PMC-EF2a
(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Montana State University-Northern   **STATE:** MT

PROJECT TITLE : MSU-Northern Bio-Energy Center of Excellence

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	EE0003137	GFO-10-569	EE3137

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:

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).

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:

Montana State University – Northern proposes to use federal funds to establish the Bio-Energy Center as a leading regional authority on bio-product development. This center will perform research focusing on Montana grown non-food based agriculture crops for development of biodiesel, aviation fuel, and vegetable oil.

This project will include in phase 1, site development of Bio-Energy Research Center by renovating an old laboratory space, development of alternative bio-based aviation fuel, development of Camelina oil-derived fuel for naval applications, viability of using straight plant oils in agricultural operations for fuels, performance of locomotive engine fueled with biodiesel blend, analyzing engine exhaust emissions from off-spec biodiesel, technical assistance to Montana and North Central region bio-based companies, and project management and reporting.
Phase 2 of this project will entail outreach and education to support developing the "green" industry in Montana.

The applicant has submitted an R & D questionnaire for the research and development activities to take place in the new laboratory space.

MSU- Northern will not be building any additional buildings or expanding any existing building as a result of this project. All retrofits/renovations will occur within the footprint of existing buildings. There will be no ground disturbance for this project.

This project will include education and outreach as well as research and development in existing facilities for the uses of biomass; therefore a CX A9 and B3.6 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 8/5/2010

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ *Electronically Signed* _____ Date: 8/24

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