

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: WA Dept. of Commerce

STATE: WA

PROJECT
TITLE : General Biodiesel Expansion Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA0000052		GFO-09-155-005	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.

Rational for determination:

General Biodiesel has a facility located at 6333 1st Avenue South, Seattle, Washington. The State of Washington is proposing to provide \$1,000,000 of Recovery Act funds to support Biodiesel's plans to convert its existing biodiesel manufacturing batch process to a continuous process in order to produce up to 10 million gallons of biodiesel per year. The plant is currently producing approximately 240,000-360,000 gallons of biodiesel per year, but has the capacity to produce 2.5-million gallons per year. A December 2008 feasibility study determined that the most efficient way to complete the transition to a continuous process and reach the 10 million gallon capacity goal is to break the project into phases. Phase 1 is to make the existing biodiesel plant operational with minimal modifications. Phase 2 involves the installation of equipment to transition from batch production to continuous production, including a methanol recovery system, ion exchange purification columns, modified oil dryer system, and continuous reactors. Phase 3 involves the installation of an acid esterification system in the unused warehouse. All phases are planned to be completed over a period of two years. General Biodiesel has completed Phase I, and is currently finalizing the planning and design for the remaining phases. The extent of construction and modifications will be confined to the existing facility structure. The footprint of the current building will not change. Two distillation towers are the only pieces of equipment that will be installed outside of the building. At this time, permitting is not complete and there are site infrastructure issues that must be addressed and resolved through the final engineering design work. In addition, the project will require SEPA review of potential impact.

Based on information provided by the recipient, NEPA review of this project will be split into two parts with the first part addressing completion of the engineering design and analysis, permitting support, and SEPA document preparation. Once the first part is complete, DOE will make a NEPA determination on the remainder of the project, which consists largely of phase 2 and phase 3 effort including installation of two 10,000 gallons decanting tanks, two methanol recovery columns, a natural gas hot oil or steam system, a larger A/C condensing chiller unit and all necessary work needed to install these items in accordance with local and state codes.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

DOE has not made a NEPA determination on the second part of the project, which includes phase 2 and phase 3 of the construction work and includes installation of two 10,000 gallons decanting tanks, two methanol recovery columns, a natural gas hot oil or steam system, a larger A/C condensing chiller unit and all necessary work needed to install these items in accordance with local and state codes. The recipient may not begin this activity until it completes the first part of the project (engineering analysis and design, permitting support, and SEPA document preparation) and submits the information to DOE for NEPA review.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

NEPA review of the project is split into two parts. The first part will qualify for Categorical Exclusion A9 through work involving engineering analysis and design, permitting support, and SEPA document preparation.

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

As noted above, NEPA determination for this project will occur in two stages. This current determination is a Categorical Exclusion A9 to support completion of the engineering analysis and design, permitting process, and SEPA preparation. The funds associated with this A9 CX work is \$190,000. The remaining \$810,000 is to be withheld pending DOE NEPA review of the SEPA determination from the State of Washington and issuance of remaining permits.

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: _____