MINNESOTA AGRIPOWER PROJECT

Quarterly Report for the
Period April - June 1996

Chris Hanson

Minnesota Valley Alfalfa Producers

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MINNESOTA AGRI-POWER PROJECT

Instrument No.: DE-FC36-96GO10147

PROGRAM STATUS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT

FOR PERIOD

01 APRIL 1996 THROUGH 30 JUNE 1996

GENERAL DISCUSSION

MnVAP took over ownership and operations of an alfalfa processing facility in Priam, Minnesota in April 1996. The Priam Pilot Plant processing facility allows MnVAP to establish a market presence and customer base for existing sun cured alfalfa products and to develop new processed alfalfa products. Pilot Plant operations have provided hands-on experience in the areas of transportation, storage, processing, sales, and marketing of alfalfa products.

MnVAP has added plant personnel and increased hours of plant operations to maximize plant output. Additionally, MnVAP has evaluated various plans to increase plant output and to add new processing capabilities to the system. MnVAP produced samples of alfalfa leaf meal (ALM) for quality evaluation and initial review. Samples of ALM were delivered to the University of Minnesota for testing.

MnVAP, together with our MAP project development partner Polsky Energy Corporation (PEC), was selected by Northern States Power Company (NSP) to provide the utility with 75 MW of biomass generated electricity. MnVAP and PEC have entered negotiations with NSP to specify terms and conditions of the power purchase agreement.

MnVAP is in the process of finalizing contracts with other project participants under the DOE cooperative agreement. MnVAP authorized specific research and development expenditures under the University of Minnesota's revised scope of work for the MAP project to proceed pending finalization of a contract between MnVAP and the University.

TASK 1 - DESIGN PACKAGE

Feeding Trials and analysis

Turkey Research

Met with industry representatives to establish research design for turkey feeding trials. Finalized research protocol for breeder study. Research facility was cleaned and set up for rearing of breeder stock. Purchased breeder stock and initiated daily care and feeding to raise livestock on standard rations in preparation for controlled experiment which will compare alfalfa loaf meal to standard rations.

Economic Analysis

Researched different USDA indices for pricing formulas at MnVAP's request. Price formula and indices development are required for power purchase agreement negotiations.