



BCSE America Recovery and Reinvestment Act Update Week of May 4, 2009

This report presents recent announcement and implementation activities associated with ARRA-funded programs. Specific coverage includes:

- Recent DOE disbursement to wind energy projects
- DOE Funding Opportunity Announcement for Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E)
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clarification on lobbying activities connected with stimulus funded programs
- Smart Grid implementation update – Comments due May 6
- Clean and Renewable Energy Bond (CREB) implementation notice links.

Department of Energy (DOE) Announces \$93 million from ARRA to support wind energy projects

On April 29, DOE Secretary Stephen Chu announced plans to provide \$93 million from ARRA to support further development of wind energy in the United States during a visit to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory today. Secretary Chu also announced more than \$100 million in funding from the Recovery Act for NREL facility and infrastructure improvements.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.recovery.gov/>

Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy Funding Opportunity Announcement

On April 27, the Department of Energy (DOE) issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E).

According to DOE, this is the first solicitation for the ARPA-E. ARPA-E is a new organization within the DOE, created specifically to foster research and development of transformational energy-related technologies – which by definition are technologies that disrupt the status quo. are not merely better than current technologies, they are significantly better. Often, a technology is considered transformational when it so outperforms current approaches that it causes an industry to shift its technology base to the new technology. The nation needs transformational energy-related technologies to overcome the threats posed by climate change and energy security, arising from its reliance on traditional uses of fossil fuels and the dominant use of oil in transportation.

Link to full text: http://www.energy.gov/news2009/documents2009/ARPA-E_FOA.pdf

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Clarifies Recovery Act Lobbying Rules

In its Interim Guidance issues in April 2009, OMB has clarified the meaning of the rules for registered lobbyists' contacts with federal officials involved in Recovery Act funding. In the link provided below, please see the Frequently Asked Questions section for further detail.

Among the clarifications contained in the guidance is a better understanding that the prohibition on oral communication with federally registered lobbyists only applies to discussions of particular projects, applications, or applicants for funding. The guidance defines a "particular project" as "a discrete and identifiable transaction, or set of transactions . . . in which specific parties have expressed an interest." General questions are allowed along with communications related to

discussions on funding of certain general populations, categories of projects. In the area of grants, registered lobbyists may have oral communications with federal officials and other employees concerning the particular grant.

The OMB Interim Guidance on rules and protocols may be adjusted and further clarified in the near future.

The OMB's guidance is available here:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_fy2009/m-09-16.pdf.

Smart Grid Projects - Update

As we reported in our last update, DOE announced April 16 the initial disbursement of funds for Smart Grid projects. Comments on the Notice are **due May 6**. Information on the implementation process for grants and demonstration projects can be found at:

[Smart Grid Investment Grant Program](#) (Reference Number: DE-FOA-0000058A)

Point of Contact:

Donna Williams, Contracting Officer, E-mail: Smart-Grid.NOIComments@hq.doe.gov

[Smart Grid Demonstrations](#) (Reference Number: DE-FOA-0000036)

Keith Carrington, Tel: 304-285-4456, E-mail: keith.carrington@netl.doe.gov

Information on related Smart Grid news can be found at:

http://www.smartgridnews.com/artman/publish/news/Stimulus_News_Roundup-543.html

IRS Issues CREB and Conservation Bond Guidance

As reported in the last update, the IRS issued on April 6, the application and solicitation requirements for the New Clean Renewable Energy Bond (CREB) program and interim guidance on the new Qualified Energy Conservation Bond (QECB) Program, as authorized in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (stimulus bill). The deadline for the CREBs application is August 4, 2009. Below are additional links providing details on the requirements.

To view the CREB guidance: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-09-33.pdf>

To view the interim guidance QECB: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-09-29.pdf>