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Budget 2020 - 2021

July 2019

The National Oilheat Research Alliance Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-469) as amended by P.L. 113-79 requires the National Oilheat Research Alliance (the Alliance) to publish a biennial budget for public comment before August 1st of 2014 and every two years thereafter. That budget shall include the probable costs of all programs, projects, and contracts and other agreements.

Following public review and comment, the Alliance is required to submit a proposed budget to the Secretary of Energy and to the Congress.

Part I. Assessment Rate and Income

The Alliance has one primary sources of income. The federally authorized assessment on Oilheat sold in the states participating in NORA at \$.002 per gallon. The Alliance also receives interest income on the investment of assessment funds. Additionally, the Alliance realizes revenue from the sale of books and other educational resources, and expects to receive revenue from the provision of studies. Further, NORA periodically enters into contracts with other research organizations to conduct studies.

Assessment Collections

The Alliance estimates that revenues from assessments will be **\$8,912,020 in 2020**. Similarly, the 2021 revenue from collections was placed at **\$8,644,660**. These calculations are based on normalizing the most recent year's collections for weather, and then reducing by 3 percent per annum to accommodate conservation and loss of customers. The 2021 budget is based on a full year of operation. To ensure the appropriate allocations to the accounts established by Congress are in line with actual collections, NORA adjusts the rebates to the states at the conclusion of the audit. Reductions or overages are generally made to the state rebates in the next year. This ensures that with the central budget and the state budget, Congressional allocations are followed.

The Alliance expects to receive interest of \$60,000 in 2020 and \$60,000 in 2021. NORA expects no continuing revenue from book sales as the publications are now printed and distributed independently and NORA distributes the materials with no expectation of revenue.

NORA will also be making it a priority to work with other organizations and provide services that benefit the oilheating industry. NORA anticipates that partnerships with organizations such

as the National Biodiesel Board and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) may provide as much as \$100,000 per year in 2020 and 2021.

Escrow

The Congressional Budget Office changed the scoring rules for programs like NORA since its inception in 2000. To ensure the program did not impact the deficit, the law requires that 25 percent of the funds be placed into escrow, and that those funds cannot be obligated or spent until October 1, 2028. This escrow will significantly curtail operations, and the reduced amounts are reflected in this budget.

Part II. General Expenditures and Capital Investments

Office Unallocated Expenses in 2020 are anticipated to be \$ 412,500 and include salaries and other expenses related to administering the program, insurance, accounting fees and rent. This figure will rise by \$9,445 in 2021. It should be noted that several of the unallocated expenses are not Administrative including the preparation of the annual report. However, the total of all unallocated expenses is could be allocated, but NORA believes this presentation is the most appropriate. The expenditures will thus be approximately 6.3% and 6.5% of the program's collections after the escrow. Thus, they will be within the statutory cap of 7%.

Assessments and Collections.

The Alliance anticipates expenditures of **\$90,000** for collection expenses in 2020 and 2021. These costs include processing of collections, publicizing the collection system, maintaining lists, and providing attorney's fees to ensure that the system is effective. It also includes expenses associated with refunds, and audit costs. These expenses reflect actual costs in previous years.

Part III. State Rebates

The Alliance has endeavored to ensure that the funds generated benefit consumers and the oilheat industry. The limitation on Administration contained in the Act and the current status of the industry also indicates that allowing local decision-making is the best way to maximize value. To that end, the Alliance therefore intends to return a substantial portion of the funds for use in the state where they are generated. In 2020, this is anticipated to be \$4,752,515 and in 2021, it will be \$4,540,249. The states will use these funds to accomplish many of the goals described herein, and will be within the statutory directives and their spending will match congressional allocations.

Part IV. Program and Project Expenditures

The Act requires the Alliance to develop programs, and projects and enter into contracts or other agreements with other persons and entities for implementing this title.

The Act is designed to benefit consumers of Oilheat by allowing the industry to develop appropriate programs of consumer education, energy efficiency, research and development and education and training to benefit consumers.

This budget document will determine all spending. The Executive Committee of the Alliance and the Alliance will be responsible for reviewing contracts and approving them as appropriate and implementing this budget.

Education and Training and Consumer Education.

The Act requires the Alliance to enhance consumer and employee safety and training and provide consumer education. The total expenses available for these activities are \$2,008,205 in 2020 and \$1,918,048 in 2021. Of these expenditures the Alliance is proposing to budget \$280,000 to be administered by the national office in each year. The national office will be producing and maintaining an online training center with these funds. In-person training is often the preferred method of training; however, many technicians are in remote areas and have limited access to training. Having a training center that can provide training, maintain student records and outreach to students is critical. NORA transitioned its existing learning site in 2015, and will continue to add content. NORA will also be revising its main Technician Manual which is the basis of the Silver Certification program. NORA will also explore what other Gold Training programs in addition to Hydronics that can be put online.

