

MISSISSIPPI INDUSTRIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM (MIEEP)

Submitted Questions & Responses

(Final Release – September 18, 2020)

The following questions were submitted regarding the 2020 Mississippi Industrial Energy Efficiency Program (MIEEP). ENRD staff have developed responses to the submitted questions. This public release is to inform all interested parties of these developed responses. Some questions have been reformatted to omit personally identifying information.

1. **Question:** “We are doing an energy audit for a public wastewater treatment facility. Is the public utility authority eligible for project funding under MIEEP?”

Response: No, the only eligible applicants for MIEEP are for-profit businesses engaged in an industrial and/or manufacturing process. Public entities of any kind are not eligible for funding.

2. **Question:** “Please verify that ‘compressed air system’ efficiency projects will be considered for a grant, as they are not specifically mentioned in the Funding Announcement.”

Response: Yes, compressed air system upgrades and/or retrofits qualify for MIEEP if the project is an “energy efficient upgrade to an industrial system” and meets all otherwise stated requirements found in the FOA.

3. **Question:** “If my company’s grant application is not funded for the overall program, will my audit fee reimbursement still be considered?”

Response: Yes, the 50% audit reimbursement (up to \$1,500) is not contingent on a grant award. All new audits submitted as part of an application will be eligible for the 50% reimbursement, given the audit meets all otherwise stated eligibility requirements described in the FOA.

4. **Question:** “What is MDA’s limit for the number of companies that can receive audit fee reimbursements?”

Response: All new audits that accompany applications for funding will be considered for the 50% (up to \$1,500) reimbursement subject to the availability of funds.

5. **Question:** “My company has three separate manufacturing facilities spread throughout the county area. One of these locations was the recipient of a MIEEP grant in 2019. Are we allowed to apply for the 2020 MIEEP grant for one of the other two facilities?”

Response: Yes, projects at the other two locations are eligible for MIEEP if they are located on an entirely different site from the facility that was awarded funding in 2019.

6. **Question:** *“Does the ASHRAE Level II Energy Audit need to be performed by a 3rd Party?”*

Response: No, the required ASHRAE Level II energy audit analysis may be performed by an employee of the Applicant’s organization if the individual meets the minimum requirements for energy auditors specified on page 4 of the FOA. However, as part of the application review and selection process, ENRD reserves the right to confirm data submitted as part of an audit with reviewers of ENRD’s choosing.

7. **Question:** *“If the audit is performed by an employee of the Applicant’s organization, is the audit expense eligible for reimbursement?”*

Response: No, an Applicant may not receive reimbursement for audit expenses if the audit was conducted by an employee of the Applicant’s organization. However, if the project is awarded MIEEP funding then the value of an audit performed by an employee of the Applicant’s organization may be used as in-kind contribution toward the minimum required 50% match, given it meets the requirements stated in the FOA and 10 CFR §600.313.

8. **Question:** *“Can labor and material expenses be included in the 50% match to be considered?”*

Response: Yes, such expenses are in-kind contributions by the Applicant and may be counted toward the minimum required 50% match, given they meet the requirements stated in the FOA and 10 CFR §600.313.

9. **Question:** *“We were asked about whether or not our project would be kept confidential or would be available to the public.”*

Response: MIEEP is paid for through federal funds under the U.S. Department of Energy’s State Energy Program (SEP). As such, awards given under this program are subject to the Federal Funding and Transparency Act of 2006. ENRD is required under this law to report the recipients and amounts awarded, but no project-specific information will be disclosed. Additional information about this requirement can be found in 2 CFR Part 170. Furthermore, ENRD may release non-specific information regarding selected projects (i.e., the name of the organization awarded funds, the grant amount, total project investment, estimated energy savings, type of project (i.e., lighting, HVAC, etc.) and # of employees affected) for program purposes.

10. **Question:** *“Does the Level II Audit have to be performed on the entire facility or can it be focused on the department/area in which the project is to commence?”*

Response: The audit does not necessarily have to be performed on the entire facility if impact from the project is localized to a specific system/area. For more detail on requirements for energy audits, refer to pages 3-4 of the FOA.

