

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERAL FAQs SECTION OF ARPA-E'S WEBSITE ([HTTP://ARPA-E.ENERGY.GOV/?Q=FAQ/GENERAL-QUESTIONS](http://arpa-e.energy.gov/?q=faq/general-questions)) FOR ANSWERS TO MANY GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ARPA-E AND ARPA-E'S FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS SPECIFIC TO THIS FOA ONLY ARE INCLUDED BELOW. PLEASE REVIEW ALL EXISTING GENERAL FAQs AND FOA-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS BEFORE SUBMITTING NEW QUESTIONS TO ARPA-E.

I. Full Application Phase Questions:

Q1. THE FOA STATES ON PAGE 184 THAT ARPA-E IS NOT INTERESTED IN FUNDING RESEARCH ON PLANT SPECIES LISTED AS FEDERAL NOXIOUS WEEDS OR INVASIVE SPECIES BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. ARE WE CORRECT IN THINKING ODONTARRHENA SPECIES ARE NOT ON THOSE FEDERAL LISTS, SO IT WOULD BE OKAY TO PROPOSE RELATED RESEARCH?

ANSWER: ARPA-E won't comment on any particular species, but applicants should be aware if their intended species meets the definition of invasive species or noxious weed at federal (USDA), state, or local levels. It could be potentially a serious hurdle for a large-scale deployment and it is the Applicant's responsibility to clearly provide a risk analysis and mitigation strategies for every species in the Applicant's proposal.

Q2. I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE PHYTOMINES PROPOSAL.

- 1) THE CALL MENTIONS TERRESTRIAL PLANTS IN ITS DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICALLY THE PLANT SOIL INTERFACE. WILL ARPA-E CONSIDER WORK WITH AQUATIC PLANTS IN THIS CALL?**
- 2) THE FOCUS IS ON NI, IS THERE INTEREST IN COBALT ACCUMULATION AS WELL IN THIS CALL?**
- 3) THERE IS MENTION OF CONSIDERING THE IMPACTS ON SOIL GEOCHEMISTRY. DOES ARPAE WANT INFORMATION ON HOW THE SOIL CHEMISTRY IS CHANGED FOLLOWING OUR INTERVENTIONS?**
- 4) WILL APPLICATIONS BE CONSIDERED THAT WORK WITH MULTIPLE PLANTS?**

ANSWER:

- 1) Aquatic plants in fresh water will be considered.
- 2) Nickel is the primary interest.

3) Yes.

4) Yes.

Q3. I RECENTLY CAME ACROSS THE PRESS RELEASE FOR THE NEW ARPA-E EXPLORATORY TOPIC "PLANT HYPERACCUMULATORS TO MINE NICKEL-ENRICHED SOILS (PHYTOMINES)" AND HAVE SOME QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SUBMISSION PROCESS FOR A PROPOSAL TO THIS PROGRAM.

- 1) ARE UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A GRANT THROUGH THIS PROGRAM? ADDITIONALLY, IS THE SUBMISSION OF A CONCEPT PAPER A PREREQUISITE FOR SUBMITTING A FULL PROPOSAL?**
- 2) IF UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS ARE ELIGIBLE, ARE THEY PERMITTED TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL INDEPENDENTLY, OR IS IT NECESSARY FOR THEM TO HAVE AN INDUSTRY PARTNER?**

ANSWER:

- 1) Please review Section III (Eligibility Information) of the FOA for information about those that are eligible to apply. There is no Concept Paper requirement for this Exploratory Topic.
- 2) It is up to each prospective applicant to determine the composition of their proposed project team and ensure that they meet the eligibility requirements noted above.

Q4. WOULD AQUATIC PLANT SYSTEMS SUCH AS SPIRODELA POLYRHIZA BE CONSIDERED WITHIN SCOPE FOR THIS SOLICITATION?

ANSWER: So long as it is not considered a noxious weed or invasive species, aquatic species will be considered.

Q5. WOULD (SEDIMENT ASSOCIATED) PERIPHYTON -OR- ALGAE BE RESPONSIVE TO THIS FOA? ANY INSIGHT WOULD BE APPRECIATED!

ANSWER: See Section 2 (Topic Description). Only terrestrial plants are within the scope of this Exploratory Topic.

Q6. MY COLLEAGUES AND I ARE PREPARING AN APPLICATION FOR THE PHYTOMINES EXPLORATORY TOPIC AND HAD A COUPLE INITIAL QUESTIONS:

DO THE PAGE LIMITS LISTED IN THE TOPIC L TECHNICAL VOLUME TEMPLATE (20 PAGES MAX FOR SECTIONS 1-5) OVERRIDE THE 14 PAGES MAXIMUM LISTED IN THE FOA?

SECONDLY, WOULD THE PROGRAM HAVE INTEREST IN PROPOSALS THAT EXPLORE EXTRACTION TECHNIQUES?

ANSWER: 1. As noted in Required Documents Checklist in the FOA, 14 pages is the maximum for Sections 1-5 of the Full Application. The Full Application template will be corrected to be consistent with the FOA requirement.

2. Refer to the Technical Areas of Interest and Submissions Specifically Not of Interest Sections in the Exploratory Topic.