

Virginia Coal and Energy Commission

Request for Proposals—Socioeconomic Study of Impact of Uranium Mining

Purpose. The Virginia Coal and Energy Commission (the "Commission") invites proposals from parties to conduct a socioeconomic study determining what impacts, real or perceived, uranium mining and milling operations will have on the quality of life and economic well-being of the region surrounding Coles Hill in Pittsylvania County, Virginia.

Background. The Commission is a legislative body established by the General Assembly to study coal and other energy resources. The Commission's study of uranium mining and its impacts in the Commonwealth began in the early 1980s after a significant deposit, now estimated at 110 million pounds, was identified outside the town of Chatham in Pittsylvania County. After being asked by the General Assembly to review the issue, the Commission oversaw a series of studies to determine whether to lift the moratorium on uranium mining that had been instituted until such studies were complete. No further action was taken at that time.

In 2008, the Commission created the Uranium Mining Subcommittee (the "Subcommittee") to oversee, through the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research, a technical study of uranium mining by the National Academy of Sciences and undertake any other study that might assist the full Commission in its determination and recommendation of the appropriate policy on uranium mining and milling in the Commonwealth.

The Subcommittee determined to create parallel studies of the technical and socioeconomic impacts of uranium mining and milling. The technical study, which is being conducted by the National Research Council, will examine the scientific, technical, environmental, human health and safety, and regulatory aspects of uranium mining and milling across the Commonwealth. The results of the technical study are expected December 1, 2011. This request for proposals is the initiation of the socioeconomic study, which is intended to provide a complementary analysis to the technical study.

More information on the Commission and the work of the Subcommittee may be found at: <http://dls.state.va.us/CEC.HTM>.

Statement of Needs. The study should be completed by December 1, 2011, and, at a minimum, should address the following factors:

- I. Economic Development
 - A. The number and types of jobs created directly by the mining and milling operation and the associated payrolls.
 - B. The number, types, and geographic locations of jobs created indirectly by the mining and milling operation in all sectors including retail and wholesale trades, the construction industry, and government.
 - C. The number and types of all such jobs likely to be filled by current residents and those likely to be filled by outside workers.
 - D. The number and types of jobs that might be lost due to contraction or closure of existing businesses.

- E. Revenue generated from spending and capital investment made directly and indirectly by the uranium mining and milling operation.
- F. The impact on local and state tax revenues.
- G. The impact on real estate values, land use potential, the housing market, and the construction industry, including any loss of value to those properties downstream or downwind from the mining operation.
- H. The impact on both direct and indirect employment levels and revenue generation after the cessation of active mining and milling operations.

II. Government Services and Regulation

- A. The local and state government costs for regulation and monitoring of mining, milling, tailings management, closure and aftercare, and any associated liabilities.
- B. The impact of increased use and costs for any infrastructure and services upgrade.
- C. The impact on public schools including funding and educational opportunities.
- D. The local and state government costs for contingency planning and disaster preparedness.
- E. A review of the potential costs to upstream and downstream localities resulting from the mining and milling operation.
- F. A review of the potential costs and determination of the parties responsible for remediating any potential environmental damage.
- G. A review of potential sources of funding to offset the costs identified above.

III. Public Health and Environment

- A. The costs of health care and illness due to potential negative impacts from the uranium mining and milling operation.
- B. A review of the quality of life impacts from health risks attributable to the mining and milling operation for employees and residents.
- C. The impact on quality of life from detrimental environmental consequences.
- D. The impact on natural landscapes, scenic appeal, recreation, and tourism including wildlife and hunting, fishing, boating, and places of historical interest.
- E. A review of any environmental justice impacts.
- F. A review of post-closure procedures to ensure public health and safety.

IV. Social Impacts

- A. The effects on internal and external image of the region, i.e., belief that area remains a safe place to live, work, and invest.
- B. Public confidence in the company to control adverse effects and the ability of government to properly regulate such effects.
- C. The impacts on private schools and local institutions.
- D. The impact on aesthetics and overall quality of life issues.

Proposal Preparation and Submission Requirements. The Subcommittee welcomes proposals from interested firms, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions. Proposals should be as thorough and as detailed as possible so that the Subcommittee may properly evaluate the offerors and should include: (i) contact information for the offeror; (ii) a written narrative statement detailing the organization's history, background, and experience in providing comparable services; (iii) examples of previous comparable work; (iv) reference list of previous clients including the name and contact information for an individual able to speak to the work provided by the offeror; (v) the names,

qualifications, and experience of personnel to be assigned to the project including resumes for such personnel; (vi) project study plan including milestones, tasks, methodology, and analysis; and (vii) a statement of any major assumptions and a time frame for completion of the project. The selected offeror should expect to provide the Subcommittee with monthly progress reports.

Please note that this project is funded through a grant by the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission and is not expected to exceed \$200,000.

The deadline for submitting proposals is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 15, 2010; no late proposals will be reviewed. The offeror deemed to be fully qualified and best-suited among those submitting proposals will be identified as soon thereafter as possible.

Offerors submitting information considered to be trade secrets or confidential should also complete and submit Attachment A "Proprietary/Confidential Information Identification," which may be found on the Commission's website at <http://dls.state.va.us/groups/cec/Uranium/rfp.htm>.

Inquiries should be directed to Dr. Michael E. Karmis, Director of the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research, at (540) 231-7057 or mkarmis@vt.edu.

Two copies of each proposal should be sent to the following:

Virginia Coal and Energy Commission
c/o Ellen Porter, Division of Legislative Services
910 Capitol Street, 2nd Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219