



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

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Route To:

Subject: Forest Service Energy Implementation Plan

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, WO Staff

On July 13, 2001, the Secretary of Agriculture approved the subject plan. Because of the high visibility of this issue with the Administration and our national need for energy, I want to emphasize my commitment to the complete implementation of this plan within the Forest Service. It is my firm belief that we can develop our energy resources and effectively protect our environment. Therefore, I urge each of you to provide the necessary leadership and resources to meet our plan objectives and actions. With your commitment, we can ensure the continued sustainability of energy production on National Forest System lands and contribute to our agency's share and role in the National Energy Policy.

/s/ Dale N. Bosworth
DALE N. BOSWORTH
Chief

Enclosures



FS Implementation of National Energy Plan

INTRODUCTION: The 192 million acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands contain high to low potential for energy resources. As part of President Bush’s energy task force, on March 30, 2001, Associate Chief for Natural Resources, Hilda Diaz-Soltero, requested that Larry Gadt, Director of Minerals and Geology Management (MGM) chair a Forest Service Energy Group and develop a coherent energy policy. The Energy Group included members from the Deputy Areas of National Forest System (NFS), Research and Development (R&D), and State and Private Forestry (S&PF). Within these areas, specifically, the Lands (rights-of-way and hydropower), Forest Management (FM), Cooperative Forestry (CF), Fire and Aviation Management (FAM) and Research (biomass), Minerals and Geology (MGM)(coal, natural gas, oil, and geothermal), Ecosystem Management Coordination (EMC) (forest planning), and Office of Communication (OC) staffs directly participated in the drafting of this document. In addition, the Energy Group supplied information to the Department of the Interior in their efforts to formulate an energy policy. This Implementation Plan has been formatted by subject area, with a cross reference to a specific recommendation of the National Energy Plan (NEP). Also, incorporated into the following action items are the direction contained in the President’s Executive Orders No. 13211 and No. 13212 of May 18, 2001. The lead Deputy Area and staff is the first listed under the “Assigned to” column.

ENERGY RESOURCES OF THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

WATER ENERGY

NEP Chapter 5, Recommendation: “...*make licensing process for hydroelectric projects more clear and efficient, while preserving environmental goals...*”

Support administrative/legislative reform of hydropower licensing process by:

Action	Complete by	Assigned to
1. Continue working with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Department of Interior (DOI), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Commerce (DOC), and other agencies to implement agreements from the Hydropower Interagency Task Force.	12/01	NFS-LANDS
2. Continue participation in Electrical Power Research Institute’s (EPRI) National Review Group in discussion with producers and environmental groups on agreed upon administrative and/or legislative changes in the licensing process.	12/01	NFS-LANDS
3. Seek direct cost recovery through legislation.	Ongoing	NFS-LANDS
4. Seek changes in FERCs’ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and policy.	Ongoing	NFS-LANDS

NEP Chapter 5, Recommendation: ***“Direct federal resource agencies to reach interagency agreement on conflicting mandatory license conditions before they submit their conditions to FERC for inclusion in a license.”***

Action	Complete by	Assigned to
1. Continue Federal Resource Agency Working Group (DOI, DOC, EPA, and USDA).	09/01	NFS-LANDS
2. Establish mechanism to resolve conflicts over legal interpretation of environmental laws, and management goals with appropriate agencies and Department of Justice (DOJ).	09/01	NFS-LANDS
3. Consult with FERC, DOI, and DOC regarding scheduling of deadlines for the filing of terms and conditions, given the need to first reach interagency agreement.	09/01	NFS-LANDS

FOSSIL FUELS AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

NEP Chapter 3, Recommendation: ***“...to expedite permits and other federal actions necessary for energy-related project approvals on a national basis...”***

Action	Complete by	Assigned to
1. Identify broad opportunities for expediting permitting of energy projects with field offices and WO staffs.	Ongoing	NFS-MGM, LANDS
2. Coordinate as appropriate with Interagency Task Force (per E.O. 13212) (attached document).	07/15/01	NFS-MGM, LANDS
3. Facilitate land and mineral estate exchanges to maximize availability of lands for energy exploration and development while minimizing other resource conflict.	Ongoing	NFS-LANDS
4. Expand Federal Leadership Forum to high priority Forests.	Ongoing	NFS-MGM

