

Section 2. Anaerobic Digester Projects

The technical requirements specified in this section apply to anaerobic digester projects, which are, as defined in § 4280.103, renewable energy systems that use animal waste and other organic substrates to produce thermal or electrical energy via anaerobic digestion.

(a) Qualifications of key project service providers. List all key project service providers. If one or more licensed professionals are involved in the project, provide the credentials for each professional.

(b) Agreements, permits, and certifications.

(1) Identify all necessary agreements and permits required for the project and the status and schedule for securing those agreements and permits.

(2) For systems planning to interconnect with a utility, describe the utility's system interconnection requirements, power purchase arrangements, or licenses where required and the anticipated schedule for meeting those requirements and obtaining those agreements. This is required even if the system is installed on the customer side of the utility meter. For systems planning to utilize a local net metering program as their interconnection agreement, describe the applicable local net metering program.

(3) Identify all environmental issues, including any compliance issues associated with or expected as a result of the project on Form RD 1940-20, "Request for Environmental Information," and in compliance with 7 CFR part 1940, subpart G, of this title.

(c) Resource assessment. Provide adequate and appropriate data to demonstrate the amount of digestible substrate resource available. Indicate the source of the data and assumptions. Indicate the substrates used as digester inputs, including animal wastes, food-processing wastes, or other organic wastes in terms of type, quantity, seasonality, and frequency of collection. Describe any special handling of feedstock that may be necessary. Describe the process for determining the feedstock resource. Show the digestion conversion factors and calculations used to estimate biogas production and heat or power production.

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(d) Design and engineering. Applicants must submit a statement certifying that their project will be designed and engineered so as to meet the intended purpose, will ensure public safety, and will comply with applicable laws, regulations, agreements, permits, codes, and standards. In addition, applicants must:

- (1) Provide authoritative evidence that the system will be designed and engineered so as to meet its intended purpose;
- (2) List possible suppliers and models of major pieces of equipment;
- (3) Provide a description of the components, materials, or systems to be installed. Include the location of the project;
- (4) Provide a one-line diagram for the electrical interconnection. Provide diagrams or schematics as required showing all major installed structural, mechanical, and electrical components of the system;
- (5) Describe the expected electric power, fuel production, or thermal energy production of the proposed system as rated and as expected in actual field conditions. Describe the uses of or the market for electricity, heat, or fuel produced by the system; and
- (6) Describe the project site and address issues such as proximity to the load or the electrical grid, unique safety concerns, and whether special circumstances exist.

(e) Project development schedule. Provide a project schedule in an appropriate level of detail that will demonstrate the project can be adequately managed and be able to identify impacts of any delays on the project completion. The applicant must submit a statement certifying that the project will be completed within 2 years from the date of approval.

(f) Project economic assessment. Provide an analysis of the proposed project to demonstrate its financial performance, including the calculation of simple payback. The analysis should include applicable investment incentives, productivity incentives, loans and grants, and expected energy offsets or sales on a monthly and annual basis. In addition, provide other information necessary to assess the project's cost effectiveness.

(g) Equipment procurement. Include a statement from the applicant certifying "open and free" competition will be used for the procurement of project components in a manner consistent with the requirements of 7 CFR part 3015 of this title.

(h) Equipment installation. The project must be installed in accordance with applicable local, State, and national building and electrical codes and regulations. Include a statement from the applicant certifying that equipment installation will be made in accordance with all applicable safety and work rules. Upon successful system installation and following established operation, the successful applicant must deliver invoices and evidence of payment.

(i) Operations and maintenance. Identify any unique operations and maintenance requirements of the project necessary for the system to operate as designed over the design life. State the design life of the system.

(1) Provide information on all system warranties. A minimum 3-year warranty for equipment and a 10-year warranty on design are expected.

(2) If the project has any unique operation and maintenance issues, describe them.

(j) Dismantling and disposal of project components. Describe a plan for dismantling and disposing of project components and associated wastes at the end of their useful lives.