

PMC-EF2a

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



(20402)

RECIPIENT: Purdue University

STATE: IN

PROJECT TITLE : Optimization of biomass productivity and environmental sustainability for cellulosic feedstock: Land capability and life cycle analysis

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	GO88073	GFO-09-046t	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.
- 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.
- 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:

Purdue University proposes to use federal funds to study the land capability and the relative crop feedstock yields to quantify productivity and environmental sustainability of candidate species on contrasting soils and landscapes through field experiments.

For each proposed study site, the recipient has provided the location (latitude and longitude), current land use, proposed species to be studied, and planned end use or disposal method for the experimentally grown crops. Currently, the proposed sites are used for agronomy research or crop production. The species to be planted would be blends of switchgrass, maize, soybean, miscanthus, native prairie grasses, and sorghum. The only GMO that would be used is presently commercially available from local source seed stores. Crops produced in the field exercise would be sold or composted and/or used for research for conversion fuel.

This project will take place outdoors in existing facilities, and will involve information gathering and natural actions to conserve energy through small scale agriculture conservation; therefore CX B5.1, B3.8 & A9 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 6-17-2010

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

