

PMC-ND  
(1.08.09.13)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
NEPA DETERMINATION**



**RECIPIENT:** California Polytechnic State University

**STATE:** CA

**PROJECT TITLE :** Scale-up of Algal Biofuel Production Using Waste Nutrients

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0000811	DE-EE0006317	GFO-0006317-001	EE6317

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:

<b>A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b>	Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)
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**Rationale for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) to complete Phase 1/Task 0.0 process and data validation activities which would allow DOE to collect the data and information required to analyze the proposed project's readiness to proceed, their technology readiness level and the current state of their technology. These activities would allow the DOE to make a critical Go / No Go decision on funding Cal Poly's "Scale-up of Algal Biofuel Production Using Waste Nutrients" project under DOE's DE-FOA-0000811 - Advancements in Algal Biomass Yield Funding Opportunity Announcement. Cal Poly's proposed project would develop the capability to produce biofuel intermediates from microalgae with a targeted production of 15,000 gallons per year of by 2018.

This NEPA determination covers Phase 1/Task 0.0 which would include project management and data collection and analysis activities to allow DOE to validate the process claims within Cal Poly's original application. All activities are administrative and analytical in nature and would not involve physical experiments, field tests, land-disturbing, construction or similar activities.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the information gathering and data analysis activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with the actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Any Phases or Tasks outside of Phase 1/Task 0.0 "Process and Data Validation"

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Phase 1/Task 0.0 "Process and Data Validation"

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

Obadiah Broughton 8/27/2013

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin Date: 8/29/2013  
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