

PMC-EF2a

(20102)

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



RECIPIENT: City of Tanana

STATE: AK

**PROJECT TITLE :** Community-Wide Public Facilities Energy Efficiency Retrofit and Biomass Heating Conversion Project

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
Competitive EECBG	DE-EE0003815	GFO-0003815-003	

**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 or water** (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

## Rational for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provided funding to the State of Alaska under the DOE's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The State of Alaska selected the City of Tanana (City) to receive \$1,540,000 of its EECBG funding for the Tanana Community-Wide Public Facilities Energy Efficiency Retrofit and Biomass Heating Conversion Project.

This award previously received two NEPA determinations. The first NEPA determination (DE-EE00003815; CX A1, A9, A11 and B5.1) on 7/30/2010, categorically excluded actions that involve: energy efficient retrofits; financial incentives; updates to more efficient lighting systems; weatherization improvements; training and education; construction and installation of the multiple biomass thermal heating systems; and information gathering, data analysis, document preparation and dissemination. However, prior to implementing the fuel wood harvesting portion of the proposed project, DOE required the City to prepare a Forest Management Plan that addresses the harvesting of wood that would be used as fuel for their proposed biomass thermal systems.

The City completed and submitted Phase 1 of their Forest Management Plan to the DOE and a second NEPA determination (GFO-0003815-002; B5.1) on 9/9/2011, categorically excluded the use \$30,000 of federal funds to purchase approximately 120 cords of driftwood fuel wood, gathered from the Yukon River, during the fall of 2011, for use as feedstock for their biomass thermal heating systems. However, prior to expenditure of Federal funds to harvest wood fuel, DOE required the City to complete Phase 2 of its Forest Management Plan that addresses the harvesting of wood that would be used as fuel for their biomass thermal systems.

The City has completed and submitted Phase 2 of their Forest Management Plan to the DOE and proposes to use



\$30,000 of federal funds to make an additional purchase of driftwood fuel wood (approximately 110 cords) for use as feedstock for their biomass thermal heating systems. Funding would only be used to purchase driftwood fuel wood, gathered from the Yukon River.

The City would not purchase or harvest land-based forest biomass fuel wood with DOE or other project-related funds. The City's award with the DOE expires in September of 2013 and at this time it is not anticipated that current or future DOE funding would be used to purchase and/or harvest land-based forest biomass for fuel wood and/or additional driftwood for fuel wood. The use of driftwood for heating in biomass thermal heating systems has replaced a percentage of the #2 heating oil utilized by many facilities in the City.

Based on review of the project information, DOE has determined the proposed additional purchase of driftwood fuel wood would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed activity is consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion B5.1 "Actions to conserve energy," and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

Obadiah Broughton 3/21/2013

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

 Electronically Signed By: Lori Gray / *Lori Gray*  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 3/21/2013

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