will need to secure the services of an independent, professionally responsible, qualified consultant to certify testing specifications, procedures, and testing results.

(3) Project completion. The project is complete when the applicant has provided a written final project development, testing, and performance report acceptable to the Agency. Upon notification of receipt of an acceptable project completion report, the applicant may request grant reimbursement. The Agency reserves the right to observe the testing.

(4) Insurance. Section 4280.118 applies, except business interruption insurance is not required.

§ 4280.115 RES and EEI grant funding.

(a) The amount of grant funds that will be made available to an eligible RES or EEI project under this subpart will not exceed 25 percent of total eligible project costs. Eligible project costs are specified in paragraph (c) of this section.

(b) The applicant is responsible for securing the remainder of the total eligible project costs not covered by grant funds. The amount secured by the applicant must be the remainder of total eligible project costs.

(1) Without specific statutory authority, other Federal grant funds cannot be used to meet the matching fund requirement.

(2) Passive third-party equity contributions are acceptable for renewable energy system projects, including those that are eligible for Federal production tax credits, provided the applicant meets the requirements of §4280.112.

(c) Eligible project costs are only those costs associated with the items identified in paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(10) of this section, as long as the items are an integral and necessary part of the renewable energy system or energy efficiency improvement.

(1) Post-application purchase and installation of equipment (new, refurbished, or remanufactured), except agricultural tillage equipment, used equipment, and vehicles.

(2) Post-application construction or improvements, except residential.

(3) Energy audits or assessments.

(4) Permit and license fees.

(5) Professional service fees, except for application preparation.

(6) Feasibility studies and Technical reports.

(7) Business plans.

(8) Retrofitting.

(9) Construction of a new energy efficient facility only when the facility is used for the same purpose, is approximately the same size, and, based on the energy assessment or audit, will provide more energy savings than improving an existing facility. Only costs identified in the energy assessment or audit for energy efficiency improvements are allowed.

(10) Energy efficiency improvements are limited to only improvements identified in the energy assessment or audit. Equipment identified by the assessment or audit to be replaced shall be replaced with equipment similar in capacity. If the energy efficiency improvement has a greater capacity than the existing equipment, the Agency will pro-rate the energy efficiency improvement’s total eligible project costs based on the capacity of the existing equipment. A calculation shall be performed by dividing the capacity of the existing equipment by the capacity of the proposed equipment to determine the percentage of the energy efficiency improvement’s eligible project costs that the Agency will use in determining the maximum grant assistance under this subpart (see example).

Example. A business plans to build a new production line with a capacity of 625 units per hour to replace an existing production line that produces 500 units per hour. The total project costs of the new production line is $20,000, of which $15,000 would otherwise qualify as eligible project costs. However, because the new production line has a greater production capacity than the existing line (625 units per hour versus 500 units per hour), only a portion of the $15,000 of otherwise eligible project costs would be in determining total eligible project cost and the maximum grant assistance available. In this example, because the original capacity (500 units per hour) is 80 percent of the new capacity (625 units per hour), only 80 percent of the $15,000 of otherwise eligible project costs associated with the new production line (i.e., $12,000) will be considered as total eligible
RBS and RUS, USDA § 4280.116

The requirements in this section apply to RES and EEI grant applications under this subpart.

(a) General. To ensure that projects are accurately scored by the Agency, applicants are requested to number each evaluation criteria and include, in that section, its corresponding supporting documentation and calculations according to §4280.117.

(1) One funding type applications. Only one type of funding application (grant-only, guaranteed loan-only, or guaranteed loan/grant combination) for each project can be submitted under this subpart per Federal fiscal year.

(2) Environmental information. Each application must include all environmental review documents with supporting documentation in accordance with 7 CFR part 1940, subpart G.

(3) Foreign technology. As stated in §4280.113(b), projects must be for a pre-commercial or commercially available technology. The Agency's position is that if the system is currently commercially available only outside the United States (U.S.), then applicants must provide authoritative evidence of the foreign operating history, performance, and reliability in order to address the proven operating history identified in the definition. "Commercial" applicants must provide evidence that professional service providers, trades, large construction equipment providers and labor are readily available domestically and familiar with installation procedures and practices, and spare parts and service are readily available in the U.S. to properly maintain and operate the system. All warranties must be valid in the U.S.

(4) Commercial application demonstration of pre-commercial technologies. In accordance with the definition of "pre-commercial" technology found in §4280.103, technical and economic potential for commercial application must be demonstrated to the Agency. In order to demonstrate the system has emerged through research and development as well as the demonstration process, applicants must provide authoritative evidence of the operating history, performance, and reliability past completion of start-up, shake-down, and commissioning. Typically, and in line with financial and operating performance evaluation protocol, the documented operating history, which may be established domestically or outside the U.S., should provide performance data for a minimum of 12 months. The time period will address the economic and technical performance potential of the pre-commercial