

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Fraunhofer USA Inc., Center for Sustainable Energy Systems

STATE: MA

PROJECT TITLE : Development of a Bio-Based, Inexpensive, Noncorrosive, Nonflammable Phenolic Foam for Building Insulation

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001027	DE-EE0006715	GFO-0006715-001	GO6715

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. |

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Fraunhofer USA, Inc. to research, develop, test and produce prototypes of advanced, fire-resistant, highly-insulating phenolic building insulating foams. Project activities would involve production and characterization of foam samples including small-scale testing of thermal, mechanical, and chemical properties and analysis of commercialization for the foam insulation market. Fraunhofer would partner with the University of Tennessee Knoxville (UTK) and the Atlas Roofing Corporation (ARC) in order to accomplish project objectives. Work would take place in existing laboratory facilities and offices designed for this type of research; therefore, no modifications or new permits, additional licenses and/or authorizations would be necessary. This project would involve handling small quantities of non-radioactive, non-biologically active chemicals which are routinely handled by the qualified personnel participating in this study. Each laboratory facility has extensive safety and disposal procedures implemented which would minimize any hazards associated with the use, storage, transportation or disposal of the lab-scale chemicals being used. All hazardous materials would be managed in accordance with federal, state, and local environmental regulations; therefore, project activities would pose no risk to human environment, health and/or safety.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the research, development and testing 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 actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion A9 "information gathering, data analysis and computer modeling," B3.6 "small-scale research and development, laboratory operations and 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 :

Review completed by Logan Sholar on 8/6/2014.

This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____  Date: 8/7/2014
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