

PMC-EF2a

(2.01.02)

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



RECIPIENT: Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

STATE: IL

PROJECT  
TITLE : LaHarpe-NRG Biofuels

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0000052		GFO-10-548	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.
- B2.2** Installation of, or improvements to, building and equipment instrumentation (including, but not limited to, remote control panels, remote monitoring capability, alarm and surveillance systems, control systems to provide automatic shutdown, fire detection and protection systems, announcement and emergency warning systems, criticality and radiation monitors and alarms, and safeguards and security equipment).

## Rational for determination:

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will provide \$1,000,000 in Recovery Act funds to LaHarpe-NRG, LLC (LaHarpe) to off-set equipment purchase costs for a proposed 1000 ton per day integrated soybean crush, refinery, biodiesel production, and alternative feedstock research center. The plant will be located in LaHarpe, Illinois. DOE's Recovery Act investment in the plant is less than 3%.

The current plan is to use DOE funds to off-set equipment purchase costs for the 500 ton per day soy plant portion of the facility. Tentative equipment purchases include dry bins, scale system, whole seed cleaner, fluidbed conditioner, cracking mill, primary and secondary dehulling, final heater/dryer system, extruder, cake breaker, presses, cooler, cake grinder, hull grinder, aspiration systems, press oil decanter, pumps, heat exchangers, conveyors, cake and hull storage, and electrical/controls.

DOE has determined that the decision to fund this portion of the project does not constitute an enabling action for the construction of the entire facility. The incremental sum of federal money in this situation has insignificant influence over the scope, direction, and decision to construct the facility. Accordingly, DOE has determined that the scope of this NEPA review and the scope of the federal action is limited to providing funds for the purchase of a small portion of the total cost of the plant's equipment. DOE has made this determination after thorough review of the project description, documentation, and via meetings held with the project proponents.

DOE has reviewed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed purchasing of equipment to be installed internal to the planned facility. DOE has determined that the federal action to fund equipment purchases will not have a significant impact to human health and/or environment. The work outlined is consistent with activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B5.1 and B2.2.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

According to the project officer, funding for this project is \$1,000,000. Absent a significant change in the scope of this effort, a change in funding will not affect my determination.

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/29/10

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Faint, mirrored text from the reverse side of the page is visible through the paper, including phrases like "The current plan is to use DOE funds to purchase off-site equipment...")*