PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT:NREL **STATE:** CO

PROJECT TITLE : Aerial Photography of Solar Parabolic Trough Field at Cameo, CO; NREL Tracking No. 09-025b

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		NERL-09-025b	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:

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:

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 original NEPA determination (DOE/EA-1440) applied to a balloon launch at STM or Joyce Street Facility. This NEPA review is for the same project description, but at an additional location, Xcel Cameo power plant at 39.149 deg. north, 108.318 deg. west, near Palisade, Colorado.

As with prior NEPA determinations for this activity at other sites, the following conditions apply:

1). Balloons would be flown at heights greater than 200 feet above the ground surface, requiring coordination with the FAA and 24-hr advanced notification.

2). Helium gas would be used to inflate the balloon, which would be dispensed from pressurized gas cylinders. Operators must comply with NREL safety procedures (NREL Procedure 6-4.7, Compressed Gas Safety and NREL's EHS Safety Assessment Worksheet, Document Number SA-2009-07-002-LAH). These documents identify proper handling, labeling, usage, transportation, storage, and segregation of compressed gas cylinders.

3). The balloons have been imprinted with the NREL logo and the words "National Renewable Energy Laboratory". There is a potential for public controversy due to the high visibility of the balloon. Casual observers and residents would see the balloon, its printing, and the suspended equipment, and may call the laboratory for information on the activity. Therefore, balloon operators would notify the NREL Public Affairs Office the day before a balloon launch, to allow them to adequately respond to public inquiries.

4). Additional NEPA review is required before deploying the system at additional sites with the exception of sites previously approved by prior NEPA determination.

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: 4/8/2010
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