

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Arizona State University

STATE: AZ

PROJECT TITLE : Algae Testbed Public-Private Partnership (ATP3) – a RAFT Partnership

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000615	DE-EE0005996		GO5996

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:

A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination	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.)
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.
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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the Arizona Board of Regents on behalf of Arizona State University (ASU) to advance sustainable algal production. DOE funding would be used to establish the Algae Testbed Public-Private Partnership (ATP3) that would create a sustainable network of regional Testbeds that accelerate innovation, dissemination, and supports the growth of the emerging algal fuels industry.

DOE made a previous NEPA determination (GFO-0005996-001 CX A9, CX B3.6, CX B5.15 1/14/2013) for 30 small pre-fabricated algae test ponds, which were placed in groups of six at five testbed sites for standardized testing. This NEPA determination applies to the addition of one testbed site at the Florida Algae site within the Florida Institute of Technology's (FIT) Vero Beach Marine Laboratory at 805 46th Place East, Vero Beach, Florida.

Activities at the Florida Algae site would include production, storage, processing, and dispensing of non-GMO micro-algae strains, media and related equipment in the laboratory and outdoor field site testing. The project would involve the cultivation of marine and freshwater algal species at scales of up to 8,000 liters. Overall usage is not expected to exceed 10,000 liters per month. Water sources include the natural seawater source available at the FIT's Marine Research Facility and the municipal water source (for fresh water cultivation). The project is expected to produce at most 10 kilograms of algae a month. Cultures and algae would be disposed of in accordance with FIT Environmental Health and Safety Department (EHS) policies and procedures. The activities proposed are of similar scale and scope to those already occurring and permitted on the FIT Marine Research Facility site.

ASU completed an R&D questionnaire addressing the protocols for laboratory safety, risk management and waste disposal at the Florida Algae site. The laboratory/site complies with standard safety procedures and all processes and procedures are monitored by the EHS. The laboratory/site has all applicable permits in place to conduct research. All handling and disposal of gases, chemicals, and liquid effluents would be executed by EHS personnel who comply with appropriate regulations of OSHA. No GMOs would be used during the proposed project.

The testbed site is located within Floodzone VE, which is a "coastal flood zone with velocity hazard (wave action);

base flood elevations determined." No permanent structures would be constructed as part of this program and proposed activities are not anticipated to affect the coastal zone or floodplain. No other resources are anticipated to be affected by proposed activities.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the establishment of a testbed at the Florida Algae site at FIT, subsequent research and analysis, project management and reporting would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion A9 "information gathering, analysis and dissemination," B3.6 "small-scale research and development, laboratory operations and pilot projects" and B5.15 "small-scale renewable energy research and development pilot projects" 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 :

This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Kelly Daigle 1/15/2014

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

1/16/2014

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: _____