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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BTEC Releases Draft, Seeks Feedback on Biomass Boiler Efficiency Test Method**

*Draft of testing protocol released: public feedback meetings announced.*

WASHINGTON, DC – The Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC) announced its release of a draft of the first American test method for the thermal efficiency of commercial-sized biomass boilers. This includes boilers which utilize solid biomass as a fuel stock including pellets, chips, briquettes, and cordwood. BTEC plans to hold a series of regional stakeholder meetings to gather public feedback on the standard in the spring of 2016, the first of which will occur on March 30<sup>th</sup> at the Northeast Biomass Heating Expo in Burlington, VT. BTEC will also host at least one public webinar presenting the protocol during this feedback period.

The protocol is also anticipated to contain emission measurement provisions. In addition to providing system specifiers with clear distinctions between the efficiency and emissions performance of different biomass boiler systems, reliable industry boiler efficiency standards are often required in the design of state and federal clean energy incentives for biomass systems.

BTEC will promote the efficiency testing procedure beyond the biomass industry to the HVAC industry, government officials and testing laboratories as well as consumers and businesses. The method will facilitate the evaluation of the benefits of properly sizing biomass boilers, including innovative methods for multiple-boiler systems and will closely examine boiler performance at partial load points.

Work on the project is supported by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund, and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

Once drafted and tested in an accredited lab environment, the efficiency test procedure will be published as a voluntary industry document and made publicly available. The group will then pursue formal acceptance of the protocol by an accredited national standards organization.

An overview of the project and more information about biomass energy systems is hosted at the Biomass Thermal Energy Council's website, [www.biomassthermal.org](http://www.biomassthermal.org).

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### **About the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities**

*The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (the Endowment) is a not-for-profit public charity working collaboratively with partners in the public and private sectors to advance systemic, transformative, and sustainable change for the health and vitality of the nation's working forests and forest-reliant communities – [www.usendowment.org](http://www.usendowment.org).*

### **About the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund**

*The West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that invests in the deployment of sustainable energy technologies that benefit West Penn Power ratepayers in Pennsylvania. WPPSEF investments are focused in three broad categories:*

- *Deployment of sustainable and clean energy technologies;*
- *Deployment of energy efficiency and conservation technologies; and*
- *Facilitating economic development, environmental betterment, and public education as they relate to sustainable energy deployment in the WPP service region.*

*Visit [www.wppsef.org](http://www.wppsef.org) for further information.*

### **About the Biomass Thermal Energy Council**

*The Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC) is an association of biomass fuel producers, appliance manufacturers and distributors, supply chain companies and non-profit organizations that view biomass thermal energy as a renewable, responsible, clean and energy-efficient pathway to meeting America's energy needs. BTEC engages in research, education, and public advocacy for the fast growing biomass thermal energy industry. For more information, visit [www.biomassthermal.org](http://www.biomassthermal.org).*