

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: Palm Beach County

STATE: FL

PROJECT TITLE : EECBG Activity 1: Digester Biogas

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-EE00013	DE-EE0000793	GFO-0000793-001	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:

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

Rational for determination:

Palm Beach County, Florida proposes to use \$1.2 million dollars of EECBG funding to help offset a portion of the cost associated with installation of a Digester Biogas Combined Heat and Power Renewable Energy Project at the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department (PBCWUD) Southern Region Water Reclamation Facility (SRWRF). The energy saved as a result of this project will be approximately 200 kilowatts per hour and the GHG Emissions reduced (CO2 Equivalents) will be approximately 1,258 metric tons annually.

The Digester Biogas Combined Heat and Power Renewable Energy Project will utilize a microturbine to complete the 100% recycling objective for the SRWRF by generating power from digester gas, which is currently burned in a waste gas flare. The microturbine will generate mechanical energy which will be converted to electricity for 100% on-site use.

The proposed biogas microturbine project would complete the waste reclamation cycle by recycling all waste products generated at the facility. Biogas from the digesters would be captured and combusted to produce electric power. This waste gas-to-energy recapture is an innovative project that demonstrates sustainable use at a wastewater treatment facility.

Microturbine installation will occur within the existing facility complex and not result in any changes to the current facility footprint. The entire area within the water reclamation facility boundaries is previously disturbed from initial facility construction activities; therefore no new environmental impacts are anticipated.

No impacts to wetlands, wildlife, cultural, visual threatened and endangered, noise, air, or other sensitive resource are anticipated as a result of the proposed project.

Positive environmental impacts from this action include improvement of air quality through reduction of GHG emissions and an energy savings of approximately 200kw per hour. Based on the above information this project is categorically excluded from further NEPA review under CX B 5.1, Actions to Conserve Energy.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Completed by B.Knapp

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 3/22/2011

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: _____