

PMC-EF2a

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



(201102)

**RECIPIENT:**Farmingdale State College**STATE:** NY

**PROJECT TITLE :** Research on fuel cell powered by hydrogen from biomass to provide clean energy for remote farms away from electric grid

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-EE0003228	GFO-0003228-002	0

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 NEPA review is being written to lift conditions placed on the original project review (GFO-10-559) not allowing phase 2 tasks 2-6. Phase 2 consists of selection and installation of a small-scale gasifier of biomass to hydrogen fuel cells to include design and fabrication, troubleshooting, and testing of the unit.

This project will take place indoors. The wood chip storage area, solid fuel feeder, gasifier, pressure swing adsorber and hydrogen storage cylinders will be located outdoors on an existing concrete slab and fenced-in in a parking area adjacent to the Institute for Research and Technology Transfer building. No permits will be required for this project due to it being a small scale research and development project.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation was contacted to determine air quality impacts and permit needs. As per NYCRR Part 301-3.3(c) (94) this project is exempt from the registration and permitting requirements of New York State's air pollution regulations. This information has been uploaded into the PMC project files.

The applicant has submitted a safety plan with addresses the professional nature in which chemicals and safety will be handled. OSHA and SUNY Farmingdale EHS standards will be followed in the implementation of this project.

This project will include the design and construction of a gasifier within a research laboratory setting; therefore a CX 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 4/11/2011

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Kundan K  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/6/2011

**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: \_\_\_\_\_