

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: Minnesota State University, Mankato

STATE: MN

PROJECT TITLE : Minnesota Center for Renewable Energy Lab

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
N/A - CDP	DE-FG36-08GO88156	GFO-09-066-001	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:

- 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.
- 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:

DOE proposes to provide funding to the recipient as a continuation of an FY08 CDP. The FY08 CDP focused on development of curricula for biofuels and wind power courses and labs at Minnesota West Technical and Community College, and performance of research on the use of biomass feedstocks for ethanol production. The FY08 portion of the project received a CX - A9 determination.

This NEPA determination is for the FY09 funding, which is for a different scope than the FY08 funding. The FY09 funding would be used to purchase analytical equipment for the biofuels lab and to develop additional curricula at the Minnesota West Technical and Community College. Courses will be different than those developed with the FY08 funding.

The goals of the FY09 funding are to investigate, research, select, and obtain emissions research equipment for the Minnesota Center for Renewable Energy Lab at Minnesota State University, Mankato that would allow and support research to be conducted on renewable fuels in internal combustion engines. Based on this work, purchase equipment would be identified and purchased that would allow both vehicle and engine emission characteristics to be measured following United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) protocol. MNWest would also develop entry- and advanced-level curriculum for online, on-site, and virtual coursework in energy production industries.

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: Kristin KerwinDate: 3/1/2010

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