

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT:BioProcess Algae

STATE: IA

PROJECT TITLE : Pilot-Scale Mixotrophic Algae Integrated Biorefinery

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000739	DE-EE0006245	GFO-0006245-002	GO6245

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, 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.) |
| B5.15 Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects | Small-scale renewable energy research and development projects and small-scale pilot projects, provided that the projects are located within a previously disturbed or developed area. 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. |

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to BioProcess Algae (BPA) to complete Budget Period (BP) 1B activities which would include detailed design, engineering, scheduling and budgeting for construction of BPA's pilot-scale Integrated Biorefinery (IBR).

The proposed project activities would involve finalizing the electrical, mechanical, structural, and civil engineering designs, and administrative tasks for the IBR; feedstock optimization; testing oil extraction technologies; algal growth conditions optimization; producing algae for oil extraction; and equipment testing. The proposed activities would consist of data collection and analysis and laboratory operations. BPA would partner with Green Plains Renewable Energy (GPRE), University of Iowa, EAD Constructors, Inc., BARR Engineering, Texas A&M University, and New Jersey Feed Laboratory (NJFL) to complete project objectives. For any additional partners that BPA would work with to complete BP1B activities, BPA is required to submit a completed EQ1 for that partner. Proposed work would follow the Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) policies in place for each facility and waste handling and disposal would be conducted in accordance to applicable waste stream processes as well as local, state and federal waste disposal regulations respective to each facility. The facilities at which the proposed project activities would occur are established laboratories and designed for this type of research; therefore, no new construction, modifications or new permits, additional licenses and/or authorizations would be required as result of the proposed project.

Based on a review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the proposed activities in Budget Period 1B would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that Budget Period 1B is consistent with actions outlined in DOE categorical exclusion A9 "information gathering" and B5.15 "Small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects" and is therefore categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Budget Period 2 activities

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Budget Period 1B activities

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

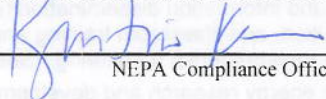
If BioProcess Algae selects additional partners for Budget Period 1B, BioProcess Algae must submit a new EQ-1 for each partner prior to initiating work at those facilities.

Note to Specialist :

Review completed by Logan Sholar on 09/10/14.

This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/15/2014

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: _____