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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. Department of Energy Conducts Second Public Scoping Period for Proposed Biorefinery Project Near Hugoton, Kan.

Involves Environmental Impact Statement, Notice of Wetlands Involvement and Public Meeting

Golden, Colo. – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Notice of Wetlands Involvement, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for the proposed Abengoa Bioenergy Biorefinery Project near Hugoton, Kan.

Abengoa Bioenergy Biomass of Kansas, LLC (ABBK) is proposing to construct and operate a biomass-to-ethanol and energy production facility in the outlying areas of Hugoton. DOE proposes to provide cost-shared federal funding or a loan guarantee in support of the project, possibly both. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is also considering issuing a loan guarantee in support of the project. DOE is conducting this second public scoping period because of a change in the scope of the project from what was originally proposed.

ABBK originally explored the possibilities of a biomass-to ethanol facility, in which the facility would have also included the construction and operation of a traditional grain-to-ethanol production facility. However, ABBK no longer proposes to construct the traditional grain-to-ethanol facility, but rather to modify the plant to add a steam-powered turbine to generate electricity.

The proposed biorefinery would still convert non-food based feedstocks to ethanol, including agricultural waste such as corn stover, along with switchgrass, sorghum stubble and other feedstocks produced within 30 miles of the facility. Some feedstocks from non-local sources may also be used. ABBK projects the biorefinery would have the capacity to produce about 12 million gallons of ethanol per year and more than 40 megawatts of electricity.

During the scoping period, DOE will host a meeting May 19 in Hugoton for area residents to comment on any environmental concerns they may have about the project. The meeting will begin with presentations by project officials and a description of the EIS process, then open for public comments.

The meeting will be held at Memorial Hall, Stevens County Courthouse, 200 East 6th Street, from 6 to 8 p.m.

DOE is also accepting written comments about the proposed project until May 29. All comments received or postmarked by May 29 will be considered. For more information

or to send comments, contact Kristin Kerwin at 303-275-4968 or kristin.kerwin@go.doe.gov.

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