



Request For Information DE-PS36-08GO38004

Program : Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)

Information Requested on: Request for Information (RFI) by EERE for the Development of Solicitations for Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Transmission Projects under Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Description: This RFI is issued to encourage specific input from a broad-based cross-section of stakeholders, such as energy project developers, equipment vendors, engineers, investors, bankers, inventors and the like. This RFI is targeted to stakeholders directly involved in the promotion and development of energy efficiency, renewable energy and transmission technologies that employ new or significantly improved energy efficiency, renewable energy and transmission technologies addressing the production, consumption or transportation of energy that also achieve substantial environmental benefits. Through this RFI, the Department of Energy (DOE) is requesting input from these stakeholders in order to formulate and draft a solicitation for applications under a \$10,000,000,000 loan guarantee authority that meets the goals established by Congress under Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Request for Information Guidelines:

The purpose of this RFI is solely to obtain input from DOE stakeholders on the scope of a solicitation for loan guarantees to encourage commercial development in the United States of new or significantly improved renewable energy, energy efficiency and related transmission technologies that offer the potential to create more affordable and diversified energy sources and greater productivity and efficiency in energy utilization. **This RFI is not intended to solicit applications for loan guarantees from the public prior to issuing a solicitation.**

DOE will not pay for information provided under this RFI, and respondents under this RFI will not receive any additional consideration in the current or forthcoming solicitations for loan guarantees.

The recommended response to this RFI should address the areas of interest set forth in this RFI, and it is suggested that responses be no longer than five (5) pages in length with 1-inch margins, single-spaced and a minimum 11 point font. Please send your response (one attachment only) via e-mail, with the title, "EERE RFI Response."

Responses should be submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF to eerefinance@hq.doe.gov by 6:00 PM Mountain Time on May 2, 2008.

RESPONSES WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL. DO NOT PROVIDE CONFIDENTIAL OR PROPRIETARY INFORMATION IN YOUR RESPONSE.

Also please provide contact information for the submitting organization: address, phone number, email and type of business or institution (not included in the suggested five pages). In addition, please include your organization's technology focus (if any) in the e-mail and at the beginning of the RFI response.

Background to the RFI:

Pursuant to Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2008 and the accompanying Committee Report, DOE's Loan Guarantee Program Office (LGPO) has been allotted to undertake the authorization of \$10,000,000,000 in federal loan guarantees for renewable and energy efficient systems and manufacturing and distributed energy generation, transmission and distribution. On behalf of the LGPO, EERE is seeking information to support drafting and developing a solicitation for the Loan Guarantee Program to implement this authority.

This information is desired in order to assure that the loan guarantee solicitation will encourage commercial development in the United States of new or significantly improved technologies in energy projects that reduce, avoid or sequester greenhouse gases or air pollutants and offer the potential to create more affordable and diversified energy sources and greater productivity and efficiency in energy utilization. Furthermore, EERE is interested in supporting the development of large-scale projects that integrate multiple efficiency, renewable and transmission technologies to benefit regions or sectors of the United States.

Title XVII and the Loan Guarantee Program:

A principal purpose of the Title XVII and the Loan Guarantee Program is to encourage early commercial use in the United States of innovative and new or significantly improved technologies in energy projects. The Program objectives are to issue loan guarantees to eligible projects that:

- Avoid, reduce or sequester air pollutants or anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases;
- Provide a reasonable assurance of repayment; and
- Employ new or significantly improved technologies as compared to technologies in service in the United States at the time the guarantee is issued.

Other elements of an eligible project for loan guarantee are:

- The project must be deemed to have a "reasonable prospect" of repayment before a loan guarantee is issued;
- A guarantee shall not exceed 80 percent of the total project cost;
- DOE will have a superior lien on all project assets, pledged as collateral;

- LGPO must charge and collect fees sufficient to cover applicable administrative expenses; and
- The borrower will pay a “credit subsidy” fee to cover the risk of the obligation.

For further information on Title XVII and the Loan Guarantee Program and implementing regulations, go to <http://www.lgprogram.energy.gov/>.

Areas of Interest for DOE:

EERE seeks comments on the following areas of interest. Respondents need only comment on those areas that are of importance to them.

1. Describe the technology or project concept for which you would like to seek a loan guarantee from DOE. Project concepts can include, but are not limited to, freestanding energy efficiency, supply-side energy production, transportation projects, transportation and consumer systems, and equipment manufacturing facilities. Also of particular interest are integrated project proposals that incorporate multiple technologies that utilize transmission and electronic control systems on a utility or distributed generation scale.
2. Explain how your technology or project concept complies with the requirements established by the LGPO, the final regulations published in October, 2007 and Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Without revealing proprietary information, describe how the technology or project is innovative.*
3. Describe the principal obstacles your company, technology or project face in obtaining commercial financing, attracting equity capital or developing the underlying project or technology to a commercial level. Describe what is needed to mitigate such obstacles and how the loan guarantee may or may not be an important mitigating force. Note that DOE’s Loan Guarantee Program is designed to support commercially viable projects that have been successfully demonstrated at both the pilot and demonstration scale, but have not yet been widely deployed in the U.S.
4. How would you rate your company’s interest in responding to this solicitation: (a) very high, probable that we will apply; (b) interested, but would need more information or technology development before we applied, or (c) not interested, not likely that we will apply.
5. Suggest what criteria DOE should consider to evaluate and score energy efficiency, renewable energy and transmission related applications. Relevant criteria can include timing, scope, cost effectiveness, eligible technologies and other criteria that will enable DOE to attain the goals established in Title XVII.

* Note that to qualify for a loan guarantee the technology must have been successfully demonstrated both at the pilot and demonstration scale and be ready for commercialization. In addition, the final regulations limit support to technologies that are installed in no more than three commercial projects in the United States and that have been in operation in each such commercial project for no more than a period of five years.

6. Any other suggestions, recommendations or observations relevant to DOE in developing the energy efficiency, renewable energy and transmission portion of the solicitation.

Questions:

Any questions concerning this RFI must be submitted through the “Submit Question” feature under DE-PS36-08GO38004 on DOE’s Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) at <https://e-center.doe.gov>.

Public Meeting Announcement:

EERE will host an industry day on April 23, 2008 at DOE’s Forrestal Building Auditorium, 1000 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. Two separate sessions are scheduled. The first presentation and overview will be provided from 9:00 am to 11 am. A second repeat presentation and overview will be provided from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. The schedule for the break-out sessions will be posted on the EERE website at www.eere.energy.gov.

Space is limited for these meetings. **Only those respondents who have received an acknowledgement from our office will be permitted to attend the meetings.** These meetings will be videotaped and posted on the website (referenced above) for the benefit of those that cannot attend.

In order to assure attendance, interested parties must send an email containing the following information to eerefinance@hq.doe.gov with the title, “Finance Meeting RSVP:”

- Name
- Title
- Company
- Address
- Email
- Phone Number
- Confirmation of Attendee US Citizenship