

Voucher Request For Assistance changes (May 1, 2020)

In the interest of providing clarity and adjusting policy to reflect feedback received as well as implementing lessons learned by the NE Voucher Review Team, the voucher program RFA is reviewed on an annual basis. The following list includes summaries of changes that were implemented on May 1, 2020 and is intended to aid in rapidly identifying important updates.

- 1) Added clarifier “...nuclear energy *produced from fission...*” in order to address recent questions around kW scale nuclear batteries in section **A. Overview**
- 2) Added clarification on “fundamental R&D policy” in section **A. Overview**
- 3) Added clarification on irradiation experiments in section **A. Overview**
- 4) Added a section in **B. Eligibility Requirements and Certifications** on National Laboratory staff to clarify that lab staff shouldn't be part of a proposing team
- 5) Added a section in **B. Eligibility Requirements and Certifications** on university involvement
- 6) Added guidance in **E. Merit Review Criteria item 2. Business and Market Impact**, first bullet to provide guidance on expected emphasis on impact of a successful voucher; also increased to 20 points for this part (and correspondingly reduced the second bullet to 10 points)
- 7) Added guidance in section **G. Submitting a Request for Assistance (RFA)** to emphasize how to identify a national lab and point of contact appropriately
- 8) Modified policy slightly in section **G. Submitting a Request for Assistance (RFA)** to allow a 3rd voucher to be reviewed in cases where a company has two active vouchers but anticipates completion of at least one within 3 months (the quarterly cycle time)
- 9) Modified the voucher template **Section I: Technical Merit, item 2** to emphasize the need to describe why the national laboratory capability is necessary
- 10) Modified the voucher template **Section I: Technical Merit, item 3** to clarify that a ROM cost estimate and basis should be provided
- 11) Modified the voucher template **Section I: Technical Merit, item 4** to add “Reduced regulatory uncertainty” to list of potential impact areas
- 12) Modified the voucher template **Section II: Business and Market Impact, item 1** to emphasize more focus on use of project results and resulting impact of a successful voucher