

PMC-EF2a

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



RECIPIENT: City of Tanana

STATE: AK

PROJECT TITLE : Community-Wide Public Facilities Energy Efficiency Retrofit and Biomass Space Heating Conversion Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000148	DE-EE0003815		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:

- A1** Routine actions necessary to support the normal conduct of agency business, such as administrative, financial, and personnel actions.
- 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.
- A11** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.
- 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 Tanana will use DOE ARRA funding for activities that are bounded in compliance with the uploaded and signed NEPA Statement of Work (SOW) template.

The description of project activities is described below as submitted in the EF-1:

This project will utilize DOEARRA funds to accomplish four main activities:

- 1) Conduct major energy efficiency retrofits (thermal and electrical) of the three (3) main public facilities at Tanana, Alaska (the school and two buildings in the Tribal Complex).
- 2) Construct biomass "Energy Centers" at the schools and Tribal Complex in order to substitute expensive, imported heating fuel oil with up to one hundred (100) percent bio-mass generated space heat. Also included would be procurement of six Garn biomass systems and the two EcoBurn systems.
- 3) Carry-out workforce training of village residents utilizing NCCCEER Construction Trades Technology curriculum through the University of Alaska. It is expected that 10-14 residents will receive this training.
- 4) Work with the other villages in rural Alaskan where there is known large quantities of harvestable and gatherable bio-mass to implement their own market transformation from oil-based energy systems to energy efficiency and biomass systems. This wood would be harvested from both designated forest land and drift wood off Alaskan rivers.

Leveraging and Sustainability:

Other project resources – The City of Tanana is working with the State of Alaska, Native Village of Tanana, and Tanana City School District to input the following financial resources to this EECBG Project:

1. Tanana City School District has agreed to participate in a large-scale energy renovation of its K-12 school and has received a State of Alaska grant (95% of project budget) for this purpose. This EECBG project will coordinate the school district's funding with this project's activities in order to maximize bulk purchase of building materials and to also construct a 2 unit GARN boiler "Energy Center" adjacent to the school in order to displace the school's annual 23,000 gallons of imported heating fuel oil.
2. The City has agreed to provide a 5% cash match to the State of Alaska to the State Department of Education grant in 1. above.
3. The Native Village of Tanana is receiving a DOE EECBG tribal grant which it is targeting at energy efficiency

retrofits of its tribal public offices.

4. The City is receiving a DOE EECBG formula grant through the State of Alaska which it is targeting at energy efficiency retrofits for its City offices.

Expected Outcomes:

Imported Heating Oil Displaced:

Tanana K-12 School (24,000 s.f.) 23,000 gallons displaced
 Native Village of Tanana facilities (8,500 s.f.) 10,500 gallons displaced
 Tanana water/waste water system 6,300 gallons displaced
 Total annual fuel oil displaced is 39,800 gallons

Electrical Consumption Savings:

Tanana K-12 School (24,000 s.f.) 30% reduction on 187,200 kWh
 Native Village of Tanana facilities (8,500 s.f.) 30% reduction on 66,300 kWh
 City of Tanana Facilities (5,400 s.f.) 30% reduction on 42,120 kWh
 Total electricity saved is 88,680 kWh

Workforce training of 10-14 village residents in energy efficiency measures and biomass energy technology utilization.

Replication of the Tanana model through training other communities in assessing biomass utilization potential and developing plans to use biomass to offset diesel fuel consumption.

Any projects that fall outside the scope of the template and not included in the description above are conditioned pending further NEPA review.

Prior to the expenditure of Federal funds to harvest wood fuel, the City of Tanana has the affirmative responsibility to ensure that it has a Forest Management Plan (FMP) in place that addresses the harvesting of wood that would be used as fuel for their proposed biomass thermal systems (i.e. Energy Centers). The FMP is required to provide an assessment of the availability of wood fuel from all viable sources (including, at a minimum, drift wood and forest biomass) and to describe the methods that would be implemented to ensure that best management practices are used for the sustainable harvesting of wood fuel in designated forest area(s) so as to minimize the potential for negative environmental impacts to the harvest site(s) in the near-term and for the future life of the biomass systems.

The City of Tanana shall make the forest management plan and related documentation available to DOE prior to initiating project-related wood harvesting activities. The recipient must demonstrate that it will comply with all federal, state, and local regulations regarding forest management practices. The FMP shall be developed by a professional with expertise in natural resources management, sustainable forestry practices, and woody biomass utilization. The FMP shall identify any applicable federal, state, local and tribal regulations which may impact the use of woody biomass resources for the DOE project and identify best practices for project-related wood harvesting.

Task 2.0 (Forest Management Plan) in the recipient's SOPO indicated that the Forest Management Plan would "ensure a long term source for fuel to continue the utilization of the biomass systems." Task 4.0 (Biomass Fuel Stock Incentive Program) in the recipient's SOPO indicated that the Biomass Fuel Stock Incentive Program would "give the woodcutters incentives to gather wood in a responsible way to ensure the pristine environment of Alaska's wilderness while supplying the biomass systems of Tanana without being a detriment to the environment all at the same time." The FMP should explain in detail how the recipient would ensure a long-term source of wood fuel in a sustainable manner and also how the incentive program would encourage woodcutters to gather wood in a responsible way.

Furthermore, the recipient indicated to DOE that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Forestry Department would be consulted; the result of this and any other consultations should be documented in the FMP. DOE also suggests that the recipient include in the FMP the amount of wood required to fuel the biomass thermal systems on a yearly basis; the potential sources of this wood today and in the future; the methods and procedures that would be used to harvest the wood and who would be harvesting it; and the best management practices that would be utilized to ensure that the wood harvesting proceeded in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner.

The activities described above including energy efficient retrofits, financial incentives, updates to more efficient lighting systems, weatherization improvements, training and education, and construction and installation of the biomass systems, fall under the bounded categories in the uploaded Competitive Block Grant NEPA SOW Template; therefore, these activities are categorically excluded under CX A1, A9, A11, and B5.1 from further NEPA review.

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:

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This restriction does not preclude you from:

Procurement and installation of the biomass systems and all other actions which involve 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).

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 :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Jane Summerson
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/30/2010

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.