



## **Policy on Unsolicited Proposals**

1. The SMRI welcomes and encourages submittal of unsolicited proposals for research related to solution mining, underground storage, and waste disposal. The SMRI will respect authorship of unique ideas submitted in unsolicited proposals. The process is guided by SMRI's Research Coordinator, and the preferred action is through issuing and responses to Requests for Proposals (RFPs). No new research project will be contracted without SMRI member vote of approval.
2. The SMRI accepts unsolicited proposals as (1) Proposal Abstracts or (2) Complete Proposals. Proposal Abstracts and Complete Proposals, from members or non-members, should be submitted to the SMRI Research Coordinator. Alternatively, any SMRI member may present any proposal to the SMRI membership and request a decision on funding at a regular SMRI business meeting, (presentation time will be limited, and must be such that the presentation is scheduled on both the conference schedule and business meeting agenda 8 weeks before the meeting). The SMRI requires submission of all research proposals in electronic pdf form unless special arrangements are made otherwise.
3. The Research Coordinator will forward Proposal Abstracts and Complete Proposals to the Research Committee for action at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Research Committee. Proposal Abstracts and Complete Proposals should be submitted at least eight weeks before the Research Committee meeting at which they will be considered.
4. Proposal Abstracts should be less than about 500 words (2 pages). The Abstract should describe the proposed project, cost, and benefit to the interest of the SMRI.
5. Complete Proposals should be concise and less than 10 pages. Complete Proposals should provide, at a minimum, (1) project description and objectives including benefit to the SMRI, (2) technical approach, (3) project personnel experience and qualifications, (4) project cost and schedule, and (5) project deliverables.
6. With regard to Proposal Abstracts, possible Research Committee actions include a decision to (1) request submittal of a Complete Proposal with or without revision of the project as described in the Proposal Abstract or (2) inform the submitter that the SMRI is not presently interested in pursuing the research. The Research Committee may assign a member of the committee as Advisor to Proposal Abstract submitters who are requested to submit a Complete Proposal.
7. For Complete Proposals, three possible Research Committee actions include a decision to (1) recommend to the SMRI Executive Committee that the proposal be considered by the SMRI Membership for funding, (2) request the submitter revise the proposal for resubmittal, or (3) inform the submitter that the SMRI is not presently interested in pursuing the research. The Research Committee may assign a member of the committee as Advisor to Complete Proposal submitters who are requested to revise and resubmit their proposal.
8. All decisions and actions of the Research Committee on unsolicited proposals will be reported to the proposal submitter and the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee will recommend action on each chosen, unsolicited, proposal to the SMRI membership at the next business meeting (as scheduled at each conference).