PMC-EF2a
(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Flint Geothermal LLC **STATE:** CO

PROJECT TITLE: Recovery Act: Direct Confirmation of Commercial Geothermal Resources in Colorado using Remote Sensing and On-Site Exploration, Testing and Analysis

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000109	DE-EE0002828	GFO-10-251	2828

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:

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:

Flint Geothermal LLC (Flint) would locate geothermal resources in Colorado by applying processed remote imaging data to search for geothermal resources, then more direct on-site methods would be used to confirm the resource. The project is divided into three phases with multiple tasks:
Phase 1 – Acquisition, Processing and Analysis of Remote Sensing Data
Tasks 1 through 3 consist of acquiring remote sensing data (Landsat, Modis, and Aster) collected over the last five years, processing and analyzing that data, then documenting results and making preliminary site selections of up to five prioritized prospective areas on which to conduct further investigation. The sites would be evaluated as to surface and mineral ownership and in order to begin on-site testing (Phase 2 and 3) any leases, permits, and/or access agreements would be obtained to secure access to the sites for testing.

Since the site locations have not been determined, Phase 2 and Phase 3 (excluding Task 12) activities cannot be analyzed at this time. A NEPA determination for the tasks in Phase 2 and Phase 3 (excluding Task 12) of the project would be too early to determine but would need to be made prior to UAF beginning any drilling.

Phase 2 – Conduct On-Site Geophysical and Temperature Surveys and Map Results
Tasks 4 and 5 include geophysical, direct testing, and temperature surveys.
Phase 3 – Drill, Core and Test Geothermal Resource (min. of two wells)
Tasks 6 through 12 consist of site preparation/mobilization, drilling, flow testing, data collection, analysis of data, and project management and reporting.
Reports and other deliverables would be provided in accordance with the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist following the instructions included therein.
According to the R&D Laboratory Questionnaire, no permits would be needed for Phase 1 activities. Phase 1 laboratory work would predominantly consist of software development and analysis in a classroom/office setting at the University of Colorado (Boulder).

Condition of Approval: Allowable – Phase 1 (Tasks 1 through 3) and Phase 3 (Tasks 12 – "Project Management and Reporting"); Prohibited – Phase 2 and Phase 3 (all tasks other than 12).

Based upon the information provided, Phase 1 (Tasks 1 through 3) and Phase 3 (Task 12) are categorically excluded under CX A9 "Information gathering/data analysis/document preparation/dissemination."

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 (all tasks other than 12)
This restriction does not preclude you from:
Phase 1 (Tasks 1 through 3) and Phase 3 (Tasks 12 – "Project Management and Reporting")
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