

PMC-EF2a

(20102)

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



RECIPIENT: El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board

STATE: TX

PROJECT TITLE : ARRA SEP El Paso Waste Water Treatment Plant CHP

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-EE-0000116			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:

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

Rational for determination:

The State of Texas will provide \$4,198,800 to the City of El Paso Water Utilities Board to construct and operate a combined heat and power (CHP) facility in each of its three waste water treatment plants. The project will capture methane gas from the plant's treatment operations to generate electricity and provide heat for the plant's operations. There are three waste water treatment sites: the Fred Harvey Reclamation Plant, the Haskell R. Street waste water treatment plant, and the R.R. Bustamante waste water treatment plant. The scope of work at each plant is essentially identical. Methane gas that is currently being flared will be captured; scrubbed/filtered of deleterious material, such as hydrogen sulfide and siloxanes and other non-Btu diluents; and combusted in an appropriately sized engine to generate electricity and provide heat for plant operations. It is envisioned that all of the power produced from the generator will be used in plant operations, which will be routed to the plant via the current electrical system. The inert by-products from scrubbing/filtering operation will be collected and appropriately disposed in a landfill. The City is initiating requests for construction and operation permits from appropriate local, state, and federal agencies.

Based on information provided by the State and recipient, that the project will take place on previously disturbed land at an industrial site; that the city has ensured proper handling and disposal of waste generated from operation of the CHP, none of which is hazardous; and that the project involves a more environmentally friendly energy conservation approach over current operations, I have determined that the project is classified as a Categorical Exclusion B5.1

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

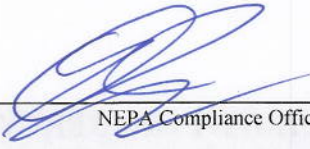
Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

According to State officials, funding for this project is \$4,198,800. Unless the scope of this project changes significantly, a change in funding will not affect my determination.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

3/30/10

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: _____