

PMC-EF2a

1204021

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



RECIPIENT: Energy &amp; Environmental Research Center

STATE: ND

PROJECT TITLE : Center for Biomass Utilization

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	GO88054	GFO-08-124-002	GO88054

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).
- 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.

## Rational for determination:

The University of North Dakota (UND) Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) will use DOE CDP funding to demonstrate the feasibility of converting biomass into alternative forms of energy.

Project work will take place at EERC laboratory facilities located at 15 North 23rd Street Grand Forks, North Dakota. Field work will take place at the Haubenschild Farm Dairy, Inc. (7201 349th Ave NW, Princeton, Minnesota).

The EERC has partnered with Haubenschild Farm Dairy, Inc., on the project. The bench-scale testing will be conducted in the laboratories of the EERC using dairy manure samples collected from the farm, and the pilot-scale testing will be conducted on-site at the farm. The pilot system will consist of a skid-mounted anaerobic digester operated in a plug-flow mode to simulate operation of the full-scale digester at the farm. The footprint of the system will be approximately 8' x 24' and process around 30 gallons of manure per day, and will be temporary.

The proposed project will make use of an existing small-scale gasifier listed on the EERC's Permit to Operate. Therefore, it will not be necessary to obtain a new permit in support of this project. The EERC will notify the North Dakota Department of Health of planned changes to the existing gasification system in support of the project, anticipated emissions from the system, and document the methodology planned to control emissions.

The EERC has an Air Pollution Control, Minor Source Permit (#O78004) to operate in North Dakota by the state's Department of Health. This permit applies to and identifies systems larger than laboratory-scale units located and operated at the EERC. The permit limits emissions from individual and unit combinations in order to prevent impacts on ambient air quality.

EERC has submitted to DOE a completed R&D questionnaire which thoroughly addresses safety, air emissions, waste stream handling and disposal.

This project comprises information gathering, bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations; therefore a Categorical Exclusion A9 and B3.6 apply.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

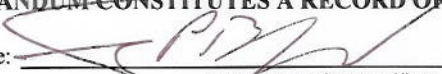
Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2/22/10

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_