

May 12, 2016

TO: State Directors, Rural Development

ATTN: Business Programs Directors  
State Energy Coordinators

SUBJECT: Section 9007, Rural Energy for America Program  
Technical Review Guidance for Fiscal Year 2016

The purpose of this Unnumbered Letter (UL) is to provide guidance for processing technical reviews for the Rural Energy for America Program, Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements loan and grant applications for fiscal year 2016.

Loan, grant, and combination applications for projects using the following technologies will be reviewed for technical merit by the State Office:

- Wind
- Solar
- Biomass (ethanol, biodiesel, and solid fuel production)
- Biomass boilers which are commercially available and use feedstock(s) that have a proven history in the boiler, and total project costs less than \$200,000
- Geothermal (direct use)
- Energy efficiency projects
- Small hydroelectric

State Offices will also perform the technical review of projects using hybrid technologies that are assigned in this UL for review by the State. If one or more of the technologies, in applications using hybrid technologies require alternative reviews, the National Office will conduct the technical reviews internally or direct reviews to the appropriate technical resource.

Loan, grant, and combination applications for projects using the following technologies, or any of those listed above which exceeds a State Office's ability to complete a technical review, will be submitted to the National Office.

EXPIRATION DATE  
April 30, 2017

FILING INSTRUCTIONS  
Community/Business Programs

- Geothermal Electric Generation
- Hydrogen
- Ocean energy
- Anaerobic digesters
- Renewable biomass projects not included above

For these technology reviews, a complete copy of the application must be forwarded through your Regional Energy Coordinator to the National Office. The National Office will conduct the reviews internally or direct reviews to the appropriate technical resource, be it NREL, Environmental Protection Agency AgSTAR, or other qualified technical resource, as needed.

E-mailing PDF files of the application materials is preferred.

Questions about technologies or the technology review process can be directed to one of the following designated contacts:

James Campbell  
(202) 205-2421  
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Fred Petok  
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Please copy your Regional Energy Coordinator on e-mails. If you have questions, please contact Fred Petok, Energy Division, at (202) 690-0784.

/s/ **SAMUEL H. RIKKERS**

SAMUEL H. RIKKERS  
Administrator  
Rural Business-Cooperative Service