

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: The Research Foundation for the State University of New York, University at Albany **STATE:** NY

PROJECT TITLE: Novel and Viable Technologies for Converting Wet Organic Waste Streams to High Value Products

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002029	DE-EE0008932	GFO-0008932-001	GO8932

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), 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 funding to State University of New York, Albany (SUNY), to develop an integrated and efficient process for converting wet organic wastes to volatile fatty acids (VFAs) and higher carbon alcohols (HCAs).

After an initial verification of baseline parameters, SUNY would lead a research team that would include Princeton University, Argonne National Lab, and the University of Michigan.

Initial tasks would include collection and pretreatment of organic waste products. Up to 100 kg of organic wastes would be collected for treatment at both the 5 liter and 50 liter scale. Up to 100 kg of water would be used to mix with the organic waste. Initial treatment would include both thermal hydrolysis (heat treatment) and ultrasonication (sound treatment). Collection of waste and initial treatment would occur at SUNY. Work would be conducted in the SUNY dedicated laboratory facility and would be limited to bench scale. Pre-treated materials would then be shipped to both Princeton and Argonne for additional treatments.

At Princeton and Argonne the pretreated product would be fermented to produce VFAs and HCAs. This would include initial fermentation at the 5 liter scale followed by larger scale fermentation at the 50 liter scale. All work at these facilities would be bench scale and would take place in dedicated laboratory facilities. No organic materials, water, or chemicals would be added at these facilities.

A portion of the product produced at Princeton and Argonne would be sent to University of Michigan for additional testing. Work at Michigan would include separation of materials and analysis. All work at Michigan would be bench scale and would take place in dedicated laboratory facilities.

Work would also include a Techno Economic Analysis and a Life Cycle Analysis.

All project activities would be undertaken in controlled, laboratory environments. All facilities in which work would be performed have established health and safety policies and procedures in place. Protocols would include adherence to established chemical safety guidelines, employee training, the use of personal protective equipment, engineering controls, monitoring, and internal/external assessments.

Any work proposed to be conducted at a federal facility may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant federal official and must meet applicable health and safety requirements of the facility.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Bioenergy Technologies Office

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Roak Parker 1/7/2020

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



Casey Strickland

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

1/7/2020

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- Field Office Manager review not required
 Field Office Manager review required

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature:

Field Office Manager

Date: