

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: University of Illinois Department of Crop Sciences

STATE: SD

PROJECT TITLE : Regional Biomass Feedstock Partnership

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	GO85041	GFO-GO85041-087	GO85041

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.

## Rational for determination:

The University of Illinois', Department of Crop Sciences, proposes to use federal funding to develop field trials in Champaign County, Illinois to investigate the sustainability impacts of corn stover residue removal for the production of ethanol as part of the sun grant regional feedstock partnership.

Corn will be planted on agriculture lands that have been previously used for commercial farming of corn, soy beans, & wheat (40.043489N, 88.228414W). Genetically modified organisms (GMO's), specifically corn grain, will be grown on this site as part of this project. The specific GMO's that will be used are standard for commercial scale agricultural practices, and have full federal approval for large scale use. Herbicides, fertilizers, and pesticides will be used within standard commercial limits.

This project entails planting corn plants for research into ethanol uses; CX B5.1 and B3.8 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 5/24/2011

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:   
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 5/26/2011

**FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION**