

PMC-EF2a

(20102)

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



RECIPIENT: North Carolina State University

STATE: NC

PROJECT TITLE : Optimization of Southeastern Forest Biomass Crop Production: A Watershed Scale Evaluation of the Sustainability and Productivity of Dedicated Energy Crop and Woody Biomass Operations

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000314	EE0004395	GFO-0004395-001	EE4395

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:

- B3.8** 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.
- 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.
- B3.6** Siting, construction (or modification), operation, and decommissioning of facilities for indoor bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations (for example, preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); small-scale research and development projects; and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than two years) conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions. Construction (or modification) will be within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible).

Rational for determination:

North Carolina State University proposes to use federal funding to optimize large scale bio-energy operation through the use of a sustainable forest crop. This project will analyze the environmental effects of large scale operations to include water, soil, wildlife, and aquatic biology. These parameters will be studied across multiple watersheds in Mississippi, Alabama, and North Carolina on lands owned by Weyerhaeuser NR Company. This information will then be modeled for analysis and experimental use.

This project will include water sample collection, soil sample collection, wildlife data collection, vegetation data collection, and aquatic biology data collection. Permits are not required for these activities as they are activities proposed on private lands. Data and sample collections will be transferred to North Carolina State University, Mississippi State University.

The US Forest service will aid in this project by coordinating watershed-scale evapotranspiration research and oversee the data and core modeling process. Gainesville State University will provide geospatial data for this effort.

Each organization associated with this project has submitted an R & D Questionnaire which thoroughly addresses the chemical and safety handling protocols associated with the project scope.

This project is comprised of information gathering, sample collection, and data analysis using laboratory research; therefore a CX A9, B3.6 & B3.8

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Eugene Brown 5/24/2011

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 5/26/2011

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: _____