

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

STATE: MP

PROJECT TITLE : Provision of 4 Diesel Commercial Wood Chippers

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0000762	GFO-0000762-002	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:

- 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.
- 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:

DOE is proposing to provide \$700,000 in EECBG funding to install four hand-fed wood chippers that would be used on the CNMI of Saipan, Tinian and Rota for the conversion of green waste to a mulch product for residential and commercial use.

The proposed project originally received a CX B5.1 (GFO- 0000762-001) to fund an energy efficiency retrofitting project on the primary power plant of the island of Saipan. The applicant has since expanded the scope of the proposed project to include a total of four, smaller wood chippers. One would be located at the original site in Saipan, another would be located in the Saipan solid waste transfer yard, and the other two would be located in the CNMI Department of Public Works (DPW) compound on the islands of Rota and Tinian.

Saipan: One unit would be located at the existing Saipan Marpi Landfill facility located in a secluded area at the Northern tip of the island. The other unit would be located at the existing Solid Waste Transfer Station in Lowerbase, Saipan, which is located in an industrial area in the center of the island.

Rota: One unit would be located at the DPW office compound located on a parcel piece of property owned by the government in Sinapalo III Village area on the Island of Rota.

Tinian: One unit would be located at the DPW office compound located on a parcel piece of property owned by the government in Marpo Valley area on the Island of Tinian.

The proposed project would not require excavation or construction. At all four sites, the units would be trailer mounted and moveable within the compound. Noise level at fifty feet is estimated at 82db. According to the applicant, the proposed locations are not anticipated to have an adverse impact on residential homes. Wood chippers would only be operated when necessary and only during normal hours of operation.

In view of the information provided by the recipient, DOE has determined that the impacts related to the proposed project are anticipated to have negligible effects on the human and natural environment. The proposed project is consistent with actions outlined in A9, "information gathering" and B5.1, "actions to conserve energy," and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

Note to Specialist :