

PMC-FF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: University of Rhode Island

STATE: RI

PROJECT TITLE : Genetic Improvement of Switchgrass

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
FY 2011 CDP	DE-FG-36-08GO88070	GFO-GO88070-004	0

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 Siting, construction (or modification), operation, and decommissioning of facilities for indoor bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations (for example, preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); small-scale research and development projects; and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than two years) conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions. Construction (or modification) will be within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible).

Rational for determination:

The University of Rhode Island proposes to use federal funding to continue research associated with the GFO-09-055-002 project review. These efforts are aimed at advancing the understanding and utilization of switchgrass as a biofuel source and will concentrate on the development of hybrid plants and gene confinement strategies to ensure a safe environmental release. The University will produce plants that are genetically modified to select for a sterile plant.

All work will take place with existing laboratory facilities located at the Plant Biotechnology Laboratory facility at 530 Liberty Lane, Kingston, RI. The applicant has submitted an R & D Questionnaire which thoroughly addresses chemical and safety handling protocols. This facility is operated by the University of Rhode Island and therefore subject to USDA APHIS controlled regulations. The University is currently, and has been for the previous awards, in compliance with USDA APHIS requirements for all activities of this project associated with growth of transgenic plants.

This project is comprised of conventional research and development activities which are continuation activities of previous awards with similar activities; therefore a CX B3.6 will apply.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Eugene Brown 11/2/2010

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/2/2010

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION