

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: Farmingdale State College, State University of New York

STATE: NY

PROJECT TITLE : Research on fuel cell powered by hydrogen from biomass to provide clean energy for remote farms away from electric grid

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0003228	GFO-10-559	EE3228

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.

Rational for determination:

Farmingdale State College (FSC) proposes to use federal funds to develop an efficient and cost effective integrated biomass gasifier/fuel system to produce combined heat and power. This project would design, evaluate, procure/develop, install and test an integrated system that is intended to convert agricultural farm waste and forest debris into H2 for ultimate use in a fuel cell that generates both heat and electrical power.

Phase 1: Project Design – includes engineering layout, equipment and materials, waste management plan, and determining a location on campus where the project would be installed.

Since the site location of the project has yet to be determined, Phase 2 (tasks 2 through 6) cannot be analyzed at this time. A NEPA determination for these tasks in Phase 2 of the project would be too early to determine but would need to be made prior to FSC beginning any construction activities. Once project location has been determined resubmission of a new EF1 is required outlining the project design details and the location of the proposed project.

Phase 2 consists of selection and installation of a small-scale gasifier with accessories, design development and fabrication of water gas shift reactors, design and development of hydrogen fuel cell, system shakedown and testing of each unit, acquisition and installation of a pressure swing adsorber, system integration study and economic analysis, and project management.

Condition of Approval: Allowable – Phase 1 (all tasks) and Phase 2 (task 7); Prohibited – Phase 2 (tasks 2 through 6).

Based upon the information provided, Phase 1 (all tasks) and Phase 2 (task 7) are categorically excluded under CX A9 "Information gathering/data analysis/document preparation/dissemination."

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment

or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Phase 2 (tasks 2 through 6)

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Phase 1 (all tasks)

Phase 2 (task 7)

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

This project involves tasks (Phase 2 - tasks 2 through 6) which are unallowable under NEPA prior to further environmental analysis. NEPA requests that this project be placed on ASAP Approval.

Eugene Brown 8/4/2010

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Date: 8/17/10
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager