

PMC-EF2a

(2.01.02)

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



RECIPIENT: Idaho Office of Energy Resources - Kootenai County

STATE: ID

PROJECT TITLE : SEP ARRA REEZ Kootenai County Landfill Gas Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052	DE-EE0000141	GFO-09-156-003	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:

- B4.11** Construction of electric power substations (including switching stations and support facilities) with power delivery at 230 kV or below, or modification (other than voltage increases) of existing substations and support facilities, that could involve the construction of electric powerlines approximately 10 miles in length or less, or relocation of existing electric powerlines approximately 20 miles in length or less, but not the integration of major new generation resources into a main transmission system.
- 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:

Kootenai County, in partnership with Kootenai Electric Cooperative (KEC), intends to develop a 3.2 megawatt (MW) electric power generating plant to be located at the Fighting Creek landfill. The plant will consist of two 1.6-MW reciprocating engines using landfill gas (LFG) as its primary fuel. The Landfill currently operates an active gas extraction system for managing its landfill gas. The gas currently is being flared and used to operate a leachate evaporator. The \$205,000 of Recovery Act funding for this project will be used to build an electrical generating facility utilizing the gas that is being currently flared. The DOE funding will be spread out over permitting, engineering, construction and capital purchases.

Kootenai County owns and operates the Fighting Creek Landfill located 10 miles south of Coeur d'Alene. This landfill first began receiving waste in May, 1993. The landfill's permitted footprint is 68 acres and it is estimated that it will receive waste until 2033.

Electricity generated by the project will be distributed and used by Kootenai Electric Cooperative. KEC is the local electric distribution company and will be the owner and operator of the power plant. KEC will be responsible for the development, financing, permitting, design, construction and operation of the plant. As owner of the landfill, Kootenai County will be responsible for operating the LFG collection system.

Upon review of project and site-specific information provided by the State and the applicant and available information on landfill gas technology, the project provides the locality and State with an environmentally sound approach to managing fugitive greenhouse gas emissions from landfill operations while generating needed power for the community. Based on the information provided, 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 :

The Project Officer has identified \$205,000 of Recovery Act funding for this project. Unless the scope of this effort changes significantly, a change in funding will not affect my determination.

On another topic, the landfill operators are still waiting on a permit from the State to operate the generation facility. In your view, should there be a restriction on the use of DOE funds based on receipt of the permit?

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 3/2/10

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: _____