NEP Chapter 5, Recommendation: ***“...examine land status and lease stipulation impediments to federal oil and gas leasing, and review and modify those where opportunities exist (consistent with the law, good environmental practices, and balanced use of other resources). *Expedite the ongoing Energy Policy and Conservation Act study of impediments to federal oil and gas exploration and development. *Review public land withdrawals and lease stipulations, with full public consultation, especially with the people in the region, to consider modifications where appropriate.”***

Primary attention should be directed toward the following areas in coordination with the BLM. These areas are within the five “priority areas” identified by the Administration.

1. Carson NF
2. Custer NF
3. Thunder Basin NG
4. Manti-LaSal NF
5. Ashley NF
6. Wasatch-Cache NF
7. Bridger-Teton NF
8. Grand Mesa-Umcompahgre NF
9. White Rivers NF
10. San Juan NF

Action	Complete by	Assigned to
1. Complete study on effects of Forest Plan Decisions on energy availability for above priority areas [Energy Policy Conservation Act (EPCA) Study.]	10/30/01	NFS-MGM, EMC, Regional Foresters (RFs)
2. Regional Foresters to amend or begin revision, as appropriate, current plan for above priority areas.	10/30/02	NFS-MGM, EMC
3. Complete national resource inventory of oil, gas, coal, coal bed methane, and geothermal resources to highlight opportunities on all other NFS lands.	10/30/01	NFS-MGM
4. Use inventory information to consider energy development opportunities.	As Forest Plans revised	NFS-MGM, RFs
5. Develop schedule for completion of EPCA study on remaining areas.	11/30/01	NFS-MGM, EMC

BIOMASS and BIOENERGY

NEP Chapter 6, Recommendation: “...*provide increased support for research and development of renewable energy resources.*”

Action	Complete by	Assigned to
1. Pilot test biomass heat and energy distribution in small, rural communities with hazardous fuels reduction efforts.	08/31/02	S&PF-CF, NFS-FAM, R&D-Resource Valuation & Use Research (RVUR)
2. Expand current pilot test of the use of soybean fuel for diesel trucks in South Dakota.	12/31/02	NFS-FAM

3. Prepare language for tax incentives that promote production and use of biomass for energy.	01/12/02	R&D-Vegetation Management and Protection Research (VMPR)
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NEP Chapter 6, Recommendation: “...*Encourage development of Combined Heat and Power units (CHP)*...”

Action	Complete by	Assigned to
1. FS make small diameter and underutilized wood from National Forests available to communities and businesses seeking to implement biomass-powered CHP units on a fair, equitable, and sustainable basis.	12/31/02	S&PF – Forest and Rangeland Management (FARM)

INFRASTRUCTURE, RESEARCH AND TECH TRANSFER

INFRASTRUCTURE

NEP Chapter 7, Recommendation: “...*Remove constraints on interstate transmission grid*...” and “*Direct the Secretary of Energy by December 31, 2001, to examine the benefits of establishing a national grid, identify transmission bottlenecks, and identify measures to remove transmission bottlenecks.*”

Action	Complete by	Assigned to
1. Coordinate with Secretary of Energy to offer assistance.	Ongoing	NFS-LANDS
2. Revise FSM/FSH planning direction on designating utility and energy corridors.	As per DOE schedule	NFS-LANDS, EMC

NEP Chapter 7, Recommendation: “*Expedite pipeline permitting in an environmentally sound manner and encourage FERC to consider improvements in the regulatory process governing approval of interstate natural gas pipeline projects.*”

Action	Complete by	Assigned to
1. Work with FERC and other agencies to identify means of expediting environmental processes and minimizing duplication in the permitting of oil and gas pipeline projects.	As per FERC schedule	NFS-LANDS, MGM
2. Use Federal Leadership Forum to facilitate	Ongoing	NFS-MGM, LANDS

