PMC-EF2a

(2/04/02)

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

RECIPIENT: Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund **STATE:** VT

PROJECT TITLE : Central Vermont Biomass Recovery Facility: VTC - CDP FY09 and FY10

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FG36-08GO88079	DE-FG36-08GO88079	GFO-09-058c	GO88079

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.

B3.1 Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities covered include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include, but are not limited to:

Rational for determination:

This NEPA determination applies to some, but not all, of the subtasks of the Vermont Technical College subaward. This subaward has both FY09 and FY10 funds and this NEPA determination applies to both years.

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, sub-recipient Vermont Technical College (VTC), to use 2009 and 2010 CDP funds to construct a 250 kW anaerobic digester (AD) facility at Vermont Technical College that would generate electricity and heat from biomass feedstock composed of post-consumer food scraps and cow manure. Previous NEPA determinations for this project include: GFO-09-058 on 12/18/2008 (CX A9) and GFO-09-058b on 1/14/2009 (CX A9).

The proposed project, Task A, is divided into five subtasks:

Task A: Anaerobic Digester Facility Implementation Phase
Subtask A.1: Securing Food Waste Feedstock
Subtask A.2: Design & Permitting of the AD Facility
Subtask A.3: Construction of the AD Facility
Subtask A.4: Education & Outreach
Subtask A.5: Project Management

Subtask A.1 would consist of VTC and VSJF writing and releasing RFP's for the collection and delivery of fourteen daily tons of clean food scraps.

Subtask A.2 would consist of VTC using an RFP process to choose a team of engineers, technology providers and permitting specialists to design and permit the AD facility at the college.

Subtask A.3 would consist of VTC using an RFP process to choose a firm to construct the AD facility. Per DOE's implementing regulations for NEPA, final design is not allowable in advance of completing the NEPA review for the construction and operation of the proposed project. DOE will complete additional NEPA review for final design, construction and operation when sufficient information is available.

Subtask A.4 would consist of VTC compiling documents, which represent the process of developing the facility to allow teachers, faculty and others to develop curricular materials and lesson plans focused on organic feedstock, AD and permitting. The material would be posted on a website and made available upon request.

Subtask A.5 would consist of project management and reporting.

Based on this information, DOE has determined the impacts related to Subtask A.1, A.2, A.4 and A.5 of the proposed project are consistent with actions outlined in A9 (information gathering) and B3.1 (site characterization and environmental monitoring) and are, therefore, Categorically Excluded from further NEPA review.

This NEPA determination does not apply to Subtask A.3. Additional NEPA review of that task is required prior to using DOE or cost-share funds.

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:
Task A.3
This restriction does not preclude you from:
Task A.1, A.2, A.4 and A.5
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 :

Cristina Tyler 9.20.2011

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 10/12/2011
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: _____
Field Office Manager