organization	50%
Project Objectives	30%
Risk Analysis and Mitigation	20%

Cover Page:

- The project title
- Specific NOFO topic areas (if applicable)
- Technical and business points of contact
- The project team, including recipient name, entity type, and names of all team member organizations
- The project locations
- The proposed Federal funding level, cost share, and performance period
- Senior and key personnel and other individuals
- Statements regarding confidentiality

Management and Organization

This section must include:

- Management Plan, including key organizational members and structure, project partners roles and responsibilities, and relevant prior experience. This plan must address any changes to the personnel, approach and/or responsibilities as the project moves from planning to implementation and demonstration.
- Description of the skills and expertise that the Project leader(s) and Project Team have to successfully design, develop, and operate the proposed plan.
- Description of any relevant prior organizational experience, which demonstrates an ability to perform tasks of similar risk and complexity. If applicable, provide details on the applicant team's prior work together on projects.
- Safety and Occupational Health Plans: Applications should include a brief description of safety culture, including safety and occupational health plan, and available performance history (such as an OSHA 300A form or Experience Modification Rating) of the entities and management involved in the award.
- Time commitment of key roles and personnel: A table showing time commitment (hours per week) of key organizational roles for all project phases and key personnel to fill each role.
- A summary organization chart of the team must be provided. The chart must include identification of any subrecipients or contractors.

Project Objectives

This section should provide a clear, concise statement of the specific objectives/aims of the proposed project and how those objectives will be met. The project objectives should include a summary of:

- Project goals,
- Project Tasks,
- Project Schedule,
- Any relevant Milestones,
- A summary of the End of Project Objectives/Goal(s).

Risk Analysis and Mitigation

This section must include an initial Risk Management Plan (RMP), including:

- Identification of technical risks, including technology, systems integration, infrastructure, engineering, scale-up and similar elements.
- Identification of security risks, including cybersecurity, physical security, internal and external threat identification and response, and similar elements.
- Identification of environmental and site risks, including known or potential impacts to local communities or Indian Tribes or otherwise related to siting, supply chain and end use, and proposed actions to mitigate risks.
- Identification of organizational risks, including project team, project management structure, and similar elements.
- Assessment of the probability of occurrence of each risk and potential impacts.
- Identification of proposed mitigations for identified risks.

D. Additional Requirements

Program-specific requirements that apply to awards funded under this NOFO are identified below. Standard requirements are described in [NOFO Part 2, Additional Requirements](#).

Funding Restrictions		
Title	Location	Additional Information
Allowable Costs	NOFO Part 2	Applies to awards made under this NOFO
Pre-Award Costs	NOFO Part 2	Applies to awards made under this NOFO
Performance of Work in the United States (Foreign Work Waiver Requirement)	NOFO Part 2	Applies to awards made under this NOFO
Foreign Travel	NOFO Part 2	Foreign Travel is not allowed for awards made under this NOFO
Equipment and Supplies	NOFO Part 2	Purchasing American-made equipment and supplies applies to this award.

1. Buy America Preference for Infrastructure Projects

Awards funded through this NOFO that are for or contain construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of public infrastructure in the United States require that:

- All iron, steel, and manufactured products used in the infrastructure project are produced in the United States
- All construction materials used in the infrastructure project are manufactured in the United States

Refer to the [DOE's Standard Terms and Conditions](#) and 2 C.F.R. § 184 to determine whether the Buy America Preference applies and if we should consider the Buy America Preference in the proposed project's budget and schedule. The Buy America Preference does not apply to prime recipients that are for-profit entities.

V. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

You **must** take several one-time actions before applying to this NOFO. Some of these tasks may take several weeks. These requirements are outlined in detail in the **NOFO Part 2, *Get Registered and Required Registrations***.

A. Submission Date and Times

You must submit applications to email: Regional_State_Tribal_Groups@id.doe.gov site identified in the [Key Facts](#) section of this NOFO no later than July 16, 2026, 5:00p.m. EST on the dates provided in the [Key Facts](#) section.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit all required application documents at least 48 hours before the submission deadline. Under normal conditions (i.e., at least 48 hours before the submission deadline), set aside at least one hour to submit application documents. Once you submit the application documents, you can revise or update your submission before the deadline passes. If you change any of your documents, you must resubmit them before the deadline. We will not extend the submission deadline for server or connection congestion.

DOE will not accept late submissions that resulted from technical difficulties due to uploading files that exceed 50MB.

B. Intergovernmental Review

This NOFO is not subject to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

VI. Application Review Information

A. Standards for Application Evaluation

Eligible applications will be evaluated based on this NOFO and the guidance in the “[DOE Merit Review Guide for Financial Assistance](#),” effective October 1, 2020.

