

2010 Work Plan
December 1, 2009 – November 30, 2010
Biomass R&D Technical Advisory Committee

Background

The Biomass Research and Development (R&D) Technical Advisory Committee (Committee) is chartered to provide advice to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy and their points-of-contact (POCs) as proscribed by the Biomass R&D Act of 2000 and as amended by the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA), within the regulations of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Under Secretary for Rural Development Dallas Tonsager, Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Under Secretary for Science Steven Koonin, Department of Energy (DOE) are the Departmental POCs for 2009-2010.

The Committee was established by the Biomass R&D Act of 2000 [7 U.S.C. 7624 note] (as amended) to provide:

- Advice on the technical focus and direction of requests for proposals issued under the Biomass R&D Initiative, and
- Advice on the procedures for reviewing and evaluating the proposals.

The Committee shall also:

- Evaluate and perform strategic planning on program activities relating to the Biomass R&D Initiative.

Additionally, the Committee shall have the following duties:

- Advise the POCs with respect to Biomass R&D;
- Make recommendations in writing to the Biomass Research and Development Board to ensure that:
 - Funds authorized for Biomass R&D are distributed and used in a manner that is consistent with the objectives, purposes, and considerations of the Biomass R&D Initiative;
 - Solicitations are open and competitive with awards made annually and that objectives and evaluation criteria of the solicitations are clearly stated and minimally prescriptive, with no areas of special interest;
 - Activities are carried out in accordance with the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000.

For each fiscal year for which funds are made available to carry out the Biomass R&D, the POCs provide a report to Congress, via the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy that takes into account any recommendations that have been made by the Advisory Committee.

2010 Activities

Required 2010 Activities

Recommendations to Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy:

To be discussed throughout the fiscal year. At the last meeting of FY 2010, recommendations will be approved by majority vote for inclusion in the annual report to the Secretaries and Congress. The Biomass R&D Act of 2000 requires that the recommendations consider the following:

- Feedback on the results of the FY 2010 joint USDA – DOE biomass R&D solicitation.
- Recommendations for the FY 2010 joint solicitation.

Recommended 2010 Activities

- Coordination between Subcommittees and Biomass R&D Board Interagency Working Groups
- Communicate with the Biomass R&D Board (Board), both as a group and with individual agencies' members, regarding Committee activities and priorities for biomass R&D. As required by the Biomass R&D Act of 2000, meet with the Board at least once during the year.

2010 Deliverables

- Recommendations to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy on biomass R&D

Timeline for Generation of Recommendations

In order to provide recommendations for the annual report to Congress for fiscal year 2010 before its due date of December 20, 2010, formal approval of recommendations must be prompt. Members agreed to allow submission of recommendations up to the final due date via email at theibel@bcs-hq.com. Submission via other means is possible by contacting T.J. Heibel at 410-997-7778 x223. Two weeks after each public meeting, a list of all submitted recommendations will be provided to all Committee members. If members cannot access email, a hard copy of the list is provided via fax or regular mail. A timeline will be included in updated versions of this Work Plan, to provide all deadlines for submission of recommendations for the FY 2010 Annual Report.

Recommended Committee Meeting Schedule

In 2010, the full Committee will meet at least quarterly, as stated in its charter.

Date	Purpose
April 1-2, 2010 1.5-Day Meeting Washington, DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss Annual Recommendations to the Secretaries ▪ ARPA-E Presentation ▪ RFS Rulemaking Update from EPA ▪ Panel on Giant Reed as a feedstock ▪ Coordination with other FACA Committees ▪ Update on Biomass R&D Board Activities ▪ DOE and USDA FY2010 Appropriation and FY2011 Request ▪ Update on DOE and USDA Activities and Joint Solicitation
June 23-24, 2010 1.5-Day Meeting Washington, DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop Annual Recommendations to the Secretaries ▪ Impact of earmarks presentation ▪ Algae & Advanced Fuels Consortia Presentation ▪ Budget interface presentation – how are funds being spent across agencies (similar to June 2009 meeting, but more comprehensive) ▪ Subcommittee Breakout Meetings with agency representatives ▪ Joint FACA Meeting with NAREEE Committee ▪ Update on Biomass R&D Board Activities ▪ Update on DOE and USDA Activities and Joint Solicitation
September 29-30, 2010 1.5-Day Meeting Denver, CO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop Annual Recommendations to the Secretaries ▪ EISA Studies Report Out ▪ Climate Change Legislation Update ▪ Updates on platform SOTs for 2010 ▪ 2011 Work Plan Discussion ▪ Subcommittee Breakout Meetings with agency representatives ▪ Update on Biomass R&D Board Activities ▪ Update on DOE and USDA Activities and Joint Solicitation
December 15, 2010 1-Day Meeting Washington, DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on Biomass R&D Board Activities ▪ Update on DOE and USDA Activities and Joint Solicitation ▪ Finalize 2011 Work Plan ▪ Present Annual Recommendations to the Points of Contact

Overall themes

- Basic vs. applied research
- Agency focus & priorities
- Getting to commercialization
- Future agency presentations focus less on government process/organization and more on R&D funding and results.