NRBP Monthly Report
January 14, 2002

New York Governor Pataki Calls for Biofuels in State of the State Message

In his annual State of the State address on January 9, 2002, New York Governor George Pataki announced his plans to increase renewable energy and expand markets for agricultural products. "I will also introduce a program to improve our environment and reduce our dependence on imported foreign energy by leading the nation in the development and deployment of renewable energy resources like geothermal, biomass, solar and wind power. By doing so we can not only clean our air, but also create new industries, expand markets for New York agricultural products, diversify the state's energy supply, and increase our security."

NRBP Meets with NYCGA

The NRBP met with the New York Corn Growers Association (NYCGA) on December 20, 2001, at the USDA offices in Syracuse, NY. The meeting provided an opportunity for the NYCGA and the NRBP to provide updates on current projects and discuss possible future joint ventures. The NYCGA provided updates on potential ethanol production projects, and a study being done by Cornell University Pro Dairy on the interface between the dairy industry and the ethanol industry.

The NRBP and the NYCGA are also discussing a possible joint effort to support E-85 refueling in the State. Future meetings are planned.

New Jersey Announces Renewable funding

On December 19, 2001, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) approved the release of the Grid Connected Renewable Energy Solicitation. The solicitation is one part of the 2001 $115 million funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy that was set forth in the March 2001 Board Order for the societal benefits programs (sbc). The solicitation is for Class I renewables including PV, wind, landfill gas, fuel cells and biomass, and totals $11.5 million. The NJBPU estimates that the solicitation will fund about 2- 4 projects anywhere from 1 MW PV to a 10-20 MW biomass facility. The funding will provide up to 10% for engineering design and permitting but overall will be a paid out as a production incentive over 5 years. A bidders meeting was held January 8, 2002, but bids will be accepted until February 5, 2002. A 2002 solicitation should follow shortly and is set at $14.85 million.

Solicitations

The NRBP places solicitations related to renewable bioproducts and bioenergy on its web site www.nrbp.org. The following are some examples of current solicitations:

Agriculture Niche Markets

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program. This program assists State Departments of Agriculture or other appropriate State agencies in conducting studies or developing innovative approaches related to the marketing of agricultural products. Areas of interest include but are not limited to: Identifying niche market opportunities, and exploring new markets for agricultural products. Proposals due 2/15/02. For more info, contact Janise Zygmont at (202) 720-2704.
(Federal Register 11/30/01)

Global Climate Change

The Environmental Protection Agency, Climate Protection Partnerships Division (CPPD) has a requirement to contract for program support services. The primary goal of CPPD's partnership programs is to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, while simultaneously focusing on opportunities to increase efficiency of systems and profitability. Program support tasks would include but not be limited to: outreach; economic, financial and technical modeling; site-specific feasibility and engineering; and literature review. The RFP is expected to open on or before 1/2/02 with a mid-Feb. due date. For more info, contact Kathryn Barton at: Barton.Kathryn@epa.gov or go to:
http://www.epa.gov/oamhpod1/admin_placement/0210042/index.htm.
Refer to Sol# PR-HQ-02-10042.
(CBD 12/3/01)

Additional solicitations can be found by contacting:

http://www.bioproducts-bioenergy.gov
http://www.netl.gov

Upcoming Meetings, Workshops, and Conferences

The Pennsylvania Young Farmers will host a ½day seminar "Renewable Energy & Alternative Uses for Crops" January 17, 2002, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The NRBP is a featured presenter. Contact Rick Handley (rhandley@capital.net)

The NRBP will meet with interested grain producers in Greenville, Pennsylvania January 28, 2002, on the potential for ethanol production from corn. Contact Rick Handley (rhandley@capital.net)

Massachusetts will hold a working group meeting on January 30, 2002 at Mt. Wachusett Community College, contact Howard Bernstein (howard.bernstein@state.ma.us).

Rhode Island will hold its first working group meeting February 13, 2002, at a site to be determined. Contact Julie Capobianco (JulieC@gw.doa.state.ri.us).

Delaware will hold a meeting of the Delaware Bioenergy Consortium January 31, 2002, contact Dot Abbott-Donnelly (Dotad@udel.edu).

