

PMC-EF2a

(2010)

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

**RECIPIENT:**Boise County**STATE:** ID**PROJECT TITLE :** REEZ Boise County Woody Biomass CHP Feasibility Study

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052	DE-EE000141	GFO-10-086-004	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.
- A11** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rational for determination:

Boise County will be conducting a feasibility study for a woody biomass co-generation and central heating plant. Boise County contracted with the McKinstry Company and initiated the feasibility study in June, 2008, in order to determine if this type of project is feasible in the county. Funding was provided by Boise County, USFS, an Idaho Gem Grant, private funds, and a USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG). The data collected indicated that a co-generation and central heating plant may be feasible in the Horseshoe Bend area. Fuel supply, sizing of the plant, and financial analysis need to be completed to finalize a study that can be used to finance the design and construction of the project. The feasibility study will outline the basic parameters, assumptions, and key technical and financial components that will identify whether the project is feasible.

The County will conduct feasibility studies over the coming months to determine if the thermo-chemical technology provided by Dynamis Energy LLC is both cost and environmental effective in converting municipal solid waste to energy. The County will also determine the feasibility of using agricultural waste and small diameter woody biomass as feedstock for WTE conversion. Agricultural waste such as wheat and barley straw is extremely plentiful in eastern Idaho. This study would determine if using agricultural waste, combined with livestock waste, i.e., manures, as a feedstock would benefit the counties in reduction of accumulation of animal waste generated by Confined Animal Feeding Operations. The use of small diameter woody biomass or "slash" from the Targhee and Salmon Challis National Forests would provide an energy rich feedstock which can be gasified cleanly. As a viable alternative feedstock, the availability in the area and transportation of the woody biomass needs to be studied to a fuller extent to more fully determine the economic viability as an alternative fuel.

These activities comprise information gathering, feasibility studies, and technical advice and can therefore be categorically excluded under A9 and A11.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

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:

The following activities are prohibited pending further NEPA review:
Idaho Renewable Energy Enterprise Zone Program - Any construction, installation, demolition, or final engineering for the project.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Idaho Renewable Energy Enterprise Zone Program - REEZ Boise County Woody Biomass CHP Feasibility Study
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 :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/10/10

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: _____