RESEARCH

NEP Chapter 4, Recommendation: “...*using the nation’s energy resources more efficiently.*”

Action	Complete by	Assigned to
Advanced Housing Technology Center at Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) adopted the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) goal to “reduce energy use of new housing by 50% and 15 million existing homes by 30% or more.	Ongoing	R&D–FPL
Provide OSTP and President’s Council of Advisor’s on Science and Technology (PCAST) with information on low cost, small scale, biomass powered distributed heat systems.	12/31/01	S&PF-CF

NEP Chapter 6, Recommendation(s): “...*provide increased support for research and development of renewable energy resources.*” Also, “...*Secretaries of Interior and Energy work with Congress on legislation to use an estimated \$1.2 billion of bid bonuses from the environmentally responsible leasing of ANWR for funding research into alternative and renewable energy resources, including wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass.*” Actions below are predicated on these funds.

Action	Complete by	Assigned to
1. Accelerate performance-based R&D on biomass and bioenergy, including ethanol production from wood, to support the NEP and Biomass R&D Act modeled on public-private partnerships.	Ongoing	R&D-RVUR, VMPR
2. Support increase of \$39.2 million in the FY 2002 budget for DOE as part of joint USDA-DOE partnership.	Ongoing	R&D-RVUR, VMPR

NEP Chapter 3, Recommendation: “...*Secretary of Interior to work with Congress to create the Royalties Conservation Fund ...this fund will also be used to eliminate the maintenance and improvements backlog on Federal lands.*”

Action	Complete by	Assigned to
1. Work with Department of Interior (DOI) on the creation of a Royalty Conservation Fund (RCF) to address needed conservation efforts on forest and range lands, and to identify highest priority backlog and maintenance needs.	Ongoing	R&D-RVUR, VMPR

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

NEP Chapter 6, Recommendation: “...*Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to develop a renewable energy partnership program...*”

Action	Complete by	Assigned to
1. Work with EPA, encourage FS field units, State Foresters and other cooperators to consider using bioenergy; provide information on the use of small scale, wood power and heat generation.	12/31/01	S&PF-CF, R&D-RVUR
2. Work with EPA, provide information on opportunities to partners and communities arising from new legislation that is passed into law in response to the NEP.	12/31/01	S&PF-CF

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 18, 2001

EXECUTIVE ORDER

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ACTIONS TO EXPEDITE ENERGY-RELATED PROJECTS

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to take additional steps to expedite the increased supply and availability of energy to our Nation, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. The increased production and transmission of energy in a safe and environmentally sound manner is essential to the well-being of the American people. In general, it is the policy of this Administration that executive departments and agencies (agencies) shall take appropriate actions, to the extent consistent with applicable law, to expedite projects that will increase the production, transmission, or conservation of energy.

Sec. 2. Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects. For energy-related projects, agencies shall expedite their review of permits or take other actions as necessary to accelerate the completion of such projects, while maintaining safety, public health, and environmental protections. The agencies shall take such actions to the extent permitted by law and regulation, and where appropriate.

Sec. 3. Interagency Task Force. There is established an interagency task force (Task Force) to monitor and assist the agencies in their efforts to expedite their review of permits or similar actions, as necessary, to accelerate the completion of energy-related projects, increase energy production and conservation, and improve transmission of energy. The Task Force also shall monitor and assist agencies in setting up appropriate mechanisms to coordinate Federal, State, tribal, and local permitting in geographic areas where increased permitting activity is expected. The Task Force shall be composed of representatives from the Departments of State, the Treasury, Defense, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Commerce, Transportation, the Interior, Labor, Education, Health and Human Services, Energy, Veterans Affairs, the Environmental Protection Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, General Services Administration, Office of Management and Budget, Council of Economic Advisers, Domestic Policy Council, National Economic Council, and such other representatives as may be determined by the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. The Task Force shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality and housed at the Department of Energy for administrative purposes.

Sec. 4. Judicial Review. Nothing in this order shall affect any otherwise available judicial review of agency action. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE,
May 18, 2001

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/05/20010518-5.html>