

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: University of Nevada, Las Vegas

STATE: NV

PROJECT TITLE : Development of Biofuels

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
CDP	DE-FG36-06GO86036	GFO-06-209-001	GO86036

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).

Rational for determination:

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas will use Congressionally Directed Funding from DOE to further their research on the development of a tubular NaSICON (Sodium Super Ionic Conductors) membrane process that produces high-purity sodium methoxide from low-cost aqueous sodium hydroxide.

The project will focus on the research to improve the durability of NaSICON membranes that are the central components in the production of sodium methoxide. A longer life-time of these membranes will lead to a more cost effective way to produce biodiesel.

All work will take place in controlled, existing laboratory environments at both UNLV and the subcontractor's (Ceramatec's) facility. Each facility has submitted to DOE an R&D questionnaire which thoroughly addresses safety, waste stream, chemical handling and effluent discharge.

This project comprises conventional bench scale laboratory research; therefore a CX B3.6 applies.

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: _____ Date: _____
 Field Office Manager

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 413.1A), I have made the following determination:

OF EA, EIS CATEGORY AND NUMBER: _____

DESCRIPTION: _____

DOE EIS (2008) categories for (radiation), (chemical), (air quality), and (environmental) activities for (low-level waste) reactor projects and associated laboratory activities (for example, (operation of chemical standards and sample analysis) activities) are not within the scope of DOE EIS (2008) categories. Construction (or modification) will be within or contiguous to an already developed area (within active utility and currently used lands for nearby activities).

radiation for determination.

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas will use Comptonically Coated Fibers from DOE to further their research on the development of a laser RADIATION (Super-Ionic Coaxial) membrane process that produces light-glycine polymer materials from low-cost aqueous sodium hydroxide.

The project will focus on the research to improve the quality of RADIATION membranes that are the central component in the production of sodium hydroxide. A longer life-time of these membranes will lead to a more cost-effective way to produce hydrogen.

All work will take place in controlled, existing laboratory environments at both UNLV and the subcontractor's (Contractor's) facility. Each facility has submitted to DOE an ROD questionnaire which thoroughly addresses safety, waste stream, chemical handling and effluent discharge.

This project complies with conventional health, safety, laboratory research, therefore a CX EIS is applicable.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE will issue a final NEPA determination for this action.

Insert the following language in the event:

Final Decision

Final EIS

SIGNATURE OF THE MEMBER AGEN COMPLETES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION