

PMC-EF2a

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



(2.04.02)

RECIPIENT: University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc

STATE: GA

PROJECT TITLE : Biorefinary Demonstration Project, University of Georgia

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0000410	GFO-0000410-002	EE410

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:

A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination

Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

B5.15 Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects

Small-scale renewable energy research and development projects and small-scale pilot projects, provided that the projects are located within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

Rational for determination:

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to the University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc. (University of Georgia) to evaluate miscanthus as a bioenergy feedstock in Georgia. DOE funding would be used to lead a three year field trial to grow miscanthus at five separate locations in Georgia.

DOE made a previous NEPA determination, which categorically excluded laboratory research and development activities to improve technologies that convert biomass to liquid fuels (GFO-10-587; CX A9 and B3.6; signed 4.28.2010).

The growing trials would be conducted at five locations and under varying conditions. Two to four acre plots would be cultivated at each location. The proposed research would include replicated yield trials testing of both clonal and experimental seed varieties of miscanthus as well as agronomic studies including: herbicide screenings, fertility, planting dates and density responses.

Proposed sites include:

- Southeast Georgia Research and Extension Center, Midville, Georgia (32 52' 36".41 N; 82 13' 9.76" W)
- Northwest Georgia Floyd Co. Experiment Farm, Rome, Georgia (32 20' 47.66" N; 85 6' 27.13" W)
- University of Georgia Experiment Station, Griffin, Georgia (33 15' 51.77" N; 84 17' 02.63" W)
- Mendel Biotechnology Research Farm, Tifton, Georgia (31 25' 48.29" N; 83 36' 59.23" W)
- Southwest Georgia Research and Education Center, Plains, Georgia: (32 02' 48.78" N; 84 22' 14.20" W)

All of the proposed sites are property of the University of Georgia except for the Mendel Biotechnology Research Farm owned by Mendel Biotechnology. All sites have been previously disturbed and over the last 5 years, the sites have been used to cultivate cotton, corn, soybeans, wheat, peanuts, fescue and watermelons.

The following pesticides would be used during the proposed project: glyphosate, glufosinate, pendimethalin, atrazine, metolachlor, 2 and 4-D. The recipient will follow the safety protocol required for the Georgia Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicator Licensing and Certification and the protocol established by the University of Georgia Environmental Safety Division. The staff will be trained regarding field techniques, safe equipment use and chemical use. Institution manuals or programs that will support QA/QC include GDA-Pesticide Training, the Environmental Safety Division, UGA policy and procedures and the Mendel Biotechnology Inc., California Safety Training Corporation On-Site Manual. No GMO's would be used for the proposed studies.

Based on this information, DOE has determined the work outlined is consistent with activities identified in categorical

exclusion A9 (information gathering, analysis and dissemination) and B5.15 (small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects).

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

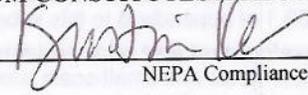
If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing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

Note to Specialist :

Cristina Tyler 2.6.2012

DOE Funding: \$1,250,000
Cost Share: \$512,500
Total Project Cost: \$1,762,500

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/10/2012

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: _____
Field Office Manager

Date: _____