11. **Question:** *“My company has no stakeholders or other obligations for which audited financial statements or tax returns are required. The company’s tax returns are prepared by a reputable CPA firm and can be provided. Will tax returns prepared by a CPA firm meet the requirements for applying to MIEEP?”*

Response: MIEEP is paid through federal formula funds by the U.S. Department of Energy. ENRD is required to administer these federal funds in accordance with the cost principles contained in 10 CFR 420, 2 CFR 200 as amended by 2 CFR 910. It is the responsibility of the MIEEP applicant to provide appropriate supporting documentation and records to verify the company’s financial management system. All applicants are subject to a pre-award risk assessment evaluation and if awarded, you would be required to certify that your company’s financial management and record-keeping systems comply with all applicable terms, conditions, and federal regulations as specified in the grant agreement.

12. **Question:** *“My company uses a double-entry accounting system that differs in some aspects from GAAP. Does this accounting system meet the requirements for applying to MIEEP?”*

Response: MIEEP is paid through federal formula funds by the U.S. Department of Energy. ENRD is required to administer these federal funds in accordance with the cost principles contained in 10 CFR 420, 2 CFR 200 as amended by 2 CFR 910. It is the responsibility of the MIEEP applicant to provide appropriate supporting documentation and records to verify the company’s financial management system. All applicants are subject to a pre-award risk assessment evaluation and if awarded, you would be required to certify that your company’s financial management and record-keeping systems comply with all applicable terms, conditions, and federal regulations as specified in the grant agreement.

13. **Question:** *“If my company doesn’t submit a ‘notice of intent’ by the posted deadline of September 25th, does that mean we will not be eligible to apply for the grant program?”*

Response: ENRD advises all interested Applicants to submit a Notice of Intent as soon as possible. The Notice of Intent can be detached from page 1 of the Grant Application, and the pre-submittal does not require the disclosing of any project-specific information or oblige the company to submit an application. Companies that submit a Notice of Intent by September 25th will be provided additional supplemental information (as available) and notice of any amendments to the FOA/Grant Application.

14. **Question:** *“My company is considering lighting and compressed air upgrades that total more than \$100,000 in total project costs. Are these upgrades a single project for the purposes of MIEEP?”*

Response: Yes, as long as they are at the same location they may be counted as a single project. There is no limit on the number of individual energy conservation measures (ECMs) that may be included in a proposed project; however, all ECMs must be detailed and verified by an ASHRAE Level II energy audit and meet all other requirements stated in the FOA to be eligible for funding.

15. **Question:** *“Does ENRD have a list of auditors qualified to perform the ASHRAE Level II energy audits? Are audits performed by a utility company or local EPA allowable?”*

Response: ENRD anticipates releases a non-exhaustive list of qualified firms available to perform the required ASHRAE Level II energy audits. The list will be shared with all applicants who have submitted a Notice of Intent. Energy audits performed by a utility company or local EPA may qualify if they meet the requirements specified on pages 3-4 of the FOA. You may also see the Energy Audit Template (Appendix A in the Grant Application) for more information.

16. **Question:** *“Since we are a publically traded company and our consolidated financial statements are available online, is it necessary we submit these with our other Application materials?”*

Response: The Application packet should include, at minimum, the forms, attachments and exhibits listed on pages 8-9 of the FOA. Applicants taking exception to any part or section of the Application shall fully describe such exceptions in writing and submit them as attachments to the Grant Application, as described on page 12 of the FOA. Consolidated financial statements may be accepted if evidenced by an attached written exception by the Applicant.

17. **Question:** *“Does ENRD have a rate chart for in-kind contributions/services that may be used as match for MIEEP funding?”*

Response: ENRD does not have a rate schedule for in-kind services/contributions; however, all match funding (cash or in-kind) must be verifiable from the recipient’s records. ENRD will work with all awarded applicants to development grant budgets as part of the Grant Agreement process.