



Florida Energy & Climate Commission

Renewable Energy and Energy-Efficient Technologies Grants Program

S0368 – Florida Biomass Energy Consortium (FBEC)

August 19, 2009



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Background

- In September of 2007, the Department of Environmental Protection awarded a Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Technologies Grant to the Florida Biomass Energy Consortium (Grantee).
- This Grant was for \$2,500,000 with a cost share of \$3,788,575 by the grantee and their partner CertainTweed.
- The industrial application of the project was to directly displace natural gas use with biogas for end-use wallboard product drying.
- The Grant was scheduled for 24 months, beginning on January 25, 2008 and ending on January 25, 2010.



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- In May of 2009 the Grantee informed the Energy office that they had found a new partner in Homeland Agricultural Fuels.

- The Grantee asked for an amendment to the Grant Agreement:
 - Change its partner from CertainTweed to Homeland Agricultural Fuels;
 - Move the project from Jacksonville, FL to Bartow, FL;
 - Change the categories of funding from the original budget to a new budget;
 - Change the scope of work of the project from directly displacing natural gas use with biogas for end-use wallboard product drying to the use of the gasification system to displace 90% plus of the natural gas burned by the ethanol operation in the facility for steam, heat and potentially power.
 - Extend the time frame of the Grant from 24 months to 36 months.



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Not In Compliance with Agreement

- In the 19 months this Grant has been in operation, the Grantee has not provided any details as far as cost share it has spent nor has it requested any reimbursement of funds.
- Four months away from the end of the Grant term and the Grantee has not met its timetables or deliverables
- Numerous unmet deliverables including but not limited to the following:
 - Copy of signed agreement defining all terms and conditions regarding design, installation, operation and gas sales from facility to dryer air;
 - Copy of signed agreement(s) for Engineering, Procurement, and Construction Contract;
 - Copy of all site permits issued for installation and operation (Air, Water, Solid Waste, Environmental);
 - Copy of design plan for the Bio-gasifier plant site in Jacksonville;
 - Copy of design plan showing integration with C-G dryer operations;
 - Copy of design plan identifying the hot bio-gas burner specifications to meet all requirements;
 - Copy of bid package related to the equipment specifications and the gasifier vessel specifications;
 - Copy of evaluation results and executed supplier/fabricator contract(s);
 - Copy of work plan and contracts for operations and maintenance of facility;
 - Copy of long term sales agreement;
 - Copy of design and operation plan;
 - Copy of permits issued;
 - Copy of biomass delivery plan which includes set up and start up; and
 - List of opportunities and suppliers.



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Proposed Actions

- If you decide to terminate the Grant, the company can reapply for a new Grant with its new scope of work, deliverables and partner during the next funding cycle.
- Commission staff would propose to move the \$2,500,000 from this project to either another grant or the solar rebate program.