PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: WA Dept. of Commerce **STATE:** WA

PROJECT TITLE : Cedar Grove Composting High-Solids Anaerobic Digester

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052			0

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:

C12 Siting, construction, and operation of energy system prototypes including, but not limited to, wind resource, hydropower, geothermal, fossil fuel, biomass, and solar energy pilot projects.

Rational for determination:

The State of Washington will provide $1,000,000 in Recovery Act funds to the City of Everett in support of the Cedar Grove Composting project. The Cedar Grove project involves the construction of a high-solids anaerobic digester on its existing 26-acre facility or on a part of the facility planned for expansion. The $1,000,000 Grant will be matched with $8,000,000 in private funding.

Recovery Act funds will be devoted to the purchase of the digester. The digester will be capable of processing 50,000 tons per year of food waste, food processing wastes, yard waste, as well as seasonal wet green grasses. The facility will be capable of producing about 175,000,000 standard cubic feet of biogas per year. In turn, the biogas will be fed to engines to produce heat and power. The engines are expected to produce approximately 10 million KWh of electricity, a portion of which will be used by the facility and the remainder sold to the grid.

After the material is processed through the digester and the biogas has been extracted, the solids will be transferred to the composting facility for final utilization in production of a high quality soil amendment. The addition of this process will reduce the carbon footprint of Cedar Grove's composting facility by creating a fuel that can be transformed into power and heat. All nutrients would be conserved for use in the soil amendment process. Another positive benefit of the anaerobic digestion process is that the facility is expected to displace roughly 60,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent each year.

The Cultural Resources Assessment for the Composting Expansion Project mentions a 30 to 40-acre expansion of the composting facility. Based on company plans, it appears that the digester and the CHP units may be located on part of the expansion area that contain wetlands. The Cultural Resources Assessment mentions filling wetlands and the construction of new wetland areas as mitigation. The project team is applying for a 404 permit and a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) document is being prepared for the expansion. According to information from the State and recipient, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin its NEPA process once the SEPA document is complete. The digester and CHP engine represents a connected action. The Recovery Act-funded digester may the first of several digesters planned for the facility. All of the digesters and CHP units are still in the planning phase.

This project comprises the siting, construction, and operation of a biomass energy system. Existing and potential impacts are uncertain at this time as the city is still finalizing construction plans and a portion of the project may impact wetlands. In view of the information provided by the State and recipient, the project has uncertain environmental impact(s) due to its possible encroachment onto or impact on wetlands. Further, the scope of the project is still under review as expansion onto undeveloped area is still under consideration, an expansion that would certainly impact the wetlands. In view of this information, I have determined that the project is categorized as C12 and will require an Environmental Assessment.

NEPA PROVISION

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:
To complete an Environmental Assessment for this project and submit the report to the Golden Field Office for review. Federal funds for this project will not be released prior to the issuance of a FONSI.

Note to Specialist :

According to the Project Officer, funding for this project is $1,000,000. No Recovery Act funds are to be released prior to the issuance of FONSI.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 4/8/10
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager