PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: T2C-Energy STATE: FL

PROJECT TITLE: Demonstration Scale-up: TRIFTS Biogas to Renewable Fuel

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number Procurement Instrument Number NEPA Control Number CID Number

DE-FOA-0002396 DE-EE0009761 GFO-0009761-001 GO9761

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), 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.)

B3.6 Smallscale 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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to T2C-Energy (T2C) to develop plans to scale up their preexisting pilot-scale biofuel production technology to demonstration-scale. If the award were to proceed to Phase 2 (Phase 1 and 2 are described further below) a demonstration-scale biofuel production plant would be constructed on-site at a Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) landfill in Tennessee. Biogas from the landfill would be used as feedstock to produce biofuel at the plant.

Activities would be completed over two phases of work: (Phase 1) initial verification and design basis, and (Phase 2) detailed design, fabrication, and operation of the demonstration-scale plant. A down select review would be completed near the end of Phase I activities, after which DOE would issue a decision regarding continuation into Phase 2 activities. DOE previously completed a NEPA Determination (ND) for this award's Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) (FOA-0002396-001; CX: A9, B3.6; 05/20/2021) which only applies to initial verification activities for all awards issued under the FOA (DE-FOA-0002396). This ND will serve as a review of Phase 1 activities ND FOA-0002396-001 did not apply to. This ND does not apply to Phase 2 activities.

Phase 1 activities beyond initial verification activities would include information gathering, analysis, document preparation, and preliminary engineering and design activities. These activities would address key prerequisites such as personnel assignments, environmental planning, NEPA requirements, permits, basic design plans, risk mitigation plans, facility site requirements, life cycle analysis (LCA), technoeconomic analysis (TEA), financial requirements, and negotiating and finalizing agreements with third parties. Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) would complete the LCA.

Any work proposed to be conducted at a federal facility may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant federal official and must meet the applicable health and safety requirements of the facility.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assisstance agreement:

Any work to be conducted under Phase 2 would require additional NEPA review, whether as part of this award or another award.

Notes:

Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO)
This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA Provision.
NEPA review completed by Dan Cahill, 12/1/2021.

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:	Electronically Signed By: Roak Parker	Date:	12/1/2021
	NEPA Compliance Officer		
FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMI	NATION		
✓ Field Office Manager review not required☐ Field Office Manager review required	red		
BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR W	TITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO:		
Field Office Manager's Signature:		Date:	

Field Office Manager