PMC-EF2a
(2/04/02)

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

RECIPIENT: Aspen Aerogels, Inc **STATE:** MA

PROJECT TITLE : Fluid Flow Optimization of Aerogel Blanket Manufacturing Process

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-EE0000266	DE-EE0000266	GFO-09-135-001	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:

B3.6 Siting, construction (or modification), operation, and decommissioning of facilities for indoor bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations (for example, preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); small-scale research and development projects; and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than two years) conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions. Construction (or modification) will be within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible).

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:

Aspen Aerogels and Tufts University would use DOE funding to investigate and model the fluid flow during the aerogel blanket manufacturing operation and would make recommendations as to how to optimize the production process by i) increasing product throughput; and/or ii) consuming less energy during manufacturing; and/or iii) reducing the raw materials needed per unit manufactured.

Project activities will include characterize existing aging and extraction operations, modeling and optimization of the aging operation, modeling the extraction operation, and project management and reporting.
This project will take place indoors within the confines of a laboratory. An R& D questionnaire has been submitted by the applicant and thoroughly addresses chemical and safety handling protocols.

This project comprises a bench-scale research project and actions to conserve energy; therefore, this project is categorized under CX B3.6 and B5.1.

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: PBM Date: 5/24/10

NEPA Compliance Officer