

**Site vs. Source Energy**

*Comment:* EEI's first comment on this topic was that DOE should only use site energy and energy cost results in its determination and that source energy results should not be used.

*DOE response:* DOE notes that EEI submitted a similar comment on the Notice of Preliminary Determination for Standards 90.1–2010 and 2013. DOE continues to believe that source energy estimates are of interest to many stakeholders and are important to the discussion of global resources and environmental issues. However, DOE realizes that site energy is the energy that typically appears on utility bills and that is seen by the consumer, and that energy cost (as shown on energy bills) is a metric also important to many consumers. It is for these reasons that DOE provides all three metrics—site energy, source energy, and energy cost—in its determinations.

*Comment:* EEI also stated that the value associated with source energy for electricity overstates losses and does not appropriately characterize the significant improvements in the overall efficiency of the electricity sector because: (1) DOE considered only commercial customers; (2) the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) fossil fuel heat rate assigned to renewable energy is too high; (3) estimates of primary energy values should look forward not backward; and (4) estimates of primary energy values should account for regional differences in electricity generation and renewable portfolio standards.

*DOE response:* DOE notes that EEI submitted a similar comment on the Notice of Preliminary Determination for Standards 90.1–2010 and 2013. DOE continues to believe that its use of EIA data, conversion factors, and treatment of renewable energy is appropriate and remains consistent with past determinations and DOE's Appliance and Equipment Standards Program (AESP) analyses. While it is true that the site-to-source conversion factor used in this analysis is derived from EIA data for commercial sector energy use, analyzing the data from all sectors results in the same conversion factor. The determination methodology does not calculate the future impact of the new Standard, and thus DOE believes that using conversion factors from the year of publication of the Standard is appropriate. DOE notes that it makes analyses available for states on the future impact of energy codes, which are beneficial for determining the long-term benefits of new code adoption. Finally, the use of the conversion factor from 2016 in this analysis also mitigates the impact of using the fossil fuel equivalency approach to determine the conversion factor for electricity because the proportion of renewable sources in the overall fuel mix was very small in 2016.

[FR Doc. 2018–03931 Filed 2–26–18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****National Energy Technology Laboratory****Notice of Intent To Grant a Partially Exclusive License**

**AGENCY:** National Energy Technology Laboratory, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to grant a partially exclusive license.

**SUMMARY:** The National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) hereby gives notice that the Department of Energy (DOE) intends to grant a partially exclusive license to practice the invention described and claimed in U.S. Patent Application Number 15/782,315 and International Patent Application Number PCT/US2017/056421, “Stable Immobilized Amine Sorbents for REE and Heavy Metal Recovery from Liquid Sources” to PQ Corporation, having its principal place of business in Malvern, Pennsylvania. The invention is owned by the United States of America, as represented by DOE.

**DATES:** Written comments, objections, or nonexclusive license applications must be received at the **ADDRESS** listed no later than March 14, 2018. Objections submitted in response to this notice will not be made available to the public for inspection and, to the extent permitted by law, will not be released under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments, applications for nonexclusive licenses, or objections relating to the prospective partially exclusive license should be submitted to Jessica Lamp, Technology Transfer Program Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, P.O. Box 10940, Pittsburgh, PA 15236–0940 or via facsimile to (412) 386–4183.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jessica Lamp, Technology Transfer Program Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, P.O. Box 10940, Pittsburgh, PA 15236; Telephone (412) 386–7417; Email: [jessica.lamp@netl.doe.gov](mailto:jessica.lamp@netl.doe.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 209(c) of title 35 of the United States Code gives DOE the authority to grant exclusive or partially exclusive licenses in Department-owned inventions where a determination is made, among other things, that the desired practical application of the invention has not been achieved, or is not likely to be achieved expeditiously, under a nonexclusive license. The statute and implementing regulations (37 CFR 404)

require that the necessary determinations be made after public notice and opportunity for filing written comments and objections.

PQ Corporation, has applied for a partially exclusive license to practice the invention and has a plan for commercialization of the invention. DOE intends to grant the license, upon a final determination in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 209(c), unless within 15 days of publication of this notice, NETL's Technology Transfer Program Manager (contact information listed) receives in writing any of the following, together with supporting documents:

- (i) A statement from any person setting forth reasons why it would not be in the best interest of the United States to grant the proposed license; or
- (ii) An application for a nonexclusive license to the invention, in which applicant states that it already has brought the invention to practical application or is likely to bring the invention to practical application expeditiously.

The proposed license would be partially exclusive, subject to a license and other rights retained by the United States, and subject to a negotiated royalty. The exclusive fields of use are: removal of rare earth elements from liquids, coal tailings, fly ash and acid mine drainage; removal of heavy metals, such as copper, lead and arsenic from liquids; and removal of barium and strontium from liquids. DOE will review all timely written responses to this notice, and will grant the license if, after expiration of the 15-day notice period, and after consideration of any written responses to this notice, a determination is made in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 209(c) that the license is in the public interest.

Dated: February 6, 2018.

**Grace M. Bochenek,**

*Director, National Energy Technology Laboratory.*

[FR Doc. 2018–03936 Filed 2–26–18; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy****Notice of Request for Information (RFI) on Expanding Hydropower and Pumped Storage's Contribution to Grid Resiliency and Reliability**

**AGENCY:** Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Request for information (RFI).