Project Title: Antecedents to Biomass Procurement: The Essentials for Producer Participation

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Date (in U.S. date format): 01/04/11
Reporting Period (in U.S. date format): 07/01/10 to 01/01/11

Project Overall Status

The project is progressing as planned. The survey instrument has been designed using literature and information from previous focus groups and has been tested for face and content validity by academic and industry experts. All feedback given has been positive. Throughout the process of developing the survey, we worked closely with ISU Survey and Behavioral Research Services to format the survey, control for length and readability, and identify the appropriate sample. In addition, an official IRB application has been made, and we are now waiting for their response. We expect to receive IRB approval soon, and pre-testing will begin at that point. Therefore, we plan to mail the surveys in January.

We will follow Dillman’s protocol, so the survey will be sent along with reminder postcards and follow-up survey information. The time from initially mailing the survey to receiving a usable dataset will be 12 weeks. Once the dataset is complete, the exploratory factor analysis will begin, and initial results should be available in May.

Project Budget/Financial Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Line-item</th>
<th>B. Budget</th>
<th>C. Expenditures</th>
<th>D. % Expended</th>
<th>E. % Project Expired</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Year</td>
<td>$49,729</td>
<td>$13,716</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explanation of Variance

The project is running on budget. Expenditures to date are related to salaries. The major cost associated with administering the survey was agreed upon with the ISU Survey and Behavioral Research Services (invoiced at a later date) and is slightly under budget. Therefore, we do not foresee any budgetary issues with the project.