

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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September 26, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Kerwin:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed Abengoa Bioenergy Biorefinery Project.

The primary mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is to promote the wise use of all natural resources. As such, our interest pertains to potential impacts of biomass production and harvesting on associated natural resources. Areas which we recommend receive consideration during the environmental analysis process include potential impacts of biomass production and harvesting on soil fertility, soil tilth, soil erosion, soil organic matter content, surface and groundwater quality and quantity, air quality, and upland wildlife habitat. Potential availability and removal of biomass should also include an assessment of cropping practices, cropping rotations, and crop yields.

Additionally, the potential impacts of biomass removal on existing federal programs including the Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Security Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and compliance with the 1985 Food Security Act Highly Erodible Land Provision should be addressed during the analyses.

The Kansas NRCS would be interested in receiving a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement once completed.

If you have any questions, contact Terry M. Conway, State Resource Conservationist, at 785-823-4547 or by e-mail at terry.conway@ks.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric B. Banks".

ERIC B. BANKS
State Conservationist

cc:

Terry M. Conway, State Resource Conservationist, NRCS, Salina, Kansas
Daniel H. Meyerhoff, Assistant State Conservationist, NRCS, Hays, Kansas

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