PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: University of Hawaii **STATE:** HI

PROJECT TITLE : Development of High Yield Tropical Feedtocks and Biomass Conversion Technology for Renewable Energy Production and Economic Development

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
CDP	DE-FG36-08GO88037	GFO-GO88037-002	GO88037

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.

B3.8 Outdoor ecological and other environmental research (including siting, construction, and operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis) in a small area (generally less than five acres) that would not result in any permanent change to the ecosystem.

Rational for determination:

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to the University of Hawaii to continue assessing the use of C-4 tropical grasses for conversion to biofuels and the development of methodology for conducting net energy analyses for biomass crops grown in Hawaii.

Tasks 1, 2, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 are a continuation of the FY09 scope of work and will be conducted in the same areas and in the same manner as before. These activities and locations have already been reviewed by DOE and categorically excluded from further NEPA review. (See GFO-08-074 and GFO-08-074-001).

Task 3.1 has been modified from the FY09 scope of work. In FY10, two additional sites on Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar (HC&S) land will be selected for sugarcane, energy cane and banagrass trials. HC&S is a commercial sugar grower and these test plots will be selected and grown under standard sustainable agricultural practices. These test plots will also be analyzed for carbon sequestration modeling per Task 3.2. No permits are required for these additional field trials and no GMOs will be planted.

This NEPA determination does not apply to Task 3.4 or 3.5. Additional information is required prior to DOE making a final NEPA determination for these tasks.

This project entails agricultural production of biomass to advance renewable energy research and development therefore CX B5.1 and CX B3.8 apply. In addition, CX A9 applies to tasks involving information gathering, data analysis, and computer modeling.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment

or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:
Tasks 3.4 and 3.5 are prohibited until the recipient provides sufficient information to DOE and DOE completes the NEPA review for these tasks.
This restriction does not preclude you from:
Tasks 1, 2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 4.
If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 12/9/2010
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