PMC-EF2a
(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin **STATE:** WI

PROJECT TITLE : Oneida Nation Energy Optimization model development project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0005055	GFO-0005055-001	GO5055

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 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects	Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.
B3.8 Outdoor terrestrial ecological and environmental research	Outdoor terrestrial ecological and environmental research in a small area (generally less than 5 acres), including, but not limited to, siting, construction, and operation of a smallscale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for associated analysis. Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance.

Rational for determination:

The Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the Oneida Nation (Oneida) to analyze existing farmlands including soils, and grasslands for potential harvestable biomass on the Oneida Indian Reservation with the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (UW) as the sub-contractor. On May 3, 2011, a previous National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination was signed by Oak Ridge for information gathering and technical advice with Categorical Exclusions A9, and A11. The new proposal by UW and Oneida are beyond A9 and A11 activities, therefore this environmental review was needed.

The proposed project would include a Geographic Information System (GIS) evaluation of the available croplands, characterizing biofuel grasslands using scientific methodologies (soil samples; plant measurements), and best management practices for planting, and harvesting switchgrass in existing croplands on the Oneida Indian Reservation. Switchgrass (non- genetically modified organism) would be planted near the intersections of Florist Drive and Overland Road (13.7 acres) and Fernando Drive and County Highway "U" (18.1 acres) in Oneida, Wisconsin. Soil and plant samples would be analyzed at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay located at 2420 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay, WI 54311

After review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wetland Mapper and the Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplain maps, the proposed sites are not located in a wetland or floodplain. One Threatened and Endangered species is known to be in the area, the Dwarf lake iris (Iris lacustris). However, due to the existing previously disturbed conditions, and lack of habitat at the existing croplands, impacts to Dwarf lake iris are not anticipated.
As this proposed project would occur at existing croplands, and no new surface disturbance would occur, DOE has determined there will be no impacts to sensitive resources including cultural resources.

This project comprises laboratory operations and outdoor environmental research; therefore the DOE has categorized this project into Categorical Exclusions B3.6 and B3.8.

Budget: $182,352 (DOE); $35,853 (cost share)

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

EF2A by Christopher Carusona

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Electronically Signed By: Lori Gray / Lori Gray Date: 7/17/2012

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