

NREL to Receive Additional Funding, Expand Site

A \$101 million increase to NREL's 2007 budget will allow the Laboratory to move forward with the acquisition of new facilities, including a building to house administrative staff and an addition to the Alternative Fuels User Facility (AFUF). The increase was announced by DOE on March 16.

New funding for the Research Support Facility (RSF) administrative office complex comes in addition to \$10 million already allocated and will allow NREL to meet its goal of moving staff currently working in leased space at the Denver West Office Park on Cole Boulevard to NREL's South Table Mountain site.

Before receiving the additional funds, NREL had selected a contractor to design and construct the first of several office modules to be built over time. Now, the

Laboratory is in the process of drafting a new solicitation for design and construction of a larger office complex that would house 800 employees and cost an estimated \$45 – 60 million.

The Integrated Biorefinery Research Facility (IBRF), to be built adjacent to the Process Development Unit in the AFUF, will expand NREL's capabilities to develop new cellulosic ethanol technologies. The IBRF will allow the Laboratory to work simultaneously on multiple research projects with multiple research partners. Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

Construction scheduled for spring 2007 includes the Renewable Fuels Heating Plant (RFHP), to be located behind the Field Test Laboratory Building (FTLB). The RFHP will reduce NREL's use of natural gas for building heat. It will use local wood waste to produce hot water. The construction plans are dependent upon the findings of an environmental



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Community Invited to Participate in NEPA Review Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions. Many of you may have already received information in the mail about some upcoming projects, including the potential installation of a renewable fuel heating plant and solar arrays at the South Table Mountain site, and we invite you to participate in the NEPA review process.

The review process begins with NREL developing a project description for the proposed activities. This might include such things as constructing a new building or adding research capabilities. Then a notice of this "proposed action" is sent to local residents, area

businesses, government agencies and other affected stakeholders, giving these parties an opportunity to communicate any issues or concerns. The time required to analyze and assess the impacts of the proposed action and write an environmental assessment varies by the complexity of the proposed action. Local residents will be notified when this document is available for review.

Concerns and comments generated during the review process will be addressed in the final document. The review will have one of three outcomes: the proposed action has no significant impacts and can proceed; the proposed action has minor impacts and can proceed with certain restrictions in place; or the proposed action has significant impacts and may not proceed until an Environmental Impact Statement is completed, reviewed and approved.

If you would like to receive NEPA information regarding upcoming activities, please request to be added to

review required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

A community open house will be held July 26, offering neighbors a chance to learn more about the construction plans and the NEPA review. Watch NREL's Web site for additional information.

our NEPA mailing list by calling 303-275-3234 or e-mail nepa@nrel.gov. Please leave your name and contact information.

If you have comments or questions regarding our NEPA activities, contact Steve Blazek of the DOE Golden Field Office, 303-275-4723. Additional information can be obtained in the DOE public reading room at NREL's Visitors Center or online at www.eere.energy.gov/golden/.

NREL Contact: If you have any questions about NREL's activities, contact Public Relations Director Kerry Masson at 303-275-4083.

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Visitors Center Receives New Outdoor Exhibit

A bronze sundial will be installed at the NREL Visitors Center June 22. The sundial was donated in memory of Don Prowler, a pioneer in the field of passive solar building design. The sundial will be placed on a sandstone pedestal to the south of the main entry walk to the Visitors Center. Staff will use the sundial to explain the basic principals of solar energy to visitors.



NREL Visitors Center Public Programs

NREL's Visitors Center is offering themed programs throughout the year that will include monthly Visitors Center Power Lunch presentations. Bring your lunch and learn more about renewable energy and energy efficiency. Call the Visitors Center at 303-384-6565 to sign up.

May – June 2007

Program Theme – Advanced Vehicle Technologies

Power Lunch: Thursday, May 21 -- Noon – 1:00 p.m.
“Advanced Vehicle Technologies” by Terry Penney

July – August 2007

Program Theme – Solar

Power Lunch: Thursday, July 12 -- Noon – 1:00 p.m.
“Advancing Colorado's Solar Energy” by Sun Electric Systems experts Jim Welch and Mona Newton

Mufflers to Quiet S&TF Fans

Mufflers for each of the six Science and Technology Facility's exhaust fans have been ordered and are expected to be installed in June. The mufflers were recommended by a consultant hired by the Laboratory to help reduce the noise coming from the S&TF. The mufflers are expected to decrease the exhaust fan noise by 15 decibels at the muffler outlet. Please contact Kerry Masson at 303-275-4083 if you have noise concerns.

Community Newsletter

NREL's community newsletter provides timely information on Laboratory news and upcoming events. To receive the newsletter electronically, send your name, e-mail address and mailing address to community_news@nrel.gov.

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