

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: Idaho Office of Energy Resources

STATE: ID

**PROJECT TITLE :** SEP ARRA REEZ - City of Sandpoint WWTP - Phase II

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0000052	DE-EE0000141	GFO-0000141-015	EE141

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:

**B5.21 Methane gas recovery and utilization systems**

The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available methane gas recovery and utilization systems installed within a previously disturbed or developed area on or contiguous to an existing landfill or wastewater treatment plant that would not have the potential to cause a significant increase in the quantity or rate of air emissions. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

**Rational for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provided funding to the Idaho Office of Energy Resources (OER) under the DOE's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 State Energy Program (SEP). OER selected the City of Sandpoint's Waste Water Treatment Facility (Sandpoint) to receive \$270,000 in SEP funding (total project cost - \$270,000).

The DOE reviewed and categorically excluded Phase 1 of the proposed project, which allowed Sandpoint to use federal funds to apply for a new source Air Quality Permit (GFO-0000141-008). This determination (GFO-0000141-0015) is for Phase 2 of the proposed project.

In Phase 2, Sandpoint would use federal funding to install a dual fuel generator, associated electrical equipment, and a 9,000 gallon storage above-ground tank (complete list of equipment attached) at its existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Sandpoint's WWTP is located at: 723 S. Ella Ave., Sandpoint ID 83864.

Sandpoint would install the 9,000 gallon above-ground storage tank at its existing facility – the total area of disturbance would be ~500 sq ft for required footing and ~150 for electrical trenching. The generator would be installed in Sandpoint's existing mechanical building and would utilize existing lines and piping. Sandpoint would receive waste slurry from Lighthouse Foods, Inc. to produce methane, which would produce electricity. This slurry is currently being either land applied or disposed of in the sewer system.

The City of Sandpoint is currently in non-attainment; however, Sandpoint has received a pre-permit construction air permit for the proposed project and would continue to work with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to obtain its air permit.

Sandpoint has received a letter of no impacts from the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer. DOE has determined that due to the highly disturbed nature of the project location – the proposed project would not impact any threatened or endangered species in the vicinity. The proposed project is not located in a wetland or floodplain.

Based on the proposed project's location at an existing WWTP and the above analysis, DOE has determined the proposed project will not have significant individual or cumulative impacts on the human environment. DOE has determined the purchase and installation of the above equipment meets the definition of DOE categorical exclusion B.21 "methane gas recovery and utilization systems" and is 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:

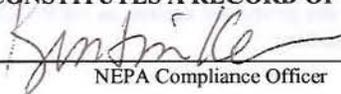
If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

DOE funding - \$270,000  
EF2a prepared by Melissa Rossiter

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

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

  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

12/20/2011

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