The National Water Research Institute will hold a Nominal Group Technique Workshop to bring together a group of nationally recognized experts to focus on the question: What are the most important issues for a comprehensive evaluations of life cycle environmental impacts associated with different fuel options? The workshop will be held February 15-17, 2002, at Cal State Polytechnic University. The NRBP has been invited to participate.

Biomass Energy Resource Center Board of Directors Meeting March 15, 2002.

NRBP Distributes Information on Pyrolysis Oils

The NRBP has provided industry information on pyrolysis oils as a basic reference for its steering committee members. As more attention is focused on energy alternatives NRBP steering committee members will be receiving questions about pyrolysis oils, its production and use. Very often the NRBP state representatives are the first source of information on emerging bioproduct and bioenergy technology. The NRBP provided the industry information as background material to its reps. The data compiled from industry web sites and handouts was not intended to be an endorsement of any technology or company but rather a basic reference. The NRBP will continue to add information to its primer on pyrolysis oils.

Pennsylvania Success Story - America's Heat

Last summer the owner's of LMF Manufacturing of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania contacted the State's NRBP representative for help in establishing a manufacturing facility in Pennsylvania to produce corn-burning stoves and furnaces. LMF would manufacture the stoves and furnaces under licence to a Midwest Company. The NRBP's representative was able to introduce LMF to the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (www.wppsef.org). Part of the mission of the WPPSEF is to promote the start-up, attraction, expansion and retention of sustainable energy businesses in the West Penn market region. A sustainable energy business is a business which designs, develops, manufactures, sells, installs or otherwise derives income from energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy or clean energy. Through the efforts of the NRBP's state network a new sustainable business has been established in Pennsylvania. America's Heat (www.americasheat.com) has begun producing corn-burning stoves and furnaces.

The 100,000 BTU America's Heat Furnace system has a 81% to 83% efficiency rating. The furnace is thermostatically controlled for precise temperature control. When the thermostat calls for heat, fuel is delivered to the burner chamber via a dual auger feed system. The auger pitch, auger dimensions, and auger motors are engineered to deliver fuel at a rate of 100,000 BTU's per hour, which equates to approximately twelve pounds of fuel per hour.

The America's Heat furnace is listed by Underwriters Laboratories as a shelled corn burning unit. However, recognizing the potential markets for other biomass fuels, specifically wood pellets, the furnace is now listed as a biomass furnace. The system has two specifically designed heavy duty cast iron burn pots, one for burning pelletized fuel and one for burning grains. The burn pots are interchangeable and easily changed or removed. The burn pots include precisely located

combustion air ports in order to create optimum fuel consumption. Fuel is fed into the bottom of the burner chamber and consumed when reaching the combustion air ports. Residue ash rises up on the incoming fuel and is spilled over the sides of the burner into the ash pan below. This process, in effect, self cleans the burner chamber. The America's Heat system will burn both high grade, low ash pellets and low grade high ash pellets.

The America's Heat Biomass Furnace features quality construction for long lasting performance. The furnace was designed in order that replacement parts be readily available on a local basis. The auger feed assembly and burner chamber are the only removable components specifically designed for the system. Otherwise, standard high quality readily available furnace components are used.

NRBP Teams with Maine Foundation for Biofuels Demonstration

The NRBP is teaming with the Chewonki Foundation of Wiscasset, Maine on a regional project to demonstrate ethanol production and use. The project will include construction of a micro ethanol production plant and the use of ethanol as a fuel substitute in Foundation vehicles. The Chewonki Foundation is an environmental and educational foundation begun in 1918. The Foundation is dedicated to helping people to grow individually and in community with others by providing experiences that foster an understanding and appreciation of the natural world and that emphasize the power of focused, collective efforts. Also participating in the project is the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. The project builds on a current highly successful biodiesel demonstration project underway at Chewonki.

DOE Calender Promotes Vermont Schools

The recently released Energy Smart Schools 2002 calender highlights two Vermont wood heated schools, Barre Town School, and Hazen Union School. Vermont’s state representative responded to a request from DOE’s Boston Regional Office for schools to be included in the calender.