

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: CRC Development LLC

STATE: NY

PROJECT TITLE : Closed Loop Short Rotation Woody Biomass Energy Crops, Pending Renewal of Grant Award

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
CDP FY 09	GO88058	GFO-08-245-001	GO88058

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:

- 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.
- B3.8** Outdoor ecological and other environmental research (including siting, construction, and operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis) in a small area (generally less than five acres) that would not result in any permanent change to the ecosystem.
- 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:

Catalyst Renewable Corporation proposes to use federal funds to continue the efforts of the 2008 CDP (GFO-08-245). This project will use funding to expand the closed loop short rotation wood biomass energy plantation plantings and harvesting activities.

This project will include planting 400,000 willow on previously cultivated agriculture lands, conduct commercial agriculture management and cultural practices, prepare 500 new acres for tree plantings currently in use as agricultural land, coppice all remaining 2009 plantings, cultivate and manage all 2009 plantings, harvest and transport all 2009 plantings, and project management and reporting.

All lands used for this project will be previously cultivated lands used for agriculture purposes. No GMO's will be used in this project. Product will be harvested and transported to nearby facilities for conversion to energy.

This project comprises of planting of willow biomass for the purpose of energy conservation; therefore a CX B3.6, B3.8 and B5.1 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 9/17/2010

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Kristin Kerwin
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/17/2010

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.
- 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: _____
Field Office Manager

Date: _____