

PMC-EF2a

(204.02)

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



RECIPIENT: The Montana Physical Sciences Foundation

STATE: MT

**PROJECT TITLE :** Synthesis of Renewable Biofuels from Biomass

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
CDP	DE-EE0003150	GFO-10-568	EE3150

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).

## Rational for determination:

The proposed project intends to develop a process that will combine saccharification and fermentation processes in one stage for the purpose of turning biomass into biofuel. The research will be conducted at the wet chemistry and biological laboratory facilities located at 130 North Main St, Butte MT, 59701. The University uses various (OSHA, ANSI, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) safety protocols and incidence response guidance. In addition the University has a Director of Research and Development who monitors the labs and makes sure safety protocol is followed. This work will not require additional permitting, and no GMOs will be used.

There will be no new building construction (or expansion of an existing building) as a result of the proposed project.

The proposed project consists of research and development; therefore it is categorically excluded under B3.6 from further NEPA review.

**NEPA PROVISION**

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Kristin Kerwin Date: 8/24/2010  
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