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: Rainbow Valley Biodiesel

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-FG36-08GO88182	GFO-GO88182-031	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:

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.

Rational for determination:

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, sub-recipient Rainbow Valley Biodiesel (Rainbow Valley), to increase grain storage and oilseed pressing capacity at the existing biodiesel farm in order to expand the scale of oilseed production in Addison and Rutland counties.

This NEPA review is a continuation of a previous award (GFO-09-057j). Under the original determination (2009), Rainbow valley renovated an existing barn, installed several grain drying and storage bins and a flex auger delivery system to two oilseed presses inside the facility. Rainbow Valley converted the old barn into a small-scale research oilseed processing facility, which met the farm's biodiesel needs, as well as offered oilseed crop processing and fuel production services to surrounding farms.

Rainbow Valley is a custom cropping and biodiesel production operation located in Brandon, Vermont (43.757006, -73.216667). Rainbow Valley currently presses soybeans and sunflowers from their farm and those grown by neighboring farms. The proposed added capacity would accommodate increased soybean acreage at the Rainbow Valley farm, as well as provide the current system with ample storage and versatility to include several hundred acres from off-farm sources.

Rainbow Valley would purchase the following equipment: two, 4,800 bu. grain storage bins, a grain shed, a re-commissioned grain elevator, two additional oilseed presses, augers and driveline components. The oilseed processing equipment would be installed inside of the existing facility. The seed storage bins and elevator would be installed outside, adjacent to the existing bins. Before the outside equipment is installed, a six-inch, concrete slab-on-grade would be poured. Light scraping and leveling would be required.

The proposed project location is not in a wetland or floodplain, nor are threatened and endangered species known to occur in the area.

Based on this information, DOE has determined that the work outlined is consistent with activities identified in Categorical Exclusion 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 8.25.2011

DOE Funding: $1,421,500
Cost Share: $2,477,471
Total Project Cost: $3,898,971

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