PMC-EF2a
(20602)

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

RECIPIENT: Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund **STATE:** VT

PROJECT TITLE : Vermont Biofuels Initiative:Otter Creek Biofuels

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FG36-08GO88182	DE-FG36-08GO88182	GFO-GO88182-023	GO88182

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:

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

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.

Rational for determination:

This NEPA review is a continuation of NEPA review GFO-09-057f to add the Otter Creek Biofuels collaboration of farmers.

Otter Creek Biofuels would use DOE funding to gather and compare on oilseed (sweet sorghum, sunflower, and soybeans) production and processing from two farms in Vermont. The two farms would grow and cultivate oilseed crops under different conditions (i.e. with the use of different soil amendments, under different planting conditions, etc.). The two farms would also look into different methods for handling and processing the oilseed crop. Approximately 140 acres of sunflowers and soybeans using both organic and conventional methods are in production at these 2 farms in Vermont (43.784626, -73.062129) using non-GMO seeds. The research performed will analyze crop varieties and fertilizer rates, contributions to no-till soil fertility, and experimentation with organic and conventional sweet sorghum.

Equipment will be purchased using funds from this project and shared between the two farms. A combine, no-till grain drill, and crop roller will be purchased. No GMOs will be used in the implementation of this project and standard best management practices will be followed for farming the biomass feedstock.

This project is comprised of actions to conserve energy as well as information gathering for research on biomass feedstock; therefore a CX A9 & B5.1 will apply.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Eugene Brown 4/12/2011

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 4/14/2011
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