

Dear Colleagues,

The WATERS Network Project Office (WNPO) is requesting community input and participation as we near completion of our Phase 1 planning activities and plan a proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF) for Phase 2 planning activities, which will primarily focus on a national network design study. WNPO is an NSF-funded project to lead the community planning for a national network of observatories and experimental facilities to understand and predict the multi-scale processes coupling water and waterborne constituents with Earth and human systems. Scientists and engineers from three research communities (environmental engineering and science, hydrologic and related Earth sciences, and social, behavioral and economic science) are working together to secure Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) funding from NSF to build this network. Further background on the WATERS Network and plans for Phase 2 can be found in the background information document at

<http://www.watersnet.org/docs/RFI-Fnl.pdf>.

WNPO is pleased to announce the following opportunities for the community to participate in the remainder of Phase 1 and the planning for Phase 2:

- A draft Science, Education, and Design Strategy (SEDS) document will be released in late February at <http://watersnet.org/>. Comments on the document can be submitted through the Web site or in person at the community workshop (see below), and will be used to finalize the document, which will be reviewed by the National Research Council in Summer 2008.
- A notice of opportunity for a Chief Scientist/Engineer to serve as Principal Investigator for Phase 2 of the WATERS Network Project Office can be accessed at <http://www.watersnet.org/docs/NoO-Chf-Sci.pdf>, with applications due February 17, 2008.
- A request for information (RFI) can be accessed at <http://www.watersnet.org/docs/RFI-Fnl.pdf>, requesting information on resources (data sets, models, tools) and network-wide analyses to inform a proposed national network design study during Phase 2 of the WATERS Network Project Office. Responses are requested no later than April 7, 2008.
- A community workshop will be held on March 24 and 25, 2008, at the Hilton Arlington in Arlington, VA, to discuss the SEDS document and plans for Phase 2. Further details, including registration and an opportunity to request travel funds, will be coming soon at <http://www.watersnet.org/workshop-20080324.html>. Registration, hotel reservations, and travel fund request deadlines will be due approximately February 24, 2008.

To ensure notification of release of the SEDS document in late February and further information on the community workshop, please subscribe to the WATERS Network listserv by sending an email to majordomo@ncsa.uiuc.edu with the following in the email body: subscribe waters <youremail@somewhere> (e.g., subscribe waters <johndoe@home.com>).

We look forward to engaging with you on these exciting opportunities.

Sincerely,
The WATERS Network Conceptual Design Team:

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