The states affiliated with NORA will be provided with \$1,728,205 for 2020 and \$1,638,048 in 2021. The states will develop internal budgets based on these allocations. The states will focus most of their funding on basic technician education. Extended management training to improve overall service and improve the oilheat consumer experience will also be developed and used.

Technician Certification Program

The Alliance will continue to improve its Technician Certification program. Recognizing excellence is a vital part of improving employee training which leads to improved consumer value and safety. To this end, the Alliance is continuously improving the website, training materials and the certification tests.

New Training Materials.

The Alliance will continue to develop training materials and course materials for the industry. NORA will continue to conduct Train-the-Trainer programs for the Gold and Silver program. NORA is working on online presentations of the subject areas of its expanded gold program, steam, hydronics, venting, advanced controls, air flow for warm air systems, and energy efficiency.

State Rebates

A significant portion of the Alliance generated funds will be returned to the states in

conformance with the law to accomplish the objectives of the Act. The states will implement many of the programs described above. Providing in field training for technicians is critical.

Several of the states operate full time training facilities used by the industry. These include Maine, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania. The remaining states use the funds to do periodic training at temporary facilities.

Additionally, the states may allocate a portion of this to traditional consumer education activities using traditional media such as broadcast television and radio, and a limited amount of internet communications. Using broadcast media allows the industry to provide a small bit of information to consumers which might help them make decisions regarding oilheat fuel. These consumer education activities will also provide information on energy efficiency and improvements to the equipment.

Research and Development

The Act requires the Alliance to provide for research, development, and demonstration of clean and efficient oilheat utilization equipment. The Alliance anticipates expending approximately \$2,078,205 being directly allocated to research and development activities in 2020, and \$2,018,048 in 2021. Of this, \$1,270,000 will be directly funded by the central office. Additionally, there will be rebates to the states of \$808,204 in 2020 and \$748,048 in 2021 that can be used by the states for either research and development or transitioning equipment to higher efficiency, or the support of biofuels. At a minimum, the research and development program will be 30% of the budget..

NORA is now operating a research and development laboratory in New York. Staffing for that includes a full time director, as well as 2 research engineers, and a supporting technical expert. Additionally, NORA will continue to fund and develop new projects based on its research review meeting which established priorities for the industry, including biofuels, controls, novel burner technologies, and new appliances.

Under the revised statute, there are additional responsibilities which include the transition and facilitation of the entry of energy efficient heating systems into the marketplace. A report on biofuels in oilheat fuel utilization equipment, and the development of consumer education materials describing the benefits of using biofuels in oilheat fuel is also a core function of research and development in the act. It is likely that the states will use their funds to facilitate these two objectives.

NORA anticipates that the core of its fundamental research will occur at the NORA laboratory in Plainview New York, while more product development projects will occur through funded projects. NORA will continue to work with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the National Biodiesel Board.

Energy Efficiency

The Act also includes a requirement on “Heating Oil Efficiency and Upgrade Program. The Alliance has budgeted \$989,102 in 2020 and \$959,024 in 2021.

There are three main tasks under this section, and at least 15 percent of the assessments shall be used to assist consumers to

- 1) Make cost effective upgrades to more fuel efficient modifications to an existing heating system or otherwise make cost-effective modifications to an existing heating system to improve the efficiency of the system.
- 2) To improve energy efficiency or reduce energy consumption through cost-effective energy efficiency programs for consumers, or
- 3) To improve the safe operation of the system

In carrying out this section, the Alliance shall to the maximum extent practicable coordinate, develop and implement the programs and activities of the Alliance in conjunction with an existing state energy efficiency program administrator.

The amount of funding in states will limit the amount of planning that is likely to occur. NORA believes that developing a series of programs that meets the goals of this section will be essential, and then each state affiliate will be able to work to the maximum extent practicable with its state energy efficiency administrator to develop the best plan for that state. Preliminary discussion have indicated that better understanding of efficiency and appropriate tools to measure and improve efficiency in the home, tune-ups of existing equipment, and setback thermostats may all be invaluable in fulfilling this task. States have also had robust rebate programs. However, the 25 percent cutback will impact those programs.

States will receive \$929,102 in 2020 and 899,024 in 2021 to carry out and implement energy efficiency program activities.

