

PMC-EF2a

(2010)

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



RECIPIENT: Montana State University

STATE: MT

PROJECT TITLE : Montana BioDiesel Initiative

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0003136	GFO-10-420	EE3136

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:

- B3.6** Siting, construction (or modification), operation, and decommissioning of facilities for indoor bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations (for example, preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); small-scale research and development projects; and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than two years) conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions. Construction (or modification) will be within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible).
- 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:

Montana State University proposes to use federal funds to perform research and education in the production of biofuels. This process will involve the isolation and characterization of photosynthetic organisms used to fix carbon dioxide at high temps to produce fuels and chemicals. They will sample thermal organisms from area's within Yellowstone National park. The University has the necessary permit in place to sample in Yellowstone National Park (permit # YELL-2010-SCI-5480).

This project will include culture development of hydrocarbon and lipid producing phototrophic microorganisms, culture characterization, chemical analysis, and project management and reporting.

This project will take place within existing laboratory facilities; the applicant has submitted an R & D questionnaire which thoroughly addresses chemical and safety handling protocols.

This project will involve indoor bench-scale research, and outdoor sampling of thermal organisms; therefore a CX B3.6 & B3.8 will apply.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Eugene Brown 7/29/2010

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Kristin Kerwin  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/30/2010