DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Nationwide Categorical Waivers Under Section 1605 (Buy American) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)


ACTION: Notice of limited waivers.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is hereby granting a nationwide limited waiver of the Buy American requirements of section 1605 of the Recovery Act under the authority of Section 1605(b)(2), (iron, steel, and the relevant manufactured goods are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality), with respect to: five kilowatt (5kW) and fifty kilowatt (50kW) wind turbines for use on eligible EERE-Recovery Act funded projects.

DATES: Effective Date: July 8, 2011.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of the Recovery Act, Public Law 111–5, section 1605(b)(2), the head of a Federal department or agency may issue a “determination of inapplicability” (a waiver of the Buy American provision) if the iron, steel, or relevant manufactured good is not produced or manufactured in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality (“nonavailability”). On April 25, 2011, the authority of the Secretary of Energy to make all inapplicability determinations was re-delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), for EERE projects under the Recovery Act. Pursuant to this delegation the Assistant Secretary, EERE, has concluded that: five kilowatt (5kW) and fifty kilowatt (50kW) wind turbines qualify for the “nonavailability” waiver determination when utilized in eligible EERE Recovery Act-funded projects where the wind resource and needs of the project require such size.

While there are US manufacturers of turbines appropriate for the needs of the great majority of EERE funded wind projects, there are currently no US manufacturers of five kilowatt (5kW) or fifty kilowatt (50kW) turbines.

The EERE Buy American Coordinator has worked with many manufacturing stakeholders to scout for domestic manufacturing capacity or an equivalent product for each item contained in this waiver. This included the Small Wind Manufacturing Council, the Distributed Wind Energy Association, and the American Wind Energy Association. EERE also conducted significant amounts of independent research, including utilizing the small wind experts employed by the Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory. In addition, this nonavailability determination is informed by the many inquiries and petitions to EERE from recipients of EERE Recovery Act funds, and from suppliers, distributors, retailers and trade associations—all stating that their individual efforts to locate domestic manufacturers for five kilowatt (5kW) and fifty kilowatt (50kW) turbines have been unsuccessful.

For all Recovery Act Buy American waiver requests, EERE also employs a comprehensive process to ascertain in a systematic and expedient manner whether or not there is domestic manufacturing capacity for the items submitted for a waiver. This process involves a close collaboration with the United States Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), in order to scour the domestic manufacturing landscape in search of producers before making any nonavailability determinations.

The MEP has 59 regional centers with substantial knowledge of, and connections to, the domestic manufacturing sector. MEP uses their regional centers to ‘scout’ for current or potential manufacturers of the product(s) submitted in a waiver request. In the course of this interagency collaboration, MEP has been able to find exact or partial matches for manufactured goods that EERE grantees had been unable to locate. As a result, in those cases, EERE was able to work with the grantees to procure American-made products rather than granting a waiver.

Upon receipt of completed waiver requests for the two products in the current waiver, EERE reviewed the information provided and submitted the relevant technical information to the MEP. The MEP then used their network of nationwide centers to scout for domestic manufacturers. The MEP reported that their scouting process did...
not locate any domestic manufacturers for these exact or equivalent items.

The research efforts of MEP confirmed EERE’s findings that the 5kW and 50kW turbines referenced in this waiver are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality.

In light of the foregoing, and under the authority of section 1605(b)(2) of Public Law 111–5 and Rededication Order 00–002–01D, with respect to Recovery Act projects funded by EERE, I hereby issue a “determination of inapplicability” (a waiver under the Recovery Act Buy American provision) for: five kilowatt (5kW) and fifty kilowatt (50kW) wind turbines, when used on eligible EERE Recovery Act-funded projects.

This waiver determination is pursuant to the delegation of authority by the Secretary of Energy to the Acting Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy with respect to expenditures within the purview of his responsibility. Consequently, this waiver applies only to EERE projects carried out under the Recovery Act.

Having established a proper justification based on domestic nonavailability, EERE hereby provides notice that on July 8, 2011, two nationwide categorical waivers of section 1605 of the Recovery Act were issued as detailed supra. This notice constitutes the detailed written justification required by Section 1605(c) for waivers based on a finding under subsection (b).

This waiver determination is pursuant to the delegation of authority by the Secretary of Energy to the Acting Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy with respect to expenditures within the purview of his responsibility. Consequently, this waiver applies to all EERE projects carried out under the Recovery Act.


Issued in Washington, DC, on July 8, 2011.

Henry Kelly,

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. PR11–111–000; PR11–111–001]

Arcadia Gas Storage, LLC; Notice of Baseline Filing

Take notice that on May 19, 2011 and July 26, 2011, Arcadia Gas Storage, LLC submitted a revised baseline filing of their Statement of Operating Conditions for services provided under Section 311 of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (“NGPA”).

Any person desiring to participate in this rate proceeding must file a motion to intervene or to protest this filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. Such notices, motions, or protests must be filed on or before the date as indicated below. Anyone filing an intervention or protest must serve a copy of that document on the Applicant. Anyone filing an intervention or protest on or before the intervention or protest date need not serve motions to intervene or protests on persons other than the Applicant.

The Commission encourages electronic submission of protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the “eFiling” link at http://www.ferc.gov. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 7 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

This filing is accessible on-line at http://www.ferc.gov, using the “eLibrary” link and is available for review in the Commission’s Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. There is an “eSubscription” link on the Web site that enables subscribers to receive e-mail notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). For assistance with any FERC Online service, please e-mail FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, or call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday August 8, 2011.