RFS Power Coalition Launches to Secure Role for Electricity Producers in the Renewable Fuel Standard

Congress Included Electricity in 2007 RFS2 Law; EPA Has Not Yet Processed a Single Electricity Application Out of Dozens Submitted to the Agency

Washington, DC – February 11, 2019 – Three trade associations representing renewable electricity producers today announced the launch of the RFS Power Coalition. The coalition’s purpose is to get the EPA to implement a law passed by Congress in 2007 which mandates the inclusion of qualifying renewable electricity in the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS).

“It’s been more than 11 years since President George W. Bush signed the RFS2, which included electricity as an RFS transportation fuel,” said Bob Cleaves, president and CEO of the Biomass Power Association. “The EPA has had more than enough time to implement the law as Congress intended, and they have failed to do so. Meanwhile, biomass power producers and other qualifying electricity producers are missing out on participation in the RFS program. It’s time for the EPA to act on this crucial part of the RFS.”

Biomass Power Association, American Biogas Council and Energy Recovery Council represent, respectively, domestic biomass power producers who use organic fuels like forest residues, biogas-to-electricity producers like dairy farmers and wastewater treatment facilities, and waste-to-energy producers. All three fuels – biomass, biogas and biogenic waste – qualify as renewable transportation fuels that should be included in the D3 cellulosic and D5 advanced fuel categories of the RFS. To get EPA to act, the three groups last week filed a petition in the D.C. Circuit federal appeals court challenging the EPA’s 2019 Renewable Volume Obligation, which excluded electricity from its targets for renewable fuel production for this year.

“The EPA has received more than 40 applications from electricity producers to participate in the RFS,” said Patrick Serfass, executive director of the American Biogas Council. “That means 40 projects were developed, investors committed funding and partners lined up to build new infrastructure using waste biomass to produce renewable electricity. But these projects sit dormant due to EPA’s inaction to administer their own program. Biogas applicants include dairy farmers, food waste systems and wastewater facilities all of whom could be building valuable new infrastructure America needs to
The Biomass Power Association (BPA) is a non-profit trade association, dedicated to the promotion and advocacy of energy from organic material. Our 40 members operate in 22 states, supplying more than 1 GW of renewable power and representing well over half the operating biomass power plant fleet across the country. Based in Portland, Maine with offices in Washington, DC, we represent the industry before Congress, various federal agencies, and before state legislatures, agencies and non-governmental organizations. BPA provides science and market-based analyses of a wide range of issues, from federal and state renewable policies to carbon emission accounting.