

PON-08-011

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Cost Share PIER

Questions and Answers from the Geothermal Workshop

NOTE: It is suggested that interested persons also read the Questions and Answers from the Solar Workshop held on June 26 2009 from 1-3 pm, as some questions posed at that workshop are general in nature and likely to be of value to all applicants for PON 08-011.

1. What are the dates for notification of award or rejection?
 - a. Table 1 on page 4 of the Application Manual includes dates for Letters of Intent, or Letters of Rejection in response to pre-applications. The Energy Commission cannot provide dates for final decisions on awards because these decisions are dependent on when the federal ARRA solicitation awards are made.
2. Where can potential applicants find the slides from this workshop?
 - a. The slides will be posted with the solicitation files at:
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/index.html>.
3. May applications be submitted through courier services like FedEx?
 - a. Yes. However, the package must be received by the due date and time. The courier's guarantee will not be acceptable if the package is not delivered on time.
4. Is an electronic copy on a CD required for pre-applications?
 - a. No, but it would be helpful.
5. The scoring criteria appear not to favor geothermal analysis projects. Is this correct?
 - a. No. Such projects would potentially be eligible if they meet DOE criteria as well as the California Energy Commission criteria. We suggest you read the criteria and requirements carefully in both the FOA topic area that you are responding to and the PON-08-011 solicitation manual to determine your project's eligibility and likely competitiveness in the California Energy Commission solicitation.
6. Must the CEQA process be complete before applications are submitted?
 - a. You may apply, but you must meet applicable permitting requirements. The CEQA process must be completed before California Energy Commission funds can be awarded.

Because of the time sensitivity of this solicitation, it would be beneficial to start the process as soon as possible.

7. Is it the California Energy Commission's intention that this solicitation provide the entire cost share, or only a part of it, for projects applying to DOE funding opportunity announcements?
 - a. Applicants should carefully read the DOE funding opportunity announcement to determine the match required by DOE for projects within each category. As California Energy Commission funds are limited, the California Energy Commission does not necessarily intend, and in most cases, will not be able to, provide the entire amount of required match for any given approved project. Please refer to Table 2 on page 5 of our solicitation for the maximum Energy Commission cost share award that may be given for a single project in different categories of the Federal announcements.
8. We are in the phase of structuring our application for the DOE solicitation. Can we submit a pre-application to the California Energy Commission for cost sharing before submitting the original proposal to DOE?
 - a. Yes. You should submit a Pre-Application to the California Energy Commission by the date(s) listed in Table 1, page 4, of the California Energy Commission solicitation manual. We will screen the Pre-Application. If it passes, we will issue a Letter of Intent that you can send to DOE with your application. Please review the instructions and requirements in our solicitation package.
9. If an applicant plans to use proprietary software in a geothermal project, does the California Energy Commission expect us to provide rights of use for this software? The software is a well-established industry standard.
 - a. To provide a definitive answer to this question, we would require additional information on the origin and ownership of the software, its use in the project, and whether the California Energy Commission would need to use the software in order to use a product of the project or to evaluate progress on the project. Our Terms and Conditions for grants have specific requirements concerning intellectual property. The applicant should carefully read the DOE funding announcement for any requirements that DOE may have concerning proprietary or confidential materials.
10. Topic Area 3 of the DOE funding opportunity announcement DE-FOA-0000109 does not require match funding. Would a project proposed for this Topic Area be eligible for funding under this solicitation? Even though not required by DOE, PIER support would be useful.
 - a. Yes. The goal of this solicitation is to attract federal funding to California. Hopefully, applications with cost share will be viewed more favorably, even if cost share is not required. However, it is important to note that the project must be based in California to be eligible for PON-08-011 funding, and will be scored based on its benefit to California under several scoring criteria.
11. For an existing geothermal project that has funding from the California Energy Commission through the Geothermal Resources Development Account (GRDA), can both the Recipient's

match share and the California Energy Commission GRDA share be offered as match to the DOE announcements?

- a.** Yes. However, the DOE will determine what acceptable match is. No new GRDA funds will be available for this solicitation.