PMC-EF2a
(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: University of Alaska Fairbanks **STATE:** AK

PROJECT TITLE: Validation of Innovative Techniques - Pilgrim Hot Spings, Alaska

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000109	DE-EE0002846	GFO-10-310	EE2846

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:

B3.1 Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities covered include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include, but are not limited to:

A9 Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, audits), data analysis (including computer modeling), document preparation (such as conceptual design or feasibility studies, analytical energy supply and demand studies), and dissemination (including, but not limited to, document mailings, publication, and distribution; and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.

Rational for determination:

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) would utilize remote sensing and geophysical techniques to develop a preliminary conceptual model of the Pilgrim Hot Springs geothermal resource, and would confirm this model through drilling two confirmation slim holes. Project work would take place on private property at Pilgrim Hot Springs located on the Seward Peninsula approximately 50 miles north of Nome, Alaska.
The project is divided into three phases with multiple tasks:
Phase 1: Exploration Remote Sensing, Geophysics, Wellhead Repair, and Conceptual Modeling
Task 1.1 Satellite-Based Geothermal Anomaly Mapping
Task 1.2 Airborne FLIR Surveys
Task 2.1 Collect New Data from Existing Wells
Task 2.2 Conduct Shallow Temperature Survey
Task 2.3 Conduct a Resistivity Survey utilizing CSAMT/AMT
Task 2.4 Synthesis of New and Old Datasets and Development of a Conceptual Model to Site Phase 2 Gradient and Confirmation Holes

Since the locations of the temperature gradient (TG) holes and confirmation wells have not been determined, Phase 2 and Phase 3, Task 3.2 cannot be analyzed at this time. A NEPA determination for these tasks in Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the project would be too early to determine but would need to be made prior to UAF beginning any drilling. (Go-no go decision point: Upon completion of Phase 1, a go/no-go determination would be made before proceeding to Phase 2. If the decision is a 'go', UAF could proceed to Phase 2 upon consent from DOE. If the decision is a 'no-go', no drilling would occur and the project would be terminated.)

Phase 2: Drilling TG Holes and Confirmation Wells
Phase 3: Well Testing and Numerical Modeling
Task 3.2 Well Testing
Task 4.0 Numerical Modeling
Task 5.0 Project Management and Reporting – Reports and other deliverables would be provided in accordance with the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist following the instructions included therein.

Condition of Approval: Allowable – Phase 1 (Tasks 1.1 through 2.4) and Phase 3 (Tasks 4.0 and 5.0); Prohibited – Phase 2 and Phase 3 (Task 3.2).

Based upon the information provided, Phase 1 (Tasks 1.1 through 2.4) and Phase 3 (Tasks 4.0 and 5.0) are categorically excluded under CX A9 "Information gathering/data analysis/document preparation/dissemination" and CX B3.1 "Site characterization/environmental monitoring."

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/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:
Phase 2 and Phase 3 (Task 3.2)
This restriction does not preclude you from:
Phase 1 (Tasks 1.1 through 2.4) and Phase 3 (Tasks 4.0 and 5.0)
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 :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 4/7/10
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager