

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

**RECIPIENT:**American Process Inc.**STATE:** MI**PROJECT TITLE :** Alpena Biorefinery Lignin Separation

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|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
| Not Applicable | DE-EE0006120 | GFO-0006120-001 | EE6120 |

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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| B5.15 Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects | Small-scale renewable energy research and development projects and small-scale pilot projects, provided that the projects are located within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices. |
| B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects | Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment. |

Rational for determination:

DOE completed an environmental assessment (DOE/EA-1789) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in October 2010 for the construction and operation of American Process Inc.'s Alpena Prototype Biorefinery in Alpena, Michigan. The proposed project was to design, construct and operate a fully integrated, pilot scale, biorefinery capable of producing approximately 900,000 gallons per year of fuel grade ethanol and other products.

DOE is now proposing to provide additional funding to American Process Inc. (API) for a related scope of work. The Alpena Biorefinery Lignin Separation (ABLS) project would be an integral part of the ongoing Alpena Biorefinery project. ALBS would a novel lignin handling and separation process that will improve the operability and process economics associated with the Alpena Biorefinery.

There will be no additional raw materials added or increases in addition rates of raw materials originally proposed and evaluate in the EA. Similarly, there is no increase in the amount of lignin/gypsum produced in the process as a solid waste product. No additional permits or modifications to the existing plant permits are required. A number of new tanks and associated tank infrastructure would be installed to support the ABLS project. This work would take place at the existing Alpena Biorefinery site and limited additional ground disturbance would be required. In addition to the major work effort (construction) in Alpena, API anticipates conducting several laboratory scale experiments to support start-up of the Alpena Biorefinery Lignin Separation process.

All potential impacts of the ABLS project are consistent with those identified and evaluated in DOE/EA-1789 and have been adequately addressed. All proposed activities are also consistent with CX B5.15 Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects located within a previously disturbed or developed area. In addition, CX B3.6 applies to the proposed laboratory activities

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 :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Date: 3/27/2018
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager