

PMC-EF2a  
(2.04.02)

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



**RECIPIENT:** Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District

**STATE:** NY

**PROJECT TITLE :** Cayuga County Regional Digester Facility

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
none	DE-EE0000618	GFO-0000618-001	EE618

**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:

<b>B5.20 Biomass power plants</b>	The installation, modification, operation, and removal of small-scale biomass power plants (generally less than 10 megawatts), using commercially available technology (1) intended primarily to support operations in single facilities (such as a school and community center) or contiguous facilities (such as an office complex); (2) that would not affect the air quality attainment status of the area and would not have the potential to cause a significant increase in the quantity or rate of air emissions and would not have the potential to cause significant impacts to water resources; and (3) would be located within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.
---	--

**Rational for determination:**

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to Cayuga County, New York for an already constructed, 625 kW anaerobic digester (AD) facility. DOE and cost share funds will be used to pay for the following portions of the project which have already been completed:

- Receive, offload, and install the generator
- Furnish and install the heat exchangers
- Install plant pumping station
- Build heating and ventilation systems
- Install the sprinkler system
- Install the biogas compression system
- Install the biogas flare
- Install all other piping, pumps, valves, and heat exchangers
- Install the compressed air system
- Install the natural gas pipeline
- Purchase and set-up software for the facility

The project included an AD facility was part of a larger project that also included a manure gas delivery system, a biogas conditioning system, a combined heat and power system, an electrical substation and power distribution system, and a thermal energy distribution system.

The AD facility is located one mile southwest of the town of Sennett (7413 County House Road, Auburn, New York 13021) behind the Natural Resource Center. The AD facility provides biogas to the cogeneration plant. The cogeneration plant provides heat and electricity to the County Jail, County Nursing Home, and the Natural Resource Center. The AD facility uses manure from 1,500 cows (33,000 gallons) and 22.1 tons of liquid food waste to produce 25 tons per day of fermented high nutrient solid and 36,000 gallons per day of mild nutrient liquids. The manure contains 14% solids and is delivered from local dairy farms. The food waste is delivered from a local food processing plant.

Prior to construction of the AD facility and the larger project, the USDA Rural Development completed an environmental assessment and issued a FONSI on December 9, 2005. In a letter dated October 28, 2005, SHPO determined "the project will have No Effect upon cultural resources in or eligible for inclusion in the National Registers of Historic Places." In a letter dated November 1, 2005, the USFWS determined except for the Indiana bat, no other federally-listed or proposed endangered or threatened species are known to exist in the project impact area. Because no trees were removed during construction of the AD facility, there were no impacts to the Indiana bat.

Based on this information, DOE has determined the work outlined was consistent with activities identified in categorical exclusion B5.20 (biomass power plants).

#### NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Cristina Tyler 2.29.2012

DOE Funding: \$475,750  
Cost Share: \$476,108

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

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

 **Electronically Signed By** Kristin Kerwin  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 3/6/2012

#### 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: \_\_\_\_\_