

Methane Hydrates Advisory Committee Meeting

Program Funding

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FY 2012 Appropriation - \$9.7 million

- FOA to re-engage the research community in the development of alternative field and supporting laboratory/modeling research opportunities; and to continue ongoing work primarily at the National Lab's, interagency, and in-house.

FY 2013 Appropriation - \$4.8 million

- Operating under full year Continuing Resolution for ongoing methane hydrate research on cost-effective and responsible extraction of methane hydrates.
- While we would like to build on the success of the ConocoPhillips test with a long-term production test, that is not immediately possible.
- Planned Work
 - FOA covering three distinct technical topic areas: (1) characterization of gas hydrate deposits, (2) response to gas hydrate reservoirs to induced change, and (3) response to methane hydrate systems to environmental change.
 - Possibly could lead to a new Gulf of Mexico (or other OCS areas) marine hydrate resource characterization field program.
 - Utilize the National Labs and inter-agencies for key competencies, fundamental studies, advancement of numerical models, etc. (e.g., analysis of arctic production test data)

FY 2014 Request - \$5 million

- Budget language - the Natural Gas program intends “to conduct lab- and/or field-based research focused on increasing public understanding of methane dynamics in gas-hydrate bearing areas. These public sector-led efforts will be designed to evaluate the occurrence, nature and behavior of naturally occurring gas hydrates and the resulting resource, hazard, and environmental implications.”
- Anticipated Work
 - No specific projects or research areas are proposed in the budget request ; allows for DOE-funded field work
 - Continue work on projects initiated in FY13 FOA
 - Utilize the National Labs and inter-agencies for key competencies, fundamental studies, advancement of numerical models, etc.
 - Continue to work with industry, ADNR, and our international collaborators to develop a feasible project structure and rigorous scientific design for an arctic testing program.

Key dates (approx.) in the FY 2015 budget cycle:

- May/June 2013 – Fossil Energy (FE) prepares internal budget for the Secretary
- July/August 2013 – Secretarial review and decisions
- Early Sept 2013 - DOE Budget Submission to OMB
- Late Nov 2013 – Passback from OMB
- Early Feb 2014 – Administration Budget Request to Congress
- Feb/Mar 2014 – Congressional Budget Hearings
- June/July 2014 – Congressional Budget Mark-up
- Late 2014 – Congressional Appropriation Bill Passed