

PMC-ef2a

(20402)

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



**RECIPIENT:**Port of Benton

**STATE:** WA

**PROJECT TITLE :** Production of Infrastructure - Ready Fuels from Agricultural Biomass Reserch and Development Project

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-EE0000391	GFO-0000391-003	EE391

**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:

**B3.6** Siting, construction (or modification), operation, and decommissioning of facilities for indoor bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations (for example, preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); small-scale research and development projects; and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than two years) conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions. Construction (or modification) will be within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible).

**Rational for determination:**

The Port of Benton proposes to use federal funds to develop, design, and construct a bench scale pellet gasifier within a laboratory at Washington State University. The small-scale project will take place within the Bioproducts Sciences and Engineering Laboratory and will process agriculture wastes to produce heat and electricity.

This project will include construction of the conversion process system, economic assessment, operation of the system, education and outreach, and project management and reporting.

Construction of the conversion process system will include the construction of a biomass receiving and processing area, a pretreatment system, a fermentation system, a hydrothermal residue conversion system, and a catalytic upgrading system for volatile fatty acid conversion to drop-in fuels. All activities associated with this project will take place within the confines of the Bioproducts Sciences and Engineering Laboratory building.

No GMO's will be used in the implementation of this project. The applicant has submitted an R & D Questionnaire which thoroughly address chemical and safety handling protocols.

This project is comprised of bench scale research and development activities; therefore a CX B3.6 will apply.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Eugene Brown 11/18/2010

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Kymberly Ken*  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/18/2010

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