



USDA



Rural Development

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**Biomass *R&D* Technical Advisory
Committee Meeting
Detroit, Michigan
September 10, 2007**

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USDA Rural Development**



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Biomass Initiative Update

- *Update on FY 2007 Solicitation*
- *Update Section 9008 Portfolio Analysis*
- *Secretary's Energy Council*
- *Demonstration of Energy Matrix*
- *Status of Farm Bill*

Section 9008 - 2007 Solicitation Status

- Notice published June 11th, 2007
 - **30 day pre-application window**
 - **45 day full-application window**
- ~\$18 million available (\$14 USDA, \$4 DOE)
- Pre-Application Merit Review - Completed
 - **Washington, DC, August 6th to 10th, 2007**



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Section 9008 - 2007 Solicitation Status (con't)

- Selection Officer Approval and Debrief Letters sent (for pre-apps)
 - **Completed by mid-September, 2007**
- Approximate submission deadline for full-applications
 - **Last week October, 2007**
- Full-Application Merit Review
 - **First week December, 2007**
 - **Golden, CO**
- FY 2007 Awards made
 - **Last week of December, 2007**

Funding Distribution – Section 9008

- **Feedstock Production – 20%**
- **Overcoming Recalcitrance – 45%**
- **Product Diversification – 30%**
- **Analysis for Strategic Guidance – 5%**

Scoring Criteria – Section 9008

- Criterion 1: Technical Relevance and Merit
– 40 %
- Criterion 2: Technical Approach/Workplan
– 25%
- Criterion 3: Fossil Energy Displacement, Energy Efficiency, Rural Economic Development, and Environmental Benefits
– 20%
- Criterion 4: Technical Management and Facility Capabilities
– 15%

Peer Review Process – Section 9008

- Consensus Panel Review
 - Scientific and Technical Peers
- Non-Agency Personnel
- Pre and Full Applications

Pre-Application Peer Review Panel Composition – Section 9008

- 28 (72%) – Academia
- 6 (15%) – National Laboratory
- 5 (13%) – Others (Private Industry and Non-profits)
- 0 (0%) – Federal Agency Personnel

Total – 39 Reviewers



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Pre-Application History – Section 9008

FY	~Number of Pre-Apps Submitted	~ Funds Requested
2003	400	\$ 370,000,000
2004	450	\$ 108,000,000
2005	670	\$ 450,000,000
2006	311	\$ 250,000,000
2007	688	\$ 600,000,000



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2007 Pre-Applications Recieved – Section 9008

Topic Area	Number of Pre-Applications Submitted	Percentage of Total
Feedstock	212	31%
Recalcitrance	169	25%
Products	237	34%
Analysis	70	10%

688

100%



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Approximate Breakdown for Full-Application Invitations

- **Based on recommendation by Merit Review Panel**
 - Selection Officer approval still required
- **Total 688 Submitted**
 - **141 (20 %) of total recommended for invitation by Merit Panel**
 - 35 – Feedstock ~ \$29 million
 - 39 – Recalcitrance ~ \$32 million
 - 49 – Products ~ \$28 million
 - 18 – Strategic Guidance ~ \$9 million

Section 9008 Study

- **Purpose: Evaluate FY 02 thru FY 05 Section 9008 Awards and recommend a set of performing measures for current and future benefits of program**
- **Conducted by Helena Chun, NREL**
- **Findings:**
 - **Process and terms of solicitation consistent with legislation**
 - **USDA infrastructure in place for administering award is consistent with general accepted practices for competitive solicitation**
- **Concludes that multiple peer review process is consistent with best practices in RD management**



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Section 9008 Study (con't)

- **Recommendations:**
 - **Track outputs and outcomes overtime**
 - **Develop a better framework for data collection and analysis**

USDA'S Energy Council

- **Purpose: Coordinate Department Collaboration and Leveraging of Resources for Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Development.**
- **Three Committees**
 - **Research & Development (R&D)**
 - **Commercialization**
 - **Marketing / Outreach**
 - **International**



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Update on Farm Bill

- **House Version Passed**
- **Senate Version October**
- **Significant Programs/Initiatives**
 - **Cellulosic Loan Guarantee Program**
 - **Rebates/Subsides**
 - **Other Initiatives**



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QUESTIONS



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