

PMC-EF2a

1201021

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



RECIPIENT: Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

STATE: VT

PROJECT TITLE : Vermont Biofuels Initiative: University of Vermont & State Agricultural College, Oilseed Crop & Perennial Grass Research

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
FY2009 CDP	DE-FG36-08GO88182	GFO-GO88182-022	GO88182

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:

- B3.1** Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities covered include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include, but are not limited to:
- 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:

This NEPA determination is a follow on to a previous determination (GFO-09-057a).

The recipient is proposing to continue work in the same field plot locations as reviewed previously. The recipient is proposing to introduce new grasses to the project that would be cultivated in a similar fashion as the previous NEPA review. Miscanthus giganteus, cool seasonal grasses, and reed canary grass would be planted and harvested. The oilseed portion of the project would use sunflower varieties. The recipient is also proposing to research perennial grasses for biomass energy through small scale demonstration of production, logistics, and optimal planting strategies at the Borderview Farm in Alburgh, VT. This demonstration would consist of managing grasses to produce a goal of 4-5 tons of pellets. These pellets will be used within the farms pellet stove to heat his biodiesel lab. No GMO's would be used in the implementation of this project.

There are four proposed locations (all the same as the previous NEPA determination) totaling less than 4 acres. Commercially available herbicide would be used as need.

This project includes agricultural production of biomass on a demonstration scale to advance renewable energy research and development as well as on site characterization and monitoring; therefore a CX B5.1 & B3.1 will apply.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

This NEPA determination applies to the University of Vermont & State Agricultural College activities only. All subcontractors under the VSJF project must submit an EF-1 and scope for review and determination prior to any funds being released to them through VSJF.

Eugene Brown 3/2/2011

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 3/2/2011

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: _____