Report From Agency

REPORT TO LEGISLATURE

NR 47.93, Wis. Adm. Code
Forestry research and development grant program

Board Order No. FR-17-06
Clearinghouse Rule No. 06-022

Basis and Purpose of the Proposed Rule

2005 Wisconsin Act 25 authorized the Department to promulgate rules for the forestry research and development grant program. The program is intended to provide grants to organizations experienced in the research, development and commercialization of technologies related to forestry biomass as energy and biochemical sources. The program is also intended to develop alternative sources of renewable energy utilizing forestry biomass, thereby improving the public health, the public good and the environment.

The rule will establish the purpose, applicability, definitions, grant solicitation and public notice, program administrator selection criteria and grant agreement provisions of the program. Grants will only be awarded as required match for funding provided by the federal government for forestry biomass research and development. It is the intent of the Department to contract with a program administrator to solicit grant applications, provide expert review and recommend grant awards to the Department. The Department does not have staff that has the expertise needed to evaluate forestry biomass energy or biochemical research, development or commercialization proposals.

Summary of Public Comments

No comments were made.

Modifications Made

No modifications were made as a result of public comment.

Appearances at the Public Hearing

No one appeared at the public hearing.

Changes to Rule Analysis and Fiscal Estimate

There were no changes to the rule analysis. The fiscal note assumption was expanded, but the fiscal impact is identical.

Response to Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse Report

The recommendations were accepted.

Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The proposed rule does not regulate small business; therefore, a final regulatory flexibility analysis is not required. The effect on small business is identified in the rule analysis.