

**U.S. Department of Energy**  
**State Energy Advisory Board (STEAB)**  
*Resolution 09-03*

**Subject:** Establish adequate Contracting Officer positions at the Golden Field Office (GFO) for current Formula Grants and anticipated future Block Grants

**Background:** Annual operating plans for State Energy Program and Weatherization Assistance Program formula grants in the Western states are currently submitted to the GFO and then conveyed to the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) for review and funding authorization.

**Issue:** The GFO lacks a Contracting Officer to process current State Energy Program and Weatherization Assistance Program formula grants on-site and in a timely manner. The GFO's current contracting process is cumbersome, slow and tedious; and it adversely affects the timeliness with which the formula grant recipients in the Western states can carry out their Annual Plans.

Furthermore, potential block grants in the Western states resulting from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (Sections 541-548 of the *Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007*) may result in around 2,000 new funding agreements for the Western states alone. The lack of a Contracting Officer position at GFO will most certainly adversely affect the efficiency of block grant processing for the Western states.

**Recommendation:** The State Energy Advisory Board strongly recommends that EERE take immediate action to create an adequate number of Contracting Officer positions at the GFO to administer both the current Formula Grants and the anticipated Block Grants for all recipients that work through the GFO.

*Unanimously Adopted by the STEAB on November 20, 2008*