PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Louisiana DNR -- UL-L/CLECO's Solar Thermal Power Plant Installation **STATE:** LA

PROJECT TITLE : Recovery Act -- State Energy Program

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052	EE0000124		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:

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

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:

The State of Louisiana will provide $1,000,000 in Recovery Act funds to Cleco Power, LLC, Northstar Resources LLC, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, hereafter referred to as the "consortium", to build and operate a three-ton-per-day biomass gasifier. The gasifier will be located in the Acadia Parish Industrial Park in the southwestern corner of the City of Crowley, Louisiana.

The majority of work outlined in the project meets the criteria of the Louisiana-signed SEP Template in that the system will not exceed the 3MMBtu/hr capacity limit for biomass boiler systems. The project is also a pilot-scale effort as a proof-of-concept for the gasifier design. The plans of the consortium; however, entail 2-phases for which this project addresses only Phase 1. DOE views the Phase 1 and Phase 2 activities as connected actions whereas the Phase 1 effort involves work to prove the concept of a 3MMBtu/hr system and Phase 2 involves a demonstation size scale-up of the system. The Phase 1 scope of work is as follows:

Task 1 – Select Gasifier Configuration
Task 2 – Complete System Design
Task 3 – Generate Bid Package
Task 4 – Initiate Construction at Site
Task 5 – Complete Construction
Task 6 – System Shake-Down
Task 7 – Fully Operational
Task 8 – Potentially Initiate Phase II (not formally part of DNR portion)

In view of consortium plans to scale-up the system to a size that exceeds the SEP Template guidelines and beyond that of a pilot-scale operation, DOE has determined that Recovery Act funds are not to be used in support of the Task 8 effort without resubmitting the Phase 2 effort inclusive of Phase 1, Task 8 for DOE review.

In view of the information provided by the State and recipient, DOE has determined that the Phase 1 work, absent Task 8, is consistent with activities identified in the State-signed SEP Template and Categorical Exclusion B3.6 and B5.1.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:
obtain written approval from the DOE contracting officer for any work using Recovery Act funds beyond Phase 1, Task 7.

Note to Specialist :

According to the project officer, funding for this project is $1,000,000. Absent a significant change in the scope of work, a change in funding will not affect my determination. Also note that the consortium is precluded from conducting Task 8 of Phase 1.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 8/31/10

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: _____

Field Office Manager