

PWC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:**Center for Energy and Environment**STATE:** MN**PROJECT TITLE**
: Aerosol Sealing in New Construction

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001395	DE-EE0007573	GFO-0007573-001	G07573

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.)

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the Center for Energy and Environment to provide research needed to successfully integrate aerosol envelope sealing into the home building process. The project team would work directly with builders to identify the best stages for incorporating aerosol sealing, from the perspectives of cost, performance, and seamless integration into the construction process.

Activities associated with the proposed project would include information gathering, participant recruitment, baseline establishment, air leakage assessment, field demonstration of aerosol sealing process, performance evaluation, process optimization, and reporting /dissemination of findings. Information gathering, participant recruitment, process optimization, and management/reporting would be conducted from Center for Energy and Environment offices in Minneapolis, MN.

The exact sites for baseline establishment, air leakage assessment, field demonstration, and performance evaluation have not been identified yet; thus, they cannot be listed. However, all 28 selected sites would be new, suburban,

single-family houses that are under construction. Fourteen homes would be chosen in Minnesota and another fourteen would be selected in California. All work on-site would be benign in nature, would be limited to indoor activities, and would not involve any changes in the structure or finishes of selected sites. Subsequently, no ground disturbance or impact to sensitive resources are anticipated as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, DOE has determined that the proposed activities do not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties and would have no effect on special status species. Subsequently DOE has no further obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act or Endangered Species Act. The project would not require any new facilities to be constructed as they are already independently under construction, nor would any change in use, mission, or operation of existing facilities arise out of or result from work under the project.

Proposed project activities would not necessitate the use or handling of any hazardous substances. The aerosol sealant is safe under normal conditions of use and would be applied by trained personnel only. All waste generated would be non-hazardous and would be disposed of through normal waste streams along with construction waste generated on-site.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the proposed project would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that this project is consistent with actions outlined in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination", and B5.1 "Actions to conserve energy or water" and is therefore 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 the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved. If the Recipient moves forward with activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of a final NEPA decision, the Recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving Federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Building Technologies Office

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Rebecca McCord on 06/15/2016

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Date: 6/23/2016
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