B. Responsiveness Review

We will not review or consider the following concept papers and applications:

- Project concepts or approaches identified as NOT of interest (see the [Applications Specifically Not of Interest](#) section above)
- Applicants and applications that do NOT meet the Eligibility Criteria in NOFO Parts 1 and 2

C. Review Criteria

1. Compliance Criteria

All application submissions must:

- Comply with the content and form requirements listed in *NOFO Parts 1 and 2, Application Content Requirements and Submission Requirements and Deadlines of the NOFO*
- Include all required documents

Be submitted by email to: Regional_State_Tribal_Groups@id.doe.gov indicated in the [Key Facts](#) section at the beginning of this NOFO

- Meet the submission deadlines stated in [Key Facts](#) no later than 5 p.m. EST

DOE will not review or consider submissions submitted that:

- Are submitted after the due date and time
- Are incomplete

If required, you must submit a letter of intent and a concept paper by 5:00 p.m. EST on the due date listed in the [Key Facts](#) section to be eligible to submit an application.

2. Technical Review Criteria

Applications

Applications will be evaluated against the technical review criteria shown below. All sub-criteria are of equal weight.

TRMTC:

Review Criterion Overview	
Criterion	Weight
Expertise	50%
Key Personnel	30%
Conformance to Statement of Objectives	20%

Criterion 1: Expertise (50%)

The application shall be evaluated on the applicant's discussion and demonstration of substantive expertise related to Tribal government roles and responsibilities for public safety, radioactive materials transportation, public policy, and working with government entities. This criterion involves consideration of the following factors:

- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of Tribal government operations, authorities, and sensitivities for a given region,
- Demonstrated understanding of technical aspects of radioactive materials transportation,
- Knowledge and experience with Federal policies, documents, and proposed rules involved in or affecting DOE radioactive materials, and,
- Experience reviewing and providing comments on Federal policies, regulations, documents, and proposed rules developed by DOE, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Department of Transportation, Department of Homeland Security, and/or other Federal agencies involved in or affecting DOE radioactive materials.
- Evaluation of performance under current and past awards. The application shall be evaluated on the applicant's discussion and demonstration of successful project management performance of past relevant projects with respect to product delivery, quality, cost, and schedule, including providing acceptable customer service, properly managing subcontract efforts, and identifying/isolating the root causes of problems and successfully resolving those causes.
- Demonstrated competency and experience in budgeting, financial and contract management; understanding of cooperative agreement funding; managing scope of work; compliance with reporting and adhering to applicable terms and conditions associated with DOE Cooperative Agreements.

Criterion 2: Key Personnel (30%)

Competency of Applicant's Key Personnel and Adequacy of Proposed Resources - The application shall be evaluated on the applicant's discussion and demonstration of the following factors:

- Personnel's expertise or qualifications, and past performance working with DOE's National Transportation Stakeholders Forum,
- Adequacy of proposed staffing to carry out the SOO, and clear description of work that will be performed by staff vs consultants and/or subcontractors,
- Experience working with Tribal governments impacted by radioactive waste and materials,
- Experience with Tribal government's concerns and/or interests in DOE radioactive shipments,
- Ability to organize thoughts and convey Tribal perspectives in a logical and concise manner,
- Ability to communicate expectations and requirements for administrative and technical activities clearly, both orally and in writing, and,
- Ability to organize and execute meetings and projects or initiatives related to the SOO.

Criterion 3: Conformance to Statement of Objectives (20%)

Applicant's approach to the TRMTC Statement of Objectives (SOO) (attachment 1) will be reviewed for responsiveness including the following factors:

- Appropriateness, rationale, and completeness of the proposed SOO response
- The approach reflects a thorough, capable, and experienced understanding of the work with minimal performance risk
- Applicability and value to the program and to Tribes of any proposed Supplemental Program Tasks

D. Other Selection Factors

In addition to the above criteria, the Selection Official may consider the following program policy factors to determine which applications to select for award negotiations:

- The degree to which the proposed project exhibits technological diversity when compared with the existing DOE project portfolio and other projects selected from the subject NOFO
- The degree to which the proposed project, including proposed cost share, optimizes the use of available DOE funding to achieve programmatic objectives
- The level of industry involvement and demonstrated ability to accelerate demonstration and commercialization and overcome key market barriers
- The degree to which the proposed project is likely to lead to increased high-quality employment and manufacturing in the United States
- The degree to which the proposed project demonstrably advances the President's policy priorities
- The degree to which the applicant contributes to a broad range of recipients likely to produce immediately demonstrable results and recipients with the potential for potentially longer-term, breakthrough results, consistent with the objectives of the NOFO.
- Familiarity with State relationships with Tribal governments and/or past engagement with Tribes,
- Understanding and experience of DOE radioactive materials shipping campaigns

VII. Selection and Award Notices

The **NOFO Part 2, *Selection and Award Notices***, provides information on notifications for concept papers (if applicable), applications, award negotiations, and post-selection information requests.

VIII. Award Administration Information

A. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

DOE requires all award recipients to follow and accept requirements governed by laws and policies—both Federal and DOE. These post-award requirements include:

- National and administrative policy requirements
- National Assurance Policies
- Financial assistance general certifications and representations
- Build America, Buy America requirements

- Davis-Bacon Act requirements
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act-specific requirements
- Fraud, waste, and abuse requirements
- Safety, security, and regulatory requirements
- Environmental review with the National Environmental Policy Act requirements

Please review the [Standard Award Terms and Conditions](#), the [sample Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist](#), and standard [Intellectual Property \(IP\) Provisions](#) to better understand post-award requirements and administration.

Post-award requirements and administration that apply to awards funded under this NOFO are identified below. Detailed descriptions of standard requirements are provided in *NOFO Part 2, Post-Award Requirements and Administration*. Detailed descriptions of NOFO-specific requirements are provided below the table.

Post Award Requirements and Administration		
Title	Location	Additional Information
Government Rights in Data	NOFO Part 1	Applies to awards made under this NOFO
Real Property and Equipment Continued Use	NOFO Part 2	Does not apply to awards made under this NOFO
Program Down-Select	NOFO Part 2	Applies to awards made under this NOFO
Go/No-Go Review	NOFO Part 2	Does not apply to awards made under this NOFO
Invoice Review and Approval	NOFO Part 2	Applies to awards made under this NOFO
Cost-Share Payment	NOFO Part 2	Does not apply to awards made under this NOFO
U.S. Manufacturing Commitments	NOFO Part 2	Does not apply to awards made under this NOFO
Subject Invention Utilization Reporting	NOFO Part 2	Does not apply to awards made under this NOFO
Data Management and Sharing Plan (DMSP)	NOFO Part 2	Applies to awards made under this NOFO

1. Government Rights in Data

You can find the U.S. Government rights to application information in the [Use and Disclosure of Application Information](#) section. The U.S. Government rights to data produced under an award or used in the performance of the award varies according to the following classifications.

Limited Rights Data:

Limited-Rights Data are data (other than computer software) developed at private expense that embody trade secrets or are commercial or financial and confidential or privileged. For limited-rights data used in the performance of an award, the U.S. Government may inspect such data to verify the limited-rights data and restricted rights assertion or to evaluate work performance. However, award recipients are not normally required to deliver such data. For awards that require an award recipient to deliver limited-rights data and to ensure the protection of such data, you must properly mark these data as described in the award's intellectual property terms and conditions.

Unlimited Rights:

Unlimited-Rights Data are data first produced under an award or are unmarked data delivered to the U.S. Government as part of an award. *Unlimited rights* mean the U.S. Government has the right to (in any manner and for any purpose whatsoever and to have or permit others to) take the following actions with these data:

- Disclose
- Reproduce
- Prepare derivative works
- Distribute copies to the public
- Perform publicly and display publicly.

Patentable Information:

In addition to any other protection allowed under the award, invention disclosures and other patentable information may be protectable from public disclosure for a reasonable time to allow you to file a patent application.

Protected Data:

Despite the unlimited rights the U.S. Government normally obtains in data first produced under an award, under special statutory authority and with DOE concurrence, certain categories of data first produced under awards resulting from this NOFO may be marked as *protected data*. Protected data are technical data or commercial or financial data first produced under the award that, if obtained from and first produced by a nonfederal party, would be privileged or confidential. These data are protected from public disclosure for up to 5 years after the data were first produced. To qualify as protected data, we must agree with the classification, and you must properly mark the data as set forth in the award's intellectual property terms and conditions.

IX. Other Information

Please see [NOFO Part 2, Other Information](#), for additional information, acronyms, and requirements that apply to all DOE NOFOs.

A. Acronyms

Acronym	Spelled Out	Acronym	Spelled Out
API	Application Programming Interface	LPM	Lead Project Manager

ARL	Adoption Readiness Level	M&O	Management and Operation
BABA	Build America Buy America	NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
C2M2	DOE Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model	NETL	National Energy Technology Laboratory
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
CIP	Critical Infrastructure Protection	NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
CSF	Cybersecurity Framework	NSF	National Science Foundation
CRADA	Cooperative Research and Development Agreement	NSPM	National Security Policy Memorandum
DOE	United States Department of Energy	OMB	Office of Management and Budget
DOE-S&T	Office of Storage and Transportation	DOE-OPT	Office of Packaging and Transportation
DOI	Digital Object Identifier	OSHA	The Occupational Safety and Health Administration
DMSP	Data Management and Sharing Plan	OSTI	DOE's Office of Scientific and Technical Information
EDX	Energy Data	OTA	Other Transaction Authority
FFRDC	Federally Funded Research and Development Center	PD	Project Director
GOGO	Government Owned and Operated	PI	Principal Investigator
ICS	Industrial Control Systems	R&D	Research and Development
IED	Intelligent Electronic Devices	RMP	Risk Management Plan
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers	SAM	System for Award Management
IIJA	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act	SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely
IPS	Integrated Project Schedule	SOPO	Statement of Project Objectives
IRA	Inflation Reduction Act	SPOC	Single Point of Contact
ISO	International Organization for Standardization	TEA	Techno-Economic Analysis
KPI	Key Performance Indicators	UEI	Unique Entity Identifier
HLW	High-level radio active waste	UNF	Used Nuclear Fuel
SOO	Statement of Objectives		
LDES	Long-Duration Energy Storage	WBS	Work Breakdown Structure