

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

STATE: VT

PROJECT TITLE: Vermont Biofuels Initiative

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-FG36-08GO88182	GFO-GO88182-034	GO88182

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.)

**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:

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund's sub-recipient Vermont Farmers Food Center (VFFC) to test the burning of densified grass biomass in an EvoWorld HC100 ECO, 350,000 BTU/hr biomass boiler and identify market barriers within the first three elements of the biomass supply chain; feedstock production, logistics and biofuels production.

Proposed project activities would include repairs to an existing concrete boiler room in a warehouse facility currently utilized as a farmer's market, installation, connection and commissioning of the EvoWorld HC100 ECO boiler, and testing and documentation of boiler settings and combustion results for the three proposed densified grass fuels: wood chips, wood pellets, and perennial grass pucks. These activities would be completed at the VFFC in Rutland, VT.

Physical repairs to the existing boiler room facility would include leveling and repairing an existing concrete pad, replacing an existing roof, and connecting the new boiler to an existing heating duct system. The commercial boiler would be the sole occupant of this enclosed, contained, cement-block-constructed room adjacent to the main warehouse building. No ground disturbing activities would be required and there would be no change in use to the existing facility. This boiler unit rated at 0.34 MMBtu falls well below the air quality permitting threshold of 90 hp as verified by the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources; therefore, no local or state permits would be required to complete this project.

The proposed project would necessitate the periodic combustion of wood chips (up to 35.4 tons) and pellets (up to 20 tons). It would also involve the combustion of perennial grass pucks (up to 22 tons) densified from input feedstocks such as switchgrass, brush-hogged field materials, and waste hay. There would be no hazardous materials involved in this project and all federal, state and local air quality standards would be observed. The commercial boiler proposed for use on this project is already UL-approved and fully permitted for use in the U.S.

Approximately 6% of the combusted biomass materials would persist as ash after combustion. The intent is to include the ash in an existing agricultural composting process; therefore, no siting, construction or major expansion of waste



storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions/facilities would be required.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the repair, installation 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 exclusions A9 "information gathering, analysis and dissemination," and B5.15 "Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects."

**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 :

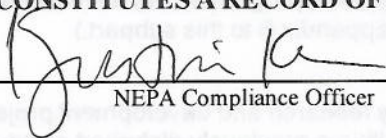
Bioenergy Program

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Rebecca McCord 09/22/2015.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

10/2/2015

**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: