

## ***Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIIP) Fuel Distribution Facility Applicant Deep Dive***

### ***Questions and Answers***

#### **System Access**

1. What is the definition of Level 2 access and when do you know if you have it? It's not explained in FAQ or what you just described.

ANSWER: Level 2 eAuthentication means that you have completed identity verification which is required for the online application system. If you log in to eAuthentication, you will see a "Verified Identity" that indicates you have Level 2 access.

2. Have there been reports of serious delays in receiving a UEI from SAM?

ANSWER: The Agency is aware of delays relating to incidents submitted.

#### **Project Eligibility**

1. If a project incurs costs prior to having a complete application, can the project still be approved to pay for expenses that were NOT incurred prior to having a complete application? Same question: Does spending money disqualify the project or just the costs incurred prior to having submitted a complete application?

ANSWER: If the majority of the expenses were not incurred prior to the submission of the application, the application would be accepted but all costs prior to submission would not be eligible for reimbursement. It's important to remember that no construction can begin until the environmental review is completed.

2. What all does biofuel infrastructure encompass? Would HBIIIP be able to cover funds related to construction of anaerobic digester or pipelines for distributing RNG?

ANSWER: HBIIIP can only cover costs associated with fuel infrastructure higher blends of ethanol (greater than 10 percent) and/or biodiesel (greater than 5 percent).

3. Is my Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) project a qualifying type of project for this grant?

ANSWER: RNG is not an eligible project.

4. Is rail infrastructure that would provide access to a biodiesel distribution terminal eligible either on its own or as part of a larger project?

ANSWER: No, this would not be eligible as part of the HBIIIP project.

5. If an application has components in different areas of a region, is that eligible? And is that approach preferred or discouraged?

ANSWER: Yes, multiple locations are eligible in one application. The Agency is neutral in their preference.

#### **Application**

1. My company is in the process of changing its name. I can use the current UEI. Can I change the company name when we get our contract awarded?

ANSWER: No, you would not be able to change the applicant identity once the account is created.

2. Are there guidelines on what goes into the technical report?

ANSWER: There is a technical report guide and sample technical report posted to the program website under the To Apply tab.

3. Do we only attach the acknowledgement email in the Environmental Review section of the application?

ANSWER: Yes, only the acknowledgement email is required. You may submit additional information if you wish.

4. Our project will start distributing fuel in Oct. 2023. But will need two years to ramp up to full production. Is the project end date when the facility starts distributing fuel or when the facility reaches full production?

ANSWER: The project end date would be when the construction is completed, and the system is operational.

5. If current lease is up for renewal but have not been negotiated. Lease automatically gets renewed, and we have minimum 3 years. What document will suffice as a "long term lease document proof"?

ANSWER: We would accept a signed statement indicating that the applicant would have access to the project for the life of the grant.

### **Matching Funds**

1. The proof of "matched funds" (e.g., written letter, bank statements, etc.) - is this required at the time of application or a future phase of the application process?

ANSWER: Evidence of matching funds covering the remaining eligible project costs not covered by the HBIIP funds is required at time of application submission.

2. Under the financial information matching funds tab, do you want the full project costs are just what is allowable on the last tab.

ANSWER: Matching funds should cover all eligible project costs not covered by HBIIP grant funding.

### **Environmental Review**

1. For the review by State Under Executive Order 12372 - Do we need to speak w/ the state rep or coordinate in any way prior to submitting our application? Or do we simply send them the copy of our application that the system generates upon completion?

ANSWER: We would recommend contacting them to determine what information they need.

2. How long does it take for feedback or review of the Preliminary Environmental Information Survey?

ANSWER: This will vary based on the state and their respective workload. The determination should not take long if the applicant provides all necessary information with sufficient detail.

3. The required environmental review (NEPA) is not an eligible cost?

ANSWER: Correct.

4. Do you forward the Preliminary Environmental Information Surveys to the Energy Coordinator in the state the project is in, or do we?

ANSWER: We will provide the Preliminary Environmental Information Survey and related documents to the Energy Coordinator in the state the project is located in.

5. Can you please explain the intergovernmental review process for states without a SPOC?

ANSWER: For states without a SPOC, the intergovernmental review process will be coordinated by the State Environmental Coordinator.

**Award Information**

1. For clarification, when will awards be made?

ANSWER: Written notification will be made to all applicants starting approximately 90 days after the application window closes.