

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Duke University

STATE: NC

PROJECT TITLE Marine Algae Industrialization Consortium (MAGIC): Combining biofuel and high-value bioproducts to
: meet the RFS

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001162	DE-EE0007091	GFO-7091-001	

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.)
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Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Duke University to use the Marine Algae Industrialization Consortium's fully integrated platform technology for the production of biofuels and high-value nutritional bioproducts to demonstrate a combined co-product value >\$1,000/metric ton while yielding a biofuel intermediate that demonstrably meets or exceeds the renewable fuel standards for advanced biofuels, has an energy return on investments >3, and would sell for <\$5/gallon of gas equivalent.

This NEPA review is limited to process and data validation activities as they are described in Budget Period 1 - Task 0 of the Statement of Project Objectives. Upon completion of this task there will be a go/no go decision made as to whether or not the remaining tasks will be undertaken. If a "go" decision is made, the remaining tasks will require additional NEPA review.

The initial validation activities would include the Validation Team and the Project Team meeting and working together to complete the technical/financial data sheet and milestones and metrics that would be used to track project progress throughout the life of the project. The effort would include the exchange of information, data, and paperwork. The Validation Team and possibly project partners would travel to the meeting location, however, no site work or experimentation, would be performed during the meeting or prior to the go/no go decision. No research would be completed for this task.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the exchange of information and development of milestones and metric activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "information gathering, analysis and dissemination," and is 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/NSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

BUDGET PERIOD 2 (Phase 2): Performance

This restriction does not preclude you from:

BUDGET PERIOD 1 (Phase 1): Validation

Task 0.0: Process and Data Validation

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.

Note to Specialist :

This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

Bioenergy Technologies Office

Review completed by Diana Heyder 09/08/2015.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

9/8/2015

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: _____