



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Pat Quinn, Governor • Warren Ribley, Director

August 10, 2011

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to announce the Illinois Coal Competitiveness Program for FY2012. This program is a vital part of the state's efforts to create new jobs and stimulate private investment in the Illinois coal industry.

For Illinois coal to improve its position in today's highly-competitive fuel markets, our state's coal producers, transporters and users must implement the best practices and deploy the best technology available. The program seeks to accomplish these goals by providing financial incentives to support cutting-edge clean coal technology development, mine safety, coal production and coal delivery.

We are soliciting applications for projects that will initiate work prior to June 2012. The target date for applications is October 1, 2011. Although the pool of grant funds has diminished in recent years, DCEO's Office of Coal Development (OCD) intends to co-fund as many worthy FY12 projects as possible.

Since the program's inception 1996, OCD has awarded grant funds totaling more than \$172 million to 374 projects. These dollars have leveraged more than \$2.2 billion in private investment within Illinois, bringing meaningful improvements to the coal and energy infrastructure of the state. Our goal is to have each project impact the marketability of Illinois coal and improve the competitive position of the Illinois coal industry.

We feel your organization has a vested interest in the overall success of Illinois' coal and energy industries and encourage you to initiate one or more project proposals. Feel free to share this program announcement with any other person in your organization that you deem appropriate. Please contact my office should you have any questions regarding this solicitation. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Bill Hoback
Chief, Office of Coal Development

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