

PMC-EF2a

20402

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



RECIPIENT: Oak Ridge National Laboratory

STATE: TN

PROJECT TITLE : National Advanced Biofuels Consortium; NREL Tracking No. 13-002

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-13-002	GO28308

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 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.

Rational for determination:

U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) proposes to give funding to and add Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to the National Advance Biofuels Consortium (NABC), which NREL leads. ORNL is a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

The proposed work would be for part of the overall NABC project. In April 2010, a NEPA Determination was signed (NREL-10-010), authorizing all project activities at the member facilities. NREL-10-010 is hereby incorporated by reference. NREL is now proposing to add ORNL as a new member of NABC and give them funding to support the mission of NABC, which is the scope of this NEPA determination.

The proposed work at ORNL would involve corrosion tests that would be conducted with pyrolysis oil. The pyrolysis oils would be analyzed, and corrosion samples would be sent to NABC member sites for exposure in their equipment. The purpose would be to evaluate the effect of corrosivity of various pyrolysis oil production and processing methods. The proposed work would be done over a one year period, starting late 2012.

Work would be conducted at various existing corrosion testing facilities at ORNL with existing equipment and processes. Therefore, no impacts to endangered or threatened species, critical habitat, other protected species, historic and cultural resources, floodplains, wetlands, or prime farmlands, are anticipated.

ORNL would not require modified or new environmental permits for the proposed work. There would be a potential for de minimis quantities of volatile organic compounds to be released during heating, but these would be well below any thresholds that would require any permit action and the emissions would emanate from an exempt Research and Development activity. Fume hoods and local exhaust ventilation are available at ORNL, and all local exhaust ventilation is tested annually for proper air flow.

ORNL has an implemented health and safety program meeting the requirements of 10 CFR 851. This program includes policies and procedures for chemical handling and storage, laboratory safety, risk management, personal protective equipment, worker safety, training, and hazardous waste collection and disposal. Additionally, ORNL also has documented procedures in place for disposal of contaminated and non-contaminated liquid effluent.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined this proposed project would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with the actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion A9 "information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," A11 "technical advice and assistance to organizations and B3.6 "small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects," 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 :

EF2a prepared by Rob Smith on 10/30/2012

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 Electronically
Signed By: Lori Gray
NEPA Compliance Officer

Lori Gray

Date: 10/30/2012

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: _____