

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: City of Franklin, MN

STATE: MN

**PROJECT TITLE :** City of Franklin - Thermal Biomass System

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-000013			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 City of Franklin, MN proposes to use \$74,863.00 of EECBG funds for the purchase and installation of a 2.5 MMBtu/hr bio-mass thermal system. The purpose of the project is to convert three buildings in close proximity which include the Town Hall, city Fire Department, and a single commercial business from fossil fuel heat sources to bio-mass heating.

The City council required the bio-mass unit be located on a vacant gravel lot which is owned by the City of Franklin and required that the unit be installed in a simple wood framed "shed" over a concrete footer for security. The total area required for the bio-mass unit/shed is 200 square feet over a previously disturbed gravel parking lot. Currently there is no use for the lot and the unit construction and installation can be accomplished on site without using the street right-of-way.

Approximately 400 feet of underground 1" hot water piping will be installed and buried 3 feet deep on city owned land and the city's alley in order to connect buildings to the unit. Piping installation will require boring beneath a City street with minimal excavation on each end of the crossing, all of which occur on City property. The City is issuing a street crossing permit for the project, which will entail boring beneath the street to avoid an open street cut. Total land disturbance is limited to 400 feet of 6" wide by 36" deep trenching and a 10'x20' shallow foundation that will house the concrete footer beneath the bio-mass unit. All excavation activity will result in a total of 300 cubic yards of disturbance which does not require an NPDES permit. Additionally, an air emissions permit is not required, as the boiler size is less than the 3 MMBtu threshold; however, the City will require the manufacturer to meet Phase 2 emission requirements for wood burning devices.

The State of Minnesota enforces the Electric Code and since all the products used in the project are UL listed, the Electrical Contractor, when awarded, will apply for this routine permit.

The bio-mass unit is anticipated to produce approximately 720 lbs of ash/year. The majority of ash produced from bio-mass combustion will be contained in 55 gallon metal drums with lids and disposed at the Renville County Landfill; a small portion of produced ash will be recycled at the fertilizer plant in Bird Island which currently recycles the ash from the Benson Gasification Plant.

No impacts to wetlands, cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, or sensitive habitat are anticipated as a result of this proposed project.

Based on the information provided by the recipient and energy savings realized with the conversion of three buildings from fossil fuel heat sources to bio-mass heating, the above action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review

under CX number B 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:

7/1/10

**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: