PMC-EF2a
(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Utah State University **STATE:** UT

PROJECT TITLE : Alternative and Unconventional Energy Research and Development

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
CDP	DE-EE0003114	GFO-0003114-002	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:

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).

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.

Rational for determination:

This NEPA determination applies to a Task 5.1.4 – a task that was restricted in a previous NEPA determination (GFO-0003114-001, 11/23/2010).

This task involves installing a floating pond on top of an existing drainage collection pond at Utah State University for the purpose of conducting a field demonstration of a selected algae strain. DOE funds would be used to purchase supplies to build, install and operate the floating pond.

The one acre floating pond will be installed on top of an existing pond located at the Utah State University (USU) campus in Vernal, Utah. The coordinates for the pond are: latitude 40°27'32.27"N, longitude 109°33'33.25"W. The pond was constructed several years ago as a drainage collection point for land used by the university to construct the Bingham Research Center and the Uintah Basin Applied Technology facility. The pond is surrounded by farm land. Equipment to be used includes a generator to power mixing pumps, mixing pumps, fertilizer to enhance algae growth and harvesting of the algae for processing into biofuels. The generator will sit in secondary containment as a protective measure. No new permits will be needed for this work. The algae strain that will be used in this field demonstration is not a genetically modified organism.

As this field demonstration would occur at an existing drainage pond and no new surface disturbance will occur, DOE has determined that there will be no impacts to sensitive resources including cultural resources, wetlands, or floodplains. Additionally, no impacts to air quality, water quality, groundwater resources or threatened and endangered species are expected.

CX B3.8 and B3.6 apply to this activity (Task 5.1.4).

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:
Subtask 5.2.3 will be subject to further NEPA review. The recipient shall submit and additional EF-1 when the sites have been selected.

This restriction does not preclude you from:
Task 5.1.4 and the tasks that were CXed in the previous NEPA determination for this award.
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 :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 9/29/2011
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