

Call for Proposals

Policy Options for Natural Gas Extraction

The NARDeP Center is pleased to announce a call for a policy study on natural gas extraction. This is a single or multiple investigator literature review and policy synthesis, with the first draft to be completed by September 15, 2012. Budget is limited to personal services in the amount of \$20,000 (no indirect costs allowed). The daily rate must conform to US Office of Management and Budget rate of pay guidelines. First preference is given to individuals with demonstrated expertise in agriculture or rural policy. For-profit entities may apply provided they can demonstrate no conflict-of-interest in any proposed policy changes. The funding mechanism will be a personal services contract. The following preliminary outputs are expected:

- Policy white paper
- Policy brief (a one page summary based on the white paper)

Subsequent to successful peer review of the first two outputs, the study author(s) will also provide:

- Public webinar
- Public presentation at a venue to be determined by NARDeP (travel costs reimbursed outside the contract).

Study details.

The NARDeP Center is a newly created initiative, funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and jointly managed by the four Regional Rural Development Centers. The purpose of the NARDeP is to provide timely and unbiased information on agriculture and rural development issues to policy makers. Policy papers will be posted on the NARDeP web site and webinars will be advertised to a national audience.

Natural gas extraction (popularly known as "fracking") has become an increasingly contentious issue. The benefits of the activity include greater energy independence, job creation, potential increased local tax base, and revenues to shareholders and land owners. However, there are environmental and social concerns associated with the activity. The white paper should review existing and potential federal, state, and local policy and how they affect consumers nationally, residents of communities located near natural gas deposits, natural gas extraction companies, other businesses, and land owners. The paper should cover advantages and disadvantages of policy options for each of the target groups, stressing mechanisms that balance between short term and long term objectives.

Application Procedure: To apply send a full curriculum vita, budget, and a one-page plan of work to loverid2@msu.edu by June 12, 2012.