PMC-EF2a

(2.06.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Simpson College; a SEP ARRA sub-recipient of the Iowa Economic Development Authority **STATE:** IA

PROJECT TITLE: Simpson College Boiler Plant De-Centralization

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052	DE-EE0000162	GFO-0000162-020	EE162

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 or water (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

Rational for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provided federal funding to the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) under the DOE's 2009 Recovery Act funded State Energy Program. The Iowa Department of Administrative Services (DAS) administers the Iowa Energy Bank - Revolving Loan Fund. DAS selected Simpson College (college) to receive a $3,551,191 revolving loan for the college's "Simpson College Boiler Plant De-Centralization" project (total project costs - $3,551,191).

The college proposed to use federal funding to design, purchase equipment, and install a variety of Energy Efficiency (EE) measures/projects at the college, located at: 701 North C Street, Indianola, Warren County, IA 50125 (proposed project).

The proposed project would consist of:

- Hillman Hall - decentralize and install new hot water boiler
- Hillman Hall – window replacement and window rehabilitation
- College Hall - decentralize and install new hot water boiler
- Art Center - decentralize and install new electric heat
- Mary Berry Hall - decentralize and install new hot water boiler
- Smith Chapel - decentralize and install new hot water boiler
- Robertson Hall - decentralize and install new hot water boiler
- Wallace Hall - new connection to central steam plant
- Carver Science Center - decentralize and install new hot water boiler

- Buxton Hall - decentralize and install new hot water boiler
- Picken Hall - decentralize and install new hot water boiler
- Blank Performance Arts Center - decentralize and install new hot water boiler
- Kresge Hall - decentralize and install new hot water boiler
- Hopper Gymnasium - decentralize and install new hot water boiler
- New Outdoor Lighting throughout campus
- Cowles Athletic Center - decentralize and install new hot water boiler

The new condensing hot water boilers would be installed in individual buildings and some buildings would need to have a new natural gas service installed. Horizontal directional boring and some trenching would be required to connect the existing natural gas supply lines to these buildings. The proposed ground disturbance is minimal (less than one acre total) and will be in previously disturbed landscaped and hard-scaped areas of the Simpson campus.

The Simpson College campus was founded in 1860 is located in an urban area of Indianola, Warren County, Iowa. The new lines would be installed with directional boring to minimize ground disturbance. Based on a review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's, Midwest Region, Section 7(a)(2) Technical Assistance website, aerial images of the project location, photos and descriptions of the boring/trenching locations, and project information the project location does not appear to contain critical or suitable habitat for endangered or threatened species (T&E) in Warren County.

Per a USFWS National Wetlands Inventory Map, there are no known wetlands within the project area.

DAS entered into consultation with the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The SHPO concurred with DAS's determination that the installation of gas lines on the Simpson College campus is unlikely to affect any intact and significant archaeological deposits and did not recommend any further archaeological investigation for this portion of the project.

However, the SHPO determined Hillman Hall (built in 1920) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and that the removal and replacement of windows in Hillman Hall would result in an adverse effect to a historic property. All interested parties have negotiated and agreed to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to mitigate the adverse effects of this project.

Based on a review of the activities that would be funded by the revolving loan fund and successful negotiation of a Memorandum of Agreement to mitigate the adverse effect to Hillman Hall, DOE has determined the proposed project will not significantly impact the human environment and they are categorically excluded from further NEPA review under CX B5.1 "actions to conserve energy or water."

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 :

DOE funding - $3,551,191
EF2a prepared by Melissa Ardis

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 9/24/2012
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.