

September 9, 2008

Ms. Kristin Kerwin
U.S. Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401

Dear Ms. Kerwin:

I would like to comment on the environmental impact statement for the proposed Abengoa Bioenergy biorefinery project near Hugoton, Kansas.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources is responsible for managing the state's water resources and for appropriating it for beneficial use.

It is our understanding that Abengoa Bioenergy purchased existing irrigation water rights to secure water needed for this project. Any application to change how that water is used will be for existing water; no "new" water will be appropriated.

When water is converted from irrigation to industrial use, the authorized quantity is reduced by about 40 percent to ensure the net water consumption remains the same. Consequently, there will be no adverse environmental impact, in terms of water use, as a result of this project.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture supports alternative fuel development and this biorefinery. It will not have a negative environmental impact in terms of water use, and the potential benefits of producing ethanol from biomass are great. In fact, less water will be used to produce energy at this facility compared to water used to derive energy from petroleum sources.

I encourage the U.S. Department of Energy to approve this project.

Sincerely,



Adrian J. Polansky
Secretary of Agriculture