PMC-EF2a
(2.01.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Placer County **STATE:** CA

PROJECT TITLE : Placer County Biomass Utilization Pilot Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FG36-08GO88026	DE-FG36-08GO88026	GFO-GO88026-002	GO88026

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.

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:

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to Placer County, California, in the Lake Tahoe Basin, to construct a 1 -3 MW biomass energy facility at one of two locations: 1) a 1.3-acre site in Kings Beach, or 2) a 9.6-acre site in Tahoe City adjacent to the Placer County Administrative Offices.

The proposed project consists of two stages. Stage 1 would involve analyses, planning, siting, and technology selection activities designed to examine the possibility of the energy facility. Stage 1 is limited to information gathering and dissemination and does not include developing, constructing or operating the 1-3 MW facility. A major part of the Stage 1 activities would include an analysis of the environmental impacts of the facility at the two proposed sites.

Currently, the proposed project is under review by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) who is preparing an EIS/EIR in compliance with the State of California CEQA requirements. DOE will cooperate with TRPA to complete an Environmental Assessment (C12) before deciding to commit federal funds to Stage 2.

Stage 2 would involve implementing environmental mitigation measures and best management practices, finalizing the plant design, preparation of construction permits, obtaining entitlements, negotiating proposed energy agreements, demonstration testing on biomass to energy systems, procurement of plant components, site preparation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) authorization, and construction of the 1-3 MW facility.

In view of the information provided by the recipient, DOE has determined that the impacts related to Stage 1 of the proposed project would have negligible effects on the human and natural environment. CX A9 applies to Stage 1 activities as they involve information gathering, data analysis and document preparation. CX C12 applies to Stage 2 activities as they involve siting, permitting, construction and mitigation measures associated with construction of the biomass energy facility.

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:
At this time, DOE funds are not authorized for final design, project site preparation, or construction activities. All Stage 2 activities are prohibited pending the outcome of the Environmental Assessment process.
This restriction does not preclude you from:
Stage 1 activities have been categorically excluded and are not restricted.
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 :

The recipient is authorized to initiate the preparation of an EA by a third-party contractor, consistent with DOE NEPA implementing regulations. DOE, the recipient, the third-party contractor, and other participating agencies (as appropriate) 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.

Cristina Tyler 5.19.2011

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 5/20/2011
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: 5-20-11
Field Office Manager