PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT:NREL **STATE:** CO

PROJECT TITLE : NREL Bus Service to Off-Site Parking Lot; NREL Tracking No. 10-016

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		NREL-10-016	GO10337

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:

DOE/EA-1440-S-I Final Supplement to Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (May 2008)

A7 Transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests in personal property (e.g., equipment and materials) or real property (e.g., permanent structures and land), if property use is to remain unchanged; i.e., the type and magnitude of impacts would remain essentially the same.

Rational for determination:

This project is for the implementation of a bus service to transport NREL employees from an offsite parking location to the NREL facilities located at the South Table Mountain Complex (STM), City of Golden, County of Jefferson, and State of Colorado. The contracted bus service would provide transportation services during the peak 3-hr morning commute and a 3-hr period during the evening commute. The bus service would consist of approximately 2 to 4 coach-type buses transporting approximately 500 employees in the morning and 500 in the evening from the offsite parking site to STM. This proposed bus transportation service contract would utilize existing paved roads between offsite parking at the Colorado Mills Mall, 14500 West Colfax Ave, Golden, CO 80401 and the STM. This service would last approximately 18 months until the new onsite STM parking structure is completed.

Emissions from the buses are negligible when compared to the total vehicle emissions in the Denver Metropolitan airshed. Potential controversy from the general public would be minimized by only operating the buses on major public roadways and avoiding residential areas or other sensitive receptors. Noise impacts from bus service would be de minimis given the ambient noise levels currently present in the highly urbanized area that the buses would operate in. Furthermore, the buses would only be operating during normal business hours.

The addition of an offsite parking site is required due to the extensive growth of the NREL campus, build out of the Research Support Facility (RSF), which will house 800 employees currently domiciled in leased space in the Denver West Office Park, and the temporary loss of STM onsite parking to construction activities. The expansion of the NREL campus and its impacts were analyzed by the DOE in the May 2008 Final Supplemental to Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's South Table Mountain Complex (SEA) (EA-1440-S-1), which resulted in a mitigated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). In order to mitigate the traffic impacts from the NREL build out of the RSF and two other projects to less than significant, DOE indentified traffic mitigation actions as documented in the May 2008 Mitigation Action Plan (MAP). One of the mitigation actions identified was the establishment of offsite parking, which this proposed project would support. The assessment of impact of the offsite parking lot lease, including impact traffic analysis, will be assessed under a separate NEPA determination (NREL-10-017).

Based on the information above and the assessment provided in EA-1440-S-1, this project's impacts to the human and natural environment can be deemed less than significant, and this project would qualify for Categorical Exclusion A7.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Lori Plummer Lori Plummer Date: 4/21/2010
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