

701—304.28(422,476C) Renewable energy tax credit. Effective for tax years beginning on or after July 1, 2006, a purchaser or producer of renewable energy whose facility has been approved by the Iowa utilities board may claim a renewable energy tax credit for qualified renewable energy against a taxpayer's Iowa individual income tax liability.

304.28(1) Eligible facility application process.

a. Eligible facility application process, generally. A producer or purchaser of a renewable energy facility must be approved as an eligible renewable energy facility by the Iowa utilities board in order to qualify for the renewable energy tax credit. The eligible renewable energy facility can be a wind energy conversion facility, biogas recovery facility, biomass conversion facility, methane gas recovery facility, solar energy conversion facility or refuse conversion facility. The facility must be located in Iowa and placed in service on or after July 1, 2005, and before January 1, 2018. The administrative rules for the certification of eligibility for the renewable energy tax credit for the Iowa utilities board may be found in rule 199—15.19(476C).

b. Limitations on maximum energy production and nameplate generating capacity. The maximum amount of nameplate generating capacity of all wind energy conversion facilities cannot exceed 363 megawatts. For tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2015, the maximum amount of energy production capacity for biogas recovery facilities, biomass conversion facilities, methane gas recovery facilities, solar energy conversion facilities and refuse conversion facilities cannot exceed a combined output of 53 megawatts of nameplate generating capacity and 167 billion British thermal units of heat for a commercial purpose. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, the maximum amount of energy production for biogas recovery facilities, biomass conversion facilities, methane gas recovery facilities, solar energy conversion facilities and refuse conversion facilities cannot exceed a combined output of 63 megawatts of nameplate generating capacity and, annually, 167 billion British thermal units of heat for a commercial purpose. A facility that is not operational within 30 months after issuance of approval from the utilities board will no longer be considered a qualified facility. However, if the facility is a wind energy conversion property and is not operational within 18 months due to the unavailability of necessary equipment, the facility may apply for a 12-month extension of the 30-month limit. Extensions can be renewed for succeeding 12-month periods if the facility applies for the extension prior to expiration of the current extension period. A producer of renewable energy, who is the person who owns the renewable energy facility, cannot own more than two eligible renewable energy facilities. A person that has an equity interest equal to or greater than 51 percent in an eligible renewable energy facility cannot have an equity interest greater than 10 percent in any other renewable energy facility. However, for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, an entity described in Iowa Code section 476C.1(6)“b”(4) or (5) may have an ownership interest in up to four solar energy conversion facilities described in Iowa Code section 476C.3(4)“b”(3).

304.28(2) Tax credit certificate procedure.

a. Tax credit application process. A producer or purchaser of a renewable energy facility must apply to the utilities board for the renewable energy tax credit. The application for the tax credit must be filed no later than 30 days after the close of the tax year for which the credit is applied. The information to be included in the application is set forth in 199—subrule 15.21(1). The utilities board will notify the department of the number of kilowatt-hours, standard cubic feet or British thermal units that were generated and purchased from an eligible facility or used for on-site consumption by the producer during the tax year for which the credit is applied.

b. Tax credit calculation. The department shall calculate the amount of the credit for which the applicant is eligible in accordance with subrules 304.28(3) and 304.28(4) and shall issue a tax credit certificate for that amount or shall notify the applicant in writing of its refusal to do so.

c. Tax credit certificate issuance. The tax credit certificate will include the taxpayer's name, address and federal identification number; the tax type for which the credit will be claimed; the amount of the credit; and the tax year for which the credit may be claimed. In addition, the tax credit certificate will include a place for the name and tax identification number of a transferee and the amount of the tax credit certificate, as provided in subrule 304.28(5). Once a tax credit certificate is issued pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 476C, it shall not be terminated or rescinded.

d. Taxpayers that are partnerships, limited liability companies, S corporations, or estates or trusts. If the taxpayer is a partnership, limited liability company, S corporation, or estate or trust requesting a credit for individual or corporation income tax, the tax credit certificate will be issued to the partners, members, shareholders or beneficiaries based on the partner's, member's, shareholder's or beneficiary's pro rata share of earnings of the partnership, limited liability company, S corporation, or estate or trust, except when the taxpayer is eligible to receive renewable electricity production tax credits authorized under Section 45 of the Internal Revenue Code. In cases where the taxpayer is eligible to receive renewable electricity production tax credits under Section 45 of the Internal Revenue Code, the partnership, limited liability company or S corporation may designate the amount of the tax credit to be allocated to each partner, member or shareholder. In addition, if a taxpayer is a partnership, limited liability company, S corporation, or estate or trust that is eligible to receive renewable electricity production tax credits under Section 45 of the Internal Revenue Code, the taxpayer may distribute the tax credit to an equity holder or beneficiary as a liquidating distribution, or portion thereof, of an equity holder's interest in the partnership, limited liability company or S corporation or of the beneficiary's interest in the estate or trust.

e. Carryforward. To claim the tax credit, the taxpayer must include the tax credit certificate with the tax return for the tax period set forth on the certificate. Any tax credit in excess of the tax liability may be carried forward for seven years or until it is used, whichever is the earlier.

304.28(3) Limitations.

a. Energy production. Of the maximum amount of energy production capacity equivalent for biogas recovery facilities, biomass conversion facilities, methane gas recovery facilities, solar energy conversion facilities and refuse conversion facilities:

(1) No single facility may be allocated more than ten megawatts of nameplate generating capacity or energy production capacity equivalent.

(2) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, ten megawatts of nameplate generating capacity or energy production capacity equivalent shall be reserved for solar energy conversion facilities described in Iowa Code section 476C.3(4) "b"(3) that have a generating capacity of one and one-half megawatts or less.

(3) For tax years, beginning on or after January 1, 2014, 55 billion British thermal units of heat for a commercial purpose shall be reserved annually for an eligible facility that is a refuse conversion facility for processed, engineered fuel from a multicounty solid waste management planning area.

(4) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, the maximum annual amount of energy production capacity for a single refuse conversion facility is 55 billion British thermal units of heat for a commercial purpose.

b. Related persons. The credit is not allowed for any kilowatt-hours, standard cubic feet or British thermal units that are purchased from an eligible facility by a related person. Persons shall be treated as related to each other if either person owns an 80 percent or more equity interest in the other person.

c. Operation. The facility must be operational within 30 months after approval was given by the utilities board, unless a 12-month extension is granted by the utilities board as provided in subrule 304.28(1).

d. Prohibited for persons that have received a credit under Iowa Code chapter 476B. A person that has received a wind energy production tax credit pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 476B may not be issued a renewable energy tax credit certificate.

e. Ten-year award limitation. The credit is allowed for a ten-year period beginning on the date the purchaser first purchases renewable energy from a qualified facility or on the date the qualified facility first began producing renewable energy for on-site consumption. For example, if a renewable energy facility first began producing energy for on-site consumption on April 1, 2006, the credit can be claimed for kilowatt-hours, standard cubic feet or British thermal units generated and used for on-site consumption by the producer between April 1, 2006, and March 31, 2016. Tax credit certificates cannot be issued for renewable energy purchased or produced for on-site consumption after December 31, 2027.

304.28(4) Computation of the credit. The renewable energy tax credit equals 1½ cents per kilowatt-hour of electricity, or \$1.44 per 1000 standard cubic feet of hydrogen fuel, or \$4.50 per 1 million British thermal units of methane gas or other biogas used to generate electricity, or \$4.50 per 1 million British

thermal units of heat for a commercial purpose generated by and purchased from an eligible renewable energy facility or used for on-site consumption by the producer during the tax year. For the first tax year in which the credit is applied, the kilowatt-hours, standard cubic feet or British thermal units generated by and purchased from the facility or used for on-site consumption by the producer may exceed 12 months if the facility was operational for fewer than 12 months in its initial year of operation.

EXAMPLE: A qualified wind energy production facility was placed in service on April 1, 2006, and the taxpayer files on a calendar-year basis. The first year for which the credit can be claimed is the year ending December 31, 2007, since that is the first tax year that began on or after July 1, 2006. The credit for the 2007 tax year can include electricity generated and purchased or used for on-site consumption by the producer between April 1, 2006, and December 31, 2007.

304.28(5) *Transfer of the renewable energy tax credit certificate.*

a. *One-transfer limitation.* The renewable energy tax credit certificate may be transferred once to any person or entity. A decision between a producer and purchaser of renewable energy regarding who may claim the tax credit is not considered a transfer.

b. *Transfer process—information required.* Within 30 days of transfer of the tax credit certificate, the transferee must submit the transferred tax credit certificate to the department, along with a statement which contains the transferee's name, address and tax identification number; the amount of the tax credit being transferred; the value of any consideration provided by the transferee to the transferor; and any other information required by the department. Within 30 days of receiving the transferred tax credit certificate and the statement from the transferee, the department will issue a replacement tax credit certificate to the transferee. If the transferee is a partnership, limited liability company, S corporation, or estate or trust claiming the credit for individual or corporation income tax, the transferee shall provide a list of the partners, members, shareholders or beneficiaries and information on how the renewable energy tax credit should be divided among the partners, members, shareholders or beneficiaries. The transferee shall also provide the tax identification numbers and addresses of the partners, members, shareholders or beneficiaries. The replacement tax credit certificate must contain the same information as that on the original tax credit certificate and must have the same effective taxable year and the same expiration date as the original tax credit certificate. The replacement tax credit certificate may reflect a different tax type than the original tax credit certificate.

c. *Tax year.* The transferee may use the amount of the tax credit for any tax year for which the original transferor could have claimed the tax credit.

d. *Consideration.* Any consideration received for the transfer of the tax credit certificate shall not be included in Iowa taxable income for individual income, corporation income or franchise tax purposes. Any consideration paid for the transfer of the tax credit certificate shall not be deducted from Iowa taxable income for individual income, corporation income or franchise tax purposes.

304.28(6) *Small wind innovation zones.* Effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2009, an owner of a small wind energy system operating within a small wind innovation zone which has been approved by the Iowa utilities board is eligible for the renewable energy tax credit. The administrative rules of the Iowa utilities board for the certification of eligibility for owners of small wind energy systems operating within a small wind innovation zone may be found in rule 199—15.22(476).

304.28(7) *Appeals.* If the department refuses to issue the tax credit certificate, the taxpayer shall be notified in writing, and the taxpayer will have 60 days from the date of denial to file a protest in accordance with rule 701—7.8(17A).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 422.11J and Iowa Code chapter 476C as amended by 2015 Iowa Acts, chapter 124, and 2016 Iowa Acts, House File 2468.

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