

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: Idaho Office of Energy Resources

STATE: ID

PROJECT  
TITLE : City of Blackfoot methane capture and use

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
81.128	EE0000814		ID0

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 Idaho Office of Energy Resources proposes to use \$86,000 of EECBG funding for the City of Blackfoot methane capture and use project. DOE funds will primarily be used to complete the City of Blackfoot's purchase and installation of equipment.

The system will be comprised of simple on site piping to route digester gas to an existing City owned generator. Methane produced from the digesters will be used to power the generator which in turn will be used to supplement the power usage at the City's wastewater treatment facility. It is anticipated that up to 56,000 cubic feet of methane will be produced per day and the City of Blackfoot currently has a gas purifier system that can be upgraded to provide a good quality - relatively clean gas to the generator. No additional treatments will be required to process the raw methane as it will be used solely to supplement power usage at the City's wastewater treatment facility.

The City of Blackfoot Wastewater Treatment Plant currently sits on approximately 10.6 acres southwest of the City. The sludge digesters are located on the west side of the site and the existing City owned generator is located on the north edge of the digester facilities. No additional acreage will be needed as the generator is already on site. No new structures will be constructed as part of this activity. Minor amounts of on-site piping and the electrical control system will be installed to convey the gas to and control the City owned generator. There may be minor amounts of piping and electrical systems routed through existing treatment buildings.

The City currently maintains a wastewater discharge permit with US EPA and a solids waste land application permit through Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ). The City does not maintain an air permit and it is not expected that one will be required as no changes are being made to the production of methane or other gases and the generator is small enough to be exempt under IDEQ rules. The City of Blackfoot is currently working through the IDEQ permit determination process.

## Waste Stream Requirements:

Prior to the expenditure of Federal funds to implement any of the above-mentioned activities, the City of Blackfoot has the affirmative responsibility to ensure that it has a waste management plan addressing waste generated by their proposed actions. The plan will describe the plan to dispose of any sanitary or hazardous waste, e.g. construction and demolition debris, old light bulbs, lead ballasts, piping, roofing materials, discarded equipment, debris, asbestos, etc. generated as a result of the proposed project. The recipient must ensure that it will comply with all federal, state and local regulations for waste disposal.

This cogeneration project would provide an efficient energy source and an annual energy savings to the city of approximately \$15,750 per year. Based on this information, this action is categorically excluded under CX number 5.1,

Actions to Conserve Energy.

**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:   
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 5/13/10

**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: \_\_\_\_\_