

State Loan & Investment Board Energy Impacted County Road Grant Program

Program Summary:

The Energy Impacted County Road Grant Program was established during the 2011 Legislative Session. This legislation provides funding in the amount of \$6 million for a program to assist counties impacted by energy development. The bill provides authority to the State Loan and Investment Board (Board) to issue grants to counties to reconstruct or replace roads impacted by energy development. As defined in the bill, energy impacted county road means “a county dedicated and maintained road serving a site or sites, on which energy development has occurred, which requires construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or expansion as a result of energy development”. Energy development is further defined as oil and gas development specifically in the Niobrara or similar formations. Counties included in this definition are: Campbell, Converse, Goshen, Hot Springs, Laramie, Natrona, Niobrara, Park, Platte and Washakie.

Draft rules for this program will be presented to the Board at its regular meeting April 7, 2011. In an effort to provide timely access to this grant funding, program applications are available on the OSLI website at <http://lands.state.wy.us/>. The tentative schedule for presenting applications to the Board for eligibility determination and specific project grants is June 3rd and June 17th, 2011. Completed applications must be received in this office 10 working days prior to the scheduled Board meeting. Please check our website for any program updates, as the Board may consider accelerating this schedule.

Proposed “emergency” draft rules include the following (***Please note that this information is subject to change upon review by the Board***):

“Energy impacted counties” means counties that the Board determines to be impacted by energy development in the Niobrara or similar formations. Counties included in this definition are: Campbell, Converse, Goshen, Hot Springs, Laramie, Natrona, Niobrara, Park, Platte and Washakie. In awarding grants, the Board shall consider (1) whether the county’s total proposed energy impacted road project(s) exceeds fifteen percent (15%) of the average total annual county expenditures for its road and bridge maintenance and construction expenditures for the preceding five (5) years; (2) whether the county has demonstrated that it has pursued alternative methods of funding including cost sharing from private sources; and (3) that the grant funds will not supplant existing funding levels from traditional sources.

The Board shall receive applications for program eligibility determination under the provisions of this chapter on an annual basis. After review of the applications, the Board shall as soon as practical notify the counties of its determination. Energy impacted counties shall remain eligible for grants under the program until the county no longer qualifies as determined by the Board. Energy impacted counties, as determined by the Board, shall be eligible to apply for grants under this chapter. Each application submitted to the Board under the program shall contain only one (1) proposed energy impacted county road project.

The Board may award grants for projects it deems necessary to mitigate the impacts of energy development. The Board may award grants to stockpile material for energy impacted county roads. Roads include:

- (A) Bridges and culverts
- (B) Rights of way, and
- (C) Purchase of land to complete a county road and bridge project.