

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: Desert Research Institute

STATE: NV

PROJECT TITLE : Nevada Renewable Energy consortium

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
CDP	EE0000272	GFO-10-027-001	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:

- 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.
- 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).

## Rational for determination:

The Nevada Renewable Energy Consortium proposes to use federal funds to expand and accelerate basic and applied renewable energy research and development and to coordinate these efforts across three research institutions. Active renewable energy research programs exist at each institution, each with different focal areas: Solar Energy and Energy Conservation (UNLV), Geothermal & Biomass (UNR), and Wind Energy, Hydrogen Systems, and Biomass (DRI).

An R & D questionnaire has been submitted which thoroughly addresses chemical and safety handling protocols.

Task 1: Comprises of conventional research and development and takes place within existing facilities to determine the feasibility of a heat loving new microorganisms in biofuel production as well as determining which algae are best for biomass feedstock; therefore a Catex B3.6 will apply.

Task 2: comprises of research and development activities to improve solar photovoltaic cells, improve solar trackers to concentrate light, and use solar pond membrane distillation system to induce greater solar electric energy. This task will take place within the laboratory setting. Outdoor laboratory work will take place at a waste water treatment plant to measure evaporation. Catex B3.6 will apply.

Task 3: Comprises of information gathering of the available renewable resources by each of the three institutions; therefore a Catex A9 will apply.

Task 4: Comprises of researching and developing new materials for fuel cell membranes and development of a way for the integration of wind and solar electric power into the grid; therefore a Catex B3.6 will apply.

Task 5 & 6: Comprise of information gathering, dissemination and curriculum development; therefore a Catex A9 will apply.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Eugene Brown 6-9-10

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:   
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/2/10

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