State Rebates

NORA’s Board has indicated a continued desire to utilize the state resources to implement the program. Thus, funds not specifically allocated to programs in accordance with this budget will be subject to the decision making of the states. Currently, \$1,287,004 in 2020, and \$1,255,128 in 2021.

Central Office Expenses

The budget provides for \$391,500 to be spent on the management of the Alliance and compliance with specific program objectives in 2020, and \$403,245 in 2021. These include the provision of the Annual report, and the verification of said report. These numbers have increased to include all legal expenses and a greater proportion of salaries.

Part V. Budget Summary

The following pages provide an income statement for 2020 and 2021. The board has directed that the allocations to the states be adjusted annually based on the collections in the prior year. This is a formulaic adjustment and will occur in the spring of 2020, which will be implemented in 2021.

	2020		2021
<i>INCOME</i>			
<i>Collections and Assessments</i>			
Collections	8,912,020.		8,644,659
Remittance Accrual			
Refunds			
Escrow	2,228,005	-	2,161,164
Collection Costs	(90,000)		(90,000)
<i>Net Collections</i>	6,594,015		6,393,494
<i>In Kind Contributions</i>			
Sales Revenue			
Other Revenue (Grants, etc)	100,000		100,000
<i>Total Income</i>	6,694,015		6,493,494
<i>PROGRAM EXPENSES</i>			
<i>Consumer Education and Training (Max. 30%)</i>			
Education and Training (Central)	280,000		280,000
Education and Training (States)	1,728,204		1,638,048
<i>Research Development and Demonstration (Min. 30%)</i>			
Research Development and Demonstration (Central)	1,270,000		1,270,000
Research Development and Demonstration (States)	808,204		748,048
<i>Home Energy Efficiency Program (Min. 15%)</i>			
Home Energy Efficiency Program (Central)	60,000		60,000
Home Energy Efficiency Program (States)	929,102		899,024
<i>Total Program Expenses</i>	5,075,511		4,895,121
<i>Total States</i>			
<i>State Rebates</i>	1,266,003	-	1,233,498
<i>Old Grant Advertising</i>			
<i>Office Unallocated Expenses</i>			

Salaries and Consulting (Admin)	165,000	169,950
Accounting (Admin)	35,000	36,050
Insurance (Admin)	15,000	15,450
Taxes	3,000	3,090
Postage	1,500	1,545
Web Pages	15,000	15,450
Annual Report	45,000	46,350
Rent and Telephone	20,000	20,600
Travel	1,000	1,030
Meeting Expenses	3,000	3,090
Office Supplies	1,000	1,030
Dues & Memberships	1,000	1,030
Bank Fees	6,000	6,180
Legal Expense	96,000	98,880
Equipment Consulting	5,000	5,150

<i>Total Unallocated Expenses (7 Percent Cap)</i>	412,500	424,875
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Other Expenses/(Income)

Cost of Goods Sold		
Interest Expense		
Interest	60,000	60,000

<i>Total Other Expenses/(Income)</i>	60,000) (60,000) (
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<i>Net Revenue/(Expense)</i>	0	0
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2020

			Education and Training	Research and Development	Energy Efficiency	Rebates
			\$1,728,204.00	\$808,205.00	\$929,102.00	\$1,287,004.00
Connecticut	10.64%		\$183,880.91	\$85,993.01	\$98,856.45	\$136,937.23
District of Columbia	0.10%		\$1,728.20	\$808.21	\$929.10	\$1,287.00
Delaware	0.43%		\$7,431.28	\$3,475.28	\$3,995.14	\$5,534.12
Indiana	0.13%		\$2,246.67	\$1,050.67	\$1,207.83	\$1,673.11
Kentucky	0.86%		\$14,862.55	\$6,950.56	\$7,990.28	\$11,068.23
Massachusetts	11.36%		\$196,323.97	\$91,812.09	\$105,545.99	\$146,203.65
Maryland	3.11%		\$53,747.14	\$25,135.18	\$28,895.07	\$40,025.82
Maine	6.80%		\$117,517.87	\$54,957.94	\$63,178.94	\$87,516.27
Michigan	2.75%		\$47,525.61	\$22,225.64	\$25,550.31	\$35,392.61
North Carolina	2.96%		\$51,154.84	\$23,922.87	\$27,501.42	\$38,095.32
New Hampshire	4.31%		\$74,485.59	\$34,833.64	\$40,044.30	\$55,469.87
New Jersey	8.33%		\$143,959.39	\$67,323.48	\$77,394.20	\$107,207.43
Nevada	0.03%		\$518.46	\$242.46	\$278.73	\$386.10
New York	20.02%		\$345,986.44	\$161,802.64	\$186,006.22	\$257,658.20
NYOHA	0.32	6.43%	\$111,123.52	\$51,967.58	\$59,741.26	\$82,754.36
OHILI	0.28	5.59%	\$96,606.60	\$45,178.66	\$51,936.80	\$71,943.52
Hudson Valley	0.15	2.96%	\$51,154.84	\$23,922.87	\$27,501.42	\$38,095.32
UNYEA	0.25	5.05%	\$87,274.30	\$40,814.35	\$46,919.65	\$64,993.70
Ohio	2.80%		\$48,389.71	\$22,629.74	\$26,014.86	\$36,036.11
Pennsylvania	13.42%		\$231,924.98	\$108,461.11	\$124,685.49	\$172,715.94
Rhode Island	3.27%		\$56,512.27	\$26,428.30	\$30,381.64	\$42,085.03
South Carolina	0.99%		\$17,109.22	\$8,001.23	\$9,198.11	\$12,741.34
Virginia	2.66%		\$45,970.23	\$21,498.25	\$24,714.11	\$34,234.31
Vermont	2.33%		\$40,267.15	\$18,831.18	\$21,648.08	\$29,987.19
Washington	0.46%		\$7,949.74	\$3,717.74	\$4,273.87	\$5,920.22
Wisconsin	2.24%		\$38,711.77	\$18,103.79	\$20,811.88	\$28,828.89

2021

			Education and Training	Research and Development	Energy Efficiency	Rebates
			\$1,638,048.00	\$748,048.00	\$899,024.00	\$1,255,129.00
Connecticut		10.64%	\$174,288.31	\$79,592.31	\$95,656.15	\$133,545.73
District of Columbia		0.10%	\$1,638.05	\$748.05	\$899.02	\$1,255.13
Delaware		0.43%	\$7,043.61	\$3,216.61	\$3,865.80	\$5,397.05
Indiana		0.13%	\$2,129.46	\$972.46	\$1,168.73	\$1,631.67
Kentucky		0.86%	\$14,087.21	\$6,433.21	\$7,731.61	\$10,794.11
Massachusetts		11.36%	\$186,082.25	\$84,978.25	\$102,129.13	\$142,582.65
Maryland		3.11%	\$50,943.29	\$23,264.29	\$27,959.65	\$39,034.51
Maine		6.80%	\$111,387.26	\$50,867.26	\$61,133.63	\$85,348.77
Michigan		2.75%	\$45,046.32	\$20,571.32	\$24,723.16	\$34,516.05
North Carolina		2.96%	\$48,486.22	\$22,142.22	\$26,611.11	\$37,151.82
New Hampshire		4.31%	\$70,599.87	\$32,240.87	\$38,747.93	\$54,096.06
New Jersey		8.33%	\$136,449.40	\$62,312.40	\$74,888.70	\$104,552.25
Nevada		0.03%	\$491.41	\$224.41	\$269.71	\$376.54
New York		20.02%	\$327,937.21	\$149,759.21	\$179,984.60	\$251,276.83
	NYOHA	0.32 6.43%	\$105,326.49	\$48,099.49	\$57,807.24	\$80,704.79
	OHILI	0.28 5.59%	\$91,566.88	\$41,815.88	\$50,255.44	\$70,161.71
	Hudson Valley	0.15 2.96%	\$48,486.22	\$22,142.22	\$26,611.11	\$37,151.82
	UNYEA	0.25 5.05%	\$82,721.42	\$37,776.42	\$45,400.71	\$63,384.01
Ohio		2.80%	\$45,865.34	\$20,945.34	\$25,172.67	\$35,143.61
Pennsylvania		13.42%	\$219,826.04	\$100,388.04	\$120,649.02	\$168,438.31
Rhode Island		3.27%	\$53,564.17	\$24,461.17	\$29,398.08	\$41,042.72
South Carolina		0.99%	\$16,216.68	\$7,405.68	\$8,900.34	\$12,425.78
Virginia		2.66%	\$43,572.08	\$19,898.08	\$23,914.04	\$33,386.43
Vermont		2.33%	\$38,166.52	\$17,429.52	\$20,947.26	\$29,244.51
Washington		0.46%	\$7,535.02	\$3,441.02	\$4,135.51	\$5,773.59
Wisconsin		2.23%	\$36,528.47	\$16,681.47	\$20,048.24	\$27,989.38