

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: Nebraska Energy Office

STATE: NE

PROJECT TITLE : NCTA Biomass Facility

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052	DE-EE0000134	GFO-10-418	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:

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 State of Nebraska will provide \$400,000 of Recovery Act funds to the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) to purchase and install a new biomass boiler. The new biomass boiler will be installed in an existing heating plant building and co-located with two existing natural gas boilers that will remain in place as back-up. The boiler will generate 6,700,000 BTUs of energy. The power and steam produced will be used by the college. The College is obtaining the necessary operation permits for the boiler.

The boiler will be installed in the NCTA heating plant at 404 E. 7th Street in Curtis, Nebraska, which is located on the south end of campus. The existing lean-to structure on the east side of the heating plant building will be remodeled to house the chip/grate moving system. These modifications will not change the existing facility footprint. The proposed site location is not located in or near a wetland or floodplain, and there are no historic properties in the vicinity of the project location. The staging area for the installation and remodeling will be in the area adjacent to the site and will last approximately 6 months.

The boiler will be fueled by wood chips which will be bought from suppliers within a twenty mile radius of the college. The project is expected to reduce the net emissions of carbon dioxide. The biomass boiler will produce roughly ten to twenty tons of ash a year which will all be managed in accordance with Nebraska Title 132, Integrated Solid waste Management Regulations.

Based on the information provided by the State and recipient, the work outlined is consistent with activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B5.1.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:
Provide a copy of the biomass boiler operations permit to the DOE project officer.

Note to Specialist :

According to the Project Officer, the funding associated with this project is \$400,000. Unless the scope of the project changes significantly, a change in funding will not affect my determination.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/24/10

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: _____