PMC-EF2a

(2.06.02)

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

RECIPIENT: City of Tanana **STATE:** AK

PROJECT TITLE : Community-Wide Public Facilities Energy Efficiency and Biomass Heating Conversion Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000148	DE-EE0003815	GFO-0003815-002	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.

Rational for determination:

The Department of Energy (DOE) awarded federal funding to the State of Alaska under the DOE's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). Alaska selected the City of Tanana to receive $1,540,000 of its EECBG funding for the Tanana Community-Wide Public Facilities Energy Efficiency Retrofit and Biomass Heating Conversion Project. The project is also receiving $412,642 from the Alaska Energy Authority.
The proposed project received a NEPA determination (DE-EE00003815) on July 30, 2010. This determination categorically excluded actions that involve: information gathering; data analysis; document preparation; and dissemination. However, prior to implementing the harvesting portion of the proposed project, DOE required the City to prepare a Forest Management Plan (FMP) that addresses the harvesting of wood that would be used as fuel for their proposed biomass thermal systems.

To complete the proposed project, the City has contracted with the professional foresters at the Tanana Chiefs Conference. These foresters produced the FMP – Phase One. Phase Two of the FMP is scheduled for completion winter, 2011. Because of the delay in producing the final FMP, the City is requesting DOE approval to expend federal funds to conduct limited fall-time drift fuel wood harvesting during the anticipated high water time period which typically lasts about three weeks in the fall (during the months of August and September).
This portion of the proposed project would consist of the City expending $30,000.00 of federal funds to purchase 120 cords of drift fuel wood during August and September, 2011. The gathering a drift wood floating down the Yukon River is a sustainable methods of obtaining fire fuel wood. The 120 cords of drift fire fuel wood would be used to initiate start-up of biomass heating stations currently under construction. The City would not harvest green trees nor purchase any other land grown trees.

The use of driftwood for heating would replace a percentage of #2 heating oil that is currently utilized by many facilities in the City. DOE has determined that because this portion of the proposed project would offset offset the use of fossil fuels it is consistent with the measures in DOE's categorical exclusion "B5.1 Actions to Conserve Energy." Therefore, DOE has determined that the expenditure of $30,000.00 to purchase 120 cords of drift wood is categorically excluded from further NEPA review under CXB5.1.

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:
Prior to the expenditure of Federal funds to harvest wood fuel, the City of Tanana will complete Phase II of its Forest Management Plan (FMP) in place that addresses the harvesting of wood that would be used as fuel for their proposed biomass thermal systems. The FMP will continue to comply with all of the provisions and requirements contained in the prior NEPA determination for the proposed project.

The City will make the completed FMP related documentation available to DOE prior to initiating additional wood harvesting activities.
This restriction does not preclude you from:
The project proponent is not prohibited from: expending $30,000 of federal funding to purchase 120 cords of drift wood; and from procurement and installation of the biomass systems and all other actions which involve 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).

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 :

Prepared by Melissa Rossiter

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 9/9/11
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