PMC-EF2a
(2/04/02)

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

RECIPIENT: Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) **STATE:** MD

PROJECT TITLE : Somerset County, Maryland EECBG (MEA subgrantee)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000013	EE0000745	GFO-0000745-003	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:

Somerset County is proposing to use $454,692 in EECBG ARRA funding to install a ground source heat pump system that will serve the heating and cooling needs for the County's 18,000 square foot Behavioral Health Center. The ground source heat pump system will be a vertical, closed loop system with a capacity of 65 tons. There will be 60 boreholes needed drilled to a depth of 300 feet and covering 1 acre. The state certified and licensed driller will follow IGSHPA and NGWA regulations during installation. The system will use HDPE piping that is heat fused and all wells will be fully grouted with a thermally enhanced bentonite grout. The refrigerant used in the system will be a non-toxic, food grade propylene glycol and water mixture. Drilling spoils are the only expected waste from the project and will be re-used on-site when possible or taken to the appropriate landfill. Sand bags and/or compost filtration would be utilized to control erosion as well as drilling spoils. The site will be re-seeded with grass of the same variety already existing on site. No permits are necessary for the proposed project.

The geothermal well field portion of the installation will occur in a mowed, grassy lawn area that was previously a playground behind the existing building. The proposed project location is in a rural area surrounded by actively cultivated farmland. There are not expected to be any adverse effects to threatened and endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or cultural resources as a result of the proposed project as these resources are not present at the project site.

After a thorough review of the information submitted for the proposed project, it has been determined that the actions involved will not have a significant impact to human health and /or the environment. The proposed project will result in a reduction in the use of conventional fossil fuels; therefore it is hereby Categorically Excluded B5.1 "actions to conserve energy," from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

EF2a completed by Logan Sholar

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 1/25/2011
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