

PMC-EF2a

(2.01.02)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER  
NEPA DETERMINATION



RECIPIENT: Laurentian Energy LLC

STATE: MN

PROJECT TITLE : Laurentian Energy Authority (LEA) Woody Biomass

|                                                |                                      |                            |                   |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b> | <b>Procurement Instrument Number</b> | <b>NEPA Control Number</b> | <b>CID Number</b> |
|                                                | DE-FG36-06GO86023.003                | GFO-06-111b                | GO86023           |

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

**CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:**

Description:

- A9** Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, audits), data analysis (including computer modeling), document preparation (such as conceptual design or feasibility studies, analytical energy supply and demand studies), and dissemination (including, but not limited to, document mailings, publication, and distribution; and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.
- B3.1** Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities covered include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include, but are not limited to:
- B3.11** Outdoor tests and experiments for the development, quality assurance, or reliability of materials and equipment (including, but not limited to, weapon system components), under controlled conditions that would not involve source, special nuclear, or byproduct materials. Covered activities may include, but are not limited to, burn tests (such as tests of electric cable fire resistance or the combustion characteristics of fuels), impact tests (such as pneumatic ejector tests using earthen embankments or concrete slabs designated and routinely used for that purpose), or drop, puncture, water-immersion, or thermal tests

Rational for determination:

Laurentian Energy LLC (Laurentian) would demonstrate the productivity of hybrid poplar plantations in Koochiching County and Aitkin County, Minnesota. Field work would take place at existing poplar plantations. This document analyzes only Task 5. The previous tasks were approved on March 3, 2009 (GFO-06-111). Task 5 includes the following:

Plantation sites would be prepared for planting as necessary. The soils would then be tested and data accumulated regarding the various soil types and various soil preparation needed. A review and selection of various hybrids and clones that exhibit more yield potential in soils primarily found in the Northeastern Minnesota area. Soil preparation would include:

- Application of herbicide for weed control using shielded sprayer mounted on all terrain vehicle.
- Registered herbicides used at label rates, applied by certified contractor
- Specifically shielded spray of glyphosate (Round Up) using 1 ½ quarts per acre, heavy droplet nozzles (to increase penetration and minimize drift) to 200 acres in Koochiching County, Minnesota and 640 acres in Aitkin County, Minnesota where the agricultural land converted into Hybrid plantations in 2005 and 2006. Legal descriptions are in the EF2.
- Applied glyphosate (Round Up) using light equipment
- Heavily weeded situations likely require two separate applications, followed by cultivation
- Cultivation of soils within the plantations using gang disc pulled by all terrain vehicle by contracted operator

Laurentian indicates that no new permits are needed for this proposal; there would be no generation of air emissions; hazardous/toxic/effluent waste would be disposed of properly in accordance to local, state, and federal laws as appropriate; pesticides would be utilized and disposed of according to label directions and regulations by the licensed contractor; safety protocols are in place as required by Laurentian, the state, and federal guidance.

Based on the information above, this project's impacts to the human and natural environment can be deemed less than significant and this project would qualify for Categorical Exclusions A9, B3.6, and B5.1.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

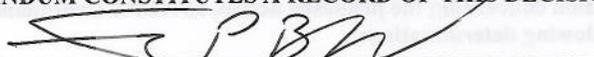
Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

EF2A written by Christopher Carusona II

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

4/28/10

**FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION**

Field Office Manager review required

**NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:**

- Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

**BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :**

Field Office Manager's Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager

Date:

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