

PMC-EF2a

200402

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



RECIPIENT: University of Kentucky Research Foundation

STATE: KY

**PROJECT TITLE :** University of Kentucky Biofuels Research Lab

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
CDP	DE-FG36-08GO88043	GFO-08-100-002	GO88043

**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:**

The University of Kentucky (UK) proposes to use DOE funds to establish a laboratory dedicated to the development of improved processes for biomass utilization with the goal of supporting the development of the biofuels industry in Kentucky. The laboratory is housed within an existing facility within the UK Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER); funding has been provided to the University annually since 2008 in support of this project and this review is part of its annual renewal.

DOE funding will be used to support the proposed project tasks which include:

- Acquisition of Laboratory Instrumentation
- Techno-economic Feasibility Study of Biofuels Production from Algae
- Project Management and Reporting
- and 3 subtasks involving experiments using the equipment.

CAER has a fully compliant environmental, health and safety program, including worker training, protective equipment, monitoring, incident response, etc. Laboratory hygiene practices are monitored by the university's Office of Environmental, Health and Safety; the Fire Marshall; and the state air quality and waste management agencies.

No new permits will be required for this project. Additionally, no Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) will be utilized at any point during project activities.

This project comprises the construction of an indoor bench-scale research project and conventional laboratory operations therefore this project is categorically excluded from further NEPA review under CX number A9, Information Gathering and B3.6.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Kristin Kerwin Date: 9/14/2010  
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

As detailed below, including but not limited to, the following information, data, and other information (including computer modeling) submitted in support of the proposed action, the NCO has reviewed the information and determined that the proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

The University of Kentucky (UK) proposes to use DOE funds to establish a laboratory dedicated to the development of improved processes for biomass utilization with the goal of supporting the development of the biomass industry in Kentucky. The laboratory is housed within an existing facility within the UK Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER). Funding has been provided to the University through a grant from DOE in support of this project and the review is part of its annual process.

DOE funding will be used to support the proposed project which will include:

- Acquisition of laboratory instrumentation
- Technical-economic feasibility study of biomass conversion from algae
- Project management and financing
- and 2 additional involving procurement using the equipment

CAER has a fully compliant environmental health and safety program, including worker training, protective equipment, monitoring, incident response, etc. Laboratory hygiene practices are monitored by the university's Office of Environmental Health and Safety; the fire alarm and the state air quality and waste management agencies.

No new permits will be required for this project. Additionally, no Governmentally Monitored Organisms (GMO's) will be utilized at any point during project activities.

The project comprises the construction of an indoor, bench-scale research project and conventional laboratory operations. Therefore, the project is categorically excluded from further NEPA review under CX number AA. Information Gathering and B3.6.