

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



RECIPIENT:Efficiency Maine

STATE: ME

PROJECT TITLE : Recovery Act: EECBG - Maine Retrofit Ramp-Up

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-SOL-0000148	DE-EE0003560	GFO-0003560-001	G03560

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:

B5.20 Biomass power plants The installation, modification, operation, and removal of small-scale biomass power plants (generally less than 10 megawatts), using commercially available technology (1) intended primarily to support operations in single facilities (such as a school and community center) or contiguous facilities (such as an office complex); (2) that would not affect the air quality attainment status of the area and would not have the potential to cause a significant increase in the quantity or rate of air emissions and would not have the potential to cause significant impacts to water resources; and (3) would be 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 Department of Energy, (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the state of Maine to install a biomass central heating plant and piping distribution on the campus of the University of Maine at Fort Kent and School Administrative District 27 campuses in Fort Kent, Maine.

The University of Maine and School District 27 propose to construct a new central heating plant to provide heat to twelve different buildings on the adjacent campuses of the University of Maine at Fort Kent and School Administrative District 27. The project would include two new 4 MBTU boilers, two large pellet silos, a fuel delivery system, new underground piping distribution system for the hot water, as well as internal connections in each building. The underground pipe would be placed 60" below the surface of previously disturbed ground. Four precast concrete manhole covers will grant access to the underground pipe at valve stations. A large room would be created inside a re-purposed National Guard armory building, to house the central heating plant. The room would be constructed to current building codes. This would include sprinkler systems, fire rated wall assemblies, and egress paths for the protection of the occupants. All piping would remain internal to the building except where the boiler breaching would penetrate the roof and the fill piping would penetrate the exterior wall. The central heating plant will be fueled by biomass wood pellets.

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission was consulted and determined that there would be no historic properties affected by this undertaking.

No part of the project would occur in the floodplain.

The project includes an amendment to the air emissions license relative to particulate discharge from the new biomass boilers with the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME DEP). This application has already been filed, advertised, and the University has received approval from the ME DEP for the project. Additionally, areas containing asbestos and lead that are in direct contact with the scope of work would be remediated under permits also regulated by the ME DEP.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Program website identifies four threatened or endangered species that are known to or are believed to occur in Aroostook County, Maine. However, due to the lack of potential habitat for any the species at the project site, lack of critical habitat in the vicinity of the site and the previously disturbed and developed condition of the site; DOE has determined the proposed project would not adversely affect threatened and endangered species in the area.

Prime farmland, wetlands, or cultural resources are not known to occur at the project site. Therefore, no impacts to these resources are anticipated.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the purchase and installation of a biomass central heating plant and associated piping 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 exclusion B5.20 "Biomass Power Plants" 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.

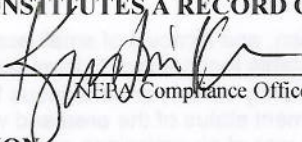
Note to Specialist :

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Diana Heyder 2/3/2014

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/7/2014

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: _____