

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



RECIPIENT: Menominee Tribal Enterprises

STATE: WI

PROJECT TITLE : MTE District Biomass CHP Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number DE-FOA-0000852	Procurement Instrument Number DE-EE0006476	NEPA Control Number GFO-0006476-001	CID Number
--	--	---	-------------------

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 part.)
- B5.14 Combined heat and power or cogeneration systems** Conversion to, replacement of, or modification of combined heat and power or cogeneration systems (the sequential or simultaneous production of multiple forms of energy, such as thermal and electrical energy, in a single integrated system) at existing facilities, provided that the conversion, replacement, or modification would not have the potential to cause a significant increase in the quantity or rate of air emissions and would not have the potential to cause significant impacts to water resources.

Rationale for determination:

Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE) would utilize DOE and cost share funds to replace an existing biomass fired boiler system with a new more efficient Combined Heat and Power (CHP) system and modify an existing biomass steam boiler to efficiently integrate with the new CHP system at MTE's sawmill complex located on Menominee Tribal lands in Neopit, Wisconsin. This project is being funded by two other federal grants including \$250,000 from the U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) for the boiler and \$250,000 from a U. S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) Woody Biomass Utilization Grant (WBUG) for design and engineering. Additionally, technical assistance for a preliminary feasibility study was provided by the USFS Wood Education Resource Center.

The MTE District Biomass CHP Project would enable the production of thermally-led steam and electricity using renewable residual biomass fuel from existing sawmill operations. Steam produced from the boiler plant would be distributed through an existing distribution system to eight buildings on site. The new high pressure steam boiler and backpressure steam turbine generator would generate both steam for heating and drying, and electricity based on the steam demand of the complex. One remaining low pressure steam boiler would be upgraded with modern boiler controls to back up the combined heat and power system. Because the fuel handling system for the existing low pressure steam boiler plant is not compatible with the new system, new fuel storage and handling systems would be installed. Utilities would not require modification on the utility side of the meters but electrical protection devices and meters would be installed as required by the electric utility. Most project activities would occur within existing disturbance, replace existing equipment, or utilize existing equipment. The only permits required for the project are a building permit from the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and a site specific air permit from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The new CHP system would use less biomass and produce less air emissions than the existing system. Receipt of the air permit from the EPA is expected.

Biomass fuel for the existing boiler system is supplied from MTE internal operations and comes from a mixture of sawmill and forestry operation residues sourced from the over 250,000 acres of managed forestlands on tribal lands. The amount of biomass fuel needed for the operations of the new CHP system will be less than what is currently being used by the present system so no additional impacts related to biomass feedstock would occur due to project activities. Minimal clearing or excavation would occur on previously cleared land for footers and foundations for the new fuel storage addition (~2,500 sq. feet) and possibly for the new high temperature bag house (~100 sq. feet). The site on which excavation would occur has been previously cleared and is within the bounds of the existing MTE sawmill complex. The nearest water body or wetland is greater than 300' away from the project and erosion and runoff controls would be set in place. Small amounts of asbestos remain in the insulation for the boiler that would be replaced. The asbestos containing material (ACM) would be properly abated and removed from the site. Construction debris/waste generated by the project would be stored on site in roll off dumpsters and landfilled. Metal and other

debris/waste that can be recycled would be recycled including the existing boiler that would be replaced by the new CHP system. Ash generated from biomass combustion would be applied as a soil amendment on MTE land.

No cultural or historic resources would be affected by project activities because all activities would occur within the bounds of the current sawmill complex within previously disturbed areas and would utilize the existing distribution system for heating. Proposed activities are equivalent to activities occurring there now, so the project is not anticipated to affect any threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, or golden or bald eagles beyond any effects the current sawmill operations would have if those species were present.

Based on review of the project information, DOE has determined that the project activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that these activities are consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," and B5.14 "Combined heat and power or cogeneration systems," 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.

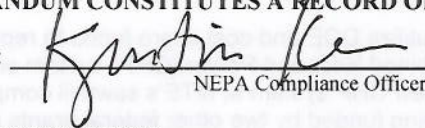
Note to Specialist :

This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Casey Strickland 12/26/2013

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

11/2/2014

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: