

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT:GrafTech International Holdings Inc.

STATE: OH

PROJECT TITLE : Low-Cost Bio-Based Carbon Fiber for High-Temperature Processing

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000560	DE-EE0005779	GFO-0005779-001	

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:

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.
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Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to GrafTech International Holdings Inc. (GrafTech) to develop lignin-based carbon fiber (LBCF) technology that could replace higher-cost, foreign-sourced isotropic pitch and rayon carbon fibers that are used in several commercial product applications such as rigid insulation, felt insulation, and activated carbon fiber filters.

Project development activities would occur in two locations: at GrafTech's Innovation and Technology Center in Cleveland, OH and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Carbon Fiber Technology Facility in Oak Ridge, TN. Subsequent product testing would occur at several of GrafTech's production facilities in Cleveland, OH; Columbia, TN; St. Marys, PA; Biddeford, ME; and Monterrey, Mexico.

All of GrafTech's facilities are managed in accordance with federal, state, and local environmental regulations. No physical modification of existing facilities or construction of new facilities would occur as part of the project. Project activities would all be small-scale R&D actions that would take place in existing facilities with established health, safety, and environmental protection (HSEP) policies. GrafTech will ensure that the HSEP policies and procedures are followed during project activities including worker training, personal protective equipment, engineering controls, risk assessment, and monitoring.

For all work conducted at DOE laboratories, such as ORNL, project activities may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant NEPA Compliance Officer for the lab and will be required to meet the labs health and safety requirements.

DOE has determined that this project is consistent with actions covered under DOE CX B3.6 (research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations; and small-scale pilot projects); and therefore 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.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

For all work conducted at DOE laboratories, including the Oak Ridge National Lab, project activities may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant NEPA Compliance Officer for the lab and will be required to meet the labs health and safety requirements.

Note to Specialist :

- 1. Advanced Manufacturing Office
- 2. *This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision
- 3. NEPA review completed by Laura Margason on December 17, 2014.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

Electronically Signed By: Lori Gray / *Lori Gray*
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 12/17/2014

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: _____