

Christy  
Sterner

PMC-EF2a

(2.0+02)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER  
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: Oklahoma State University

STATE: OK

**PROJECT TITLE :** Alternative Crops and Biofuels Production

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	EE0000392	GF0-10-047	EE392

**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 (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, audits), data analysis (including computer modeling), document preparation (such as conceptual design or feasibility studies, analytical energy supply and demand studies), and dissemination (including, but not limited to, document mailings, publication, and distribution; and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.

## Rational for determination:

Oklahoma State University (OSU) would demonstrate the feasibility of biomass production potential in the southern plains. This project is an economic analysis of biofuel production methods, land use implications, and job/income impacts on communities. Activities are limited to site visits, interviews, data collection and analysis, report writing, and training. The project consists of five tasks:

## PHASE 1

## Task 1.0 Compile Information on Biofuel Production Processes,

Information on biofuel feedstock production resources, conversion technologies including heat and conversion balances, output factors, process energy and infrastructure, processing economies of scale, market factors, co-products and subsidy information for existing conversion technologies would be developed and compiled. Information from previous studies would be updated and information on emerging technologies would be developed throughout the timeframe of the project.

## Task 2.0 Develop feasibility decision tools

Feasibility assessment decision tools for a variety of biofuel production processes would be developed. The feasibility assessment decision tools would incorporate a consistent format with user friendly linkages to import technical and agronomic information from various sources and scenarios including yield per ton, transportation costs, farmgate prices, process costs. The feasibility tools would provide the projected capital costs and a full range of financial projections and pro-forma financial information under various economic assumptions.

## PHASE 2 (or BUDGET PERIOD 2)

## Task 3.0 Develop Biofuel Supply Chain Model

A supply chain model which would link feasibility model inputs, process flow and output data to land use, feed stock availability and community infrastructure would be developed. OSU would analyze feedstock, biofuel product, and co-product inbound and outbound logistics, staging and storage of feedstock; process times for overall production. OSU would also delineate site requirements and prioritize community sites based on feed stock availability and delivered costs, including yield per ton, transportation costs, farm gate prices, process costs and feedstock concentrations. Environmental and community impacts including environmental impacts from land use changes associated with biofuel production would also be examined.

## Task 4.0 Develop a regional community economic impact model

An input/output based economic impact model to project income and employment changes resulting from biofuel projects would be developed. The model would be based on the outputs from Tasks 1-3 and would project the direct, indirect and induced impacts of a wide range of biofuel projects.

Task 5.0 Project Management and Reporting

Reports and other deliverables would be provided in accordance with the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist following the instructions included therein.

Based on the information above, this project's impacts to the human and natural environment can be deemed less than significant and this project would qualify for Categorical Exclusion A9.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

none

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:   
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/19/2009

**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: \_\_\_\_\_