

PMC-EF2a

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



(2.04.02)

RECIPIENT: Vermont Public Power Supply Authority

STATE: VT

PROJECT TITLE : Renewable Energy From Animal Biomass - Farm Methane

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-FG36-08GO88078	GFO-GO88078-003	GO88078

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:

B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects

Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

B5.15 Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects

Small-scale renewable energy research and development projects and small-scale pilot projects, provided that the projects are 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 the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority to install an anaerobic digester (AD) at the Vermont Technical College Farm. The farm would process dairy cow manure to produce methane gas. The collected gas would be used to generate electricity.

Previous NEPA determination for GFO-09-111 (CX B5.1) only addressed one of the two proposed AD sites. This NEPA determination applies to the second site.

Vermont Public Power Supply Authority would design, build and install an AD at the Vermont Technical College Farm located at Water Street, Randolph Center, Vermont 05061. The farm is owned by Vermont State Colleges and has been in operation for several decades. The teaching dairy farm houses approximately 85 milking cows and 100 heifers. The farm is surrounded by acres of pastureland and wooded area, with few southeast neighbors 200 feet away.

The proposed digester would convert volatile organic material into biogas, which would then be used to generate electricity. The system would allow the methane gas, which currently releases into the atmosphere, to be captured in the digester and used on the farm. The digestion process reduces the biological oxygen demand of the manure thereby lessening the impact to nearby surface water quality associated with runoff. The digestate would be separated and the solids would be used for animal bedding. The liquids would be used for fertilizer.

This project comprises a small-scale renewable energy pilot project, therefore CX B3.6 and B5.15 apply.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

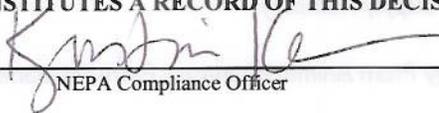
Note to Specialist :

Cristina Tyler 10.12.2011

DOE Funding: \$492,000
Total Project Cost: \$1,576,247

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

11/17/2011

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: _____