PMC-EF2a

(2.0.6.02)

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

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

PROJECT TITLE : Vermont Biofuels Initiative: Borderview Farm CDP09

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-FG36-08GO88182	GFO-GO88182-021	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.

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:

Rational for determination:

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF), sub-recipient Borderview Farm, to purchase and install equipment, which would expand and improve the operational capacity and efficiency of the existing oil seed and biodiesel processing research center in Grand Isle County located at 146 Town Highway 8, Alburgh, Vermont 05440. This NEPA review is a continuation for Borderview Farm (GFO-09-057c).

Borderview Farm proposes to construct a sheltered storage area (30 feet X 30 feet) on the east side of the existing facility (40 feet X 30 feet), built in 2007. The proposed expansion would be attached to the existing facility. The new storage area would be used for oilseed storage prior to pressing, for meal storage post-pressing and for oil prior to biodiesel conversion. Currently, the proposed site is a bare gravel fill area. The expansion would be on a floating concrete slab (29 feet X 32) attached to the existing facility. Borderview Farm estimates construction would take 2-4 months.

Borderview Farm would purchase additional equipment including:

- 4 ton grain bin
- Seed cleaner
- Fork truck
- Alcohol recovery system

The four ton grain bin and seed cleaner would handle the oilseeds coming from other farms in the area. A powered fork truck would be purchased to ease movement of 250 gallon oil totes, bulk seed and meal bags. An alcohol recovery system, typical for small biodiesel-linked methanol recovery systems, would be purchased and installed. Controls would be in place to balance the heat input with the condenser duty so that the volumetric rate of evaporation is balanced by the volumetric rate of liquid drawn down from the condenser. Borderview Farm would employ sealed venting of methanol from the heated tank to the outdoors and would also utilize combustibility sensors to warn of any unexpected leakage.

The existing facility has been previously disturbed from construction activities; therefore, impacts to cultural resources are not expected. The proposed project would not result in adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species, floodplains, wetlands, and waters of the United States as these are not known to occur in the area. No permits are required. This is a farm building exempt from the State Act 250 Permit.

Based on this information, DOE has determined that the work outlined is consistent with activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B3.1 (site characterization) and B5.1 (actions to conserve energy).

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

Cristina Tyler 8.23.2011

DOE Funding: $50,000
Cost Share: $12,500
Total Project Cost: $62,000

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 8/29/2011

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