

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



RECIPIENT: Northern California Resource Center

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE: Scott Valley Biomass Utilization Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0010711	GFO-0010711-001	GO10711

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:

A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations

Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

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.)

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to administer Congressionally Directed Spending to the Northern California Resource Center (NCRC) to determine the feasibility of establishing a biomass utilization production facility in Scott Valley, California (CA).

Proposed activities would occur at the NCRC (Fort Jones, CA) and at the following partners/stakeholder offices: the Klamath National Forest (Yreka, CA), the Siskiyou County Administrative Office (Yreka, CA), the Scott River Watershed Council (Etna, CA), the Quartz Valley Indian Reservation (Fort Jones, CA), Ecotrust Forest Management, Inc. (Fort Jones, CA), and the Beck Consulting Group (Portland, OR). Project activities would involve planning, research, development, and community outreach and education that would result in a completed, peer-reviewed feasibility study. The final feasibility study would include product, feedstock, market research and results, a business plan, proposed potential plan sites and justifications, a preliminary engineered site plan, and a permitting requirement plan. Results of the feasibility study would guide the future establishment of a biomass utilization facility. NCRC would subcontract with unspecified entities to perform outreach, research, reports, and plans included in the feasibility study. All activities would be performed in existing, purpose-built facilities. No facility modifications, construction, or ground disturbance would be required. Any construction and operation of a future biomass utilization facility is not part of, nor funded by this proposed award, and the potential environmental impacts have not been evaluated by DOE.

All proposed activities would be limited to deskwork related to technical studies, planning, design, and community engagement and as such, DOE does not anticipate impacts on ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders.

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 the applicable health and safety requirements of the facility.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO)
NEPA review completed by Brittany White, 9/18/2024

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:  _____ Date: 9/23/2024
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager