PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity **STATE:** IL

PROJECT TITLE: LaHarpe-NRG Biofuels

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052			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:

C12 Siting, construction, and operation of energy system prototypes including, but not limited to, wind resource, hydropower, geothermal, fossil fuel, biomass, and solar energy pilot projects.

Rational for determination:

The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity will use $1,000,000 of Recovery Act funds to support the purchase of equipment for a proposed 10 million gallon per year biodiesel production facility near LaHarpe in Hancock County, Illinois. The primary feedstock for the facility will be virgin soybean oil, but the facility will have the flexibility to use animal fat as a feedstock also. The applicant would also construct a 500 ton per day soybean crusher system. The facility would be located on 15 to 30 acres of farmland. The total project cost is $35 million.

As the project is still in the early planning stages, existing and potential impacts are unknown at this time. Given this uncertainty, and the fact that the project addresses "the siting, construction, and operation" of a biomass "energy system," per the DOE NEPA implementing regulations (Appendix C to Subpart D to 10 CFR Part 1021 - C12, as noted above), preparation of an Environmental Assessment is required prior to allowing federal funds for this proposed project.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

DOE funds are not authorized for project site preparation, construction, or the installation of equipment pending outcome of the environmental assessment.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity is authorized to initiate the preparation of an EA by a third-party contractor, consistent with DOE NEPA implementing regulations. DOE, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity and third-party contractor shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) defining the scope of services to be completed by the third-party contractor on behalf of DOE.

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 4/15/10

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: 5-13-10

Field Office Manager