

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT:NREL

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE : RSF II Spoils Distribution – NREL Tracking No. 10-019

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|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
| | | NREL-10-019 | 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** Final Site-Site Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (February 2003)
- 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)
- DOE/EA-1440-S-II** Final Supplement-II to Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (November 2009)

Rational for determination:

This proposed project is for the onsite deposition of excavated soil generated by the build-out of the Research Support Facility (RSF) II building at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain (STM) Complex, City of Golden, County of Jefferson, and State of Colorado. The scope of this proposed project would include the creation of a haul road, the onsite transportation of 20,000 cubic yards (CY) of surplus soil and subsoil from the RSF II foundation in addition to 5,000 CY from utility infrastructure associated with RSF II build-out, and placement of the excavated soil into spoils located in Site Development Zone 5 (Eastern Campus). The proposed haul road and soil removal activities would occur in Site Development Zone 4 (Central Campus). The approximate location of the proposed onsite soil spoils in the STM Eastern Campus is 39.743°N 105.1689°W.

The proposed haul road would be constructed from the RSF II location along an east/west orientation across the eastern drainage to a location near the proposed RfVSP and Central Plant facilities per the NREL Master Plan. The alignment of the proposed haul road would be designed so that it follows the planned North Loop Road extension that would be in constructed conjunction with the ESIF building. The width of the haul road would be approximately 26 feet, the same width as the future North Loop Road Extension. Accordingly, the culvert beneath the road would be designed to be a permanent structure that is long enough to extend beneath the North Loop Road Extension, when it is constructed. The culvert would be stabilized with compacted soil and crushed stone to hold the structure permanently in place. The length of the haul road would be determined during design, when the exact location for spoils placement is determined, but is estimated to be approximately 300 feet in length. Prior to construction of the haul road, the necessary engineering calculations would be completed to ensure that the culvert installed under the roadway is of sufficient size to facilitate runoff in the east drainage during a 100-year storm. In addition, water retention or dispersion devices may be needed to avoid on- and off-site impacts from flooding. Hydrologic calculations would consider not only hillside runoff, but also the impervious surface runoff from existing and future impervious surface components in the eastern part of the STM campus. As the area of land disturbance exceeds one acre, NREL would file a Notice of Intent (NOI) with US EPA Region VIII for storm water associated with construction activity permit and develop a site-specific storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) to supplement the NREL STM Stormwater Pollution Prevention procedure (Procedure 6-2.15). After placement, the soil spoils would be graded and seeded to stabilize the soils and minimize noxious weed growth. Reseeding, silt fencing, and other erosion controls would be implemented in accordance with Procedure 6-2.15.

The proposed affected areas of this project would be within the portions of the STM complex identified in the NREL Master Plan as developable. The development of Site Development Zones 4 and 5 was included and assessed in the July 2003 Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's South Table Mountain Complex (DOE/EA-1440) with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determined issued July 2003. The impacts of the build-out of the RSF facilities were assessed in the May 2008 Final Supplement to Final Site-Wide

Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's South Table Mountain Complex (DOE/EA-1440-S-I). The development of ESIF building and infrastructure assessed in the November 2009 Final Supplement II to Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's South Table Mountain Complex (DOE/EA-1440-S-II), included a construction lay down area (4 to 5 acres) east of the eastern drainage in the approximate location of the proposed soil spoils. That action is similar in scope and impacts to the proposed onsite soil spoils. Additionally, the North Loop Road Extension, which was also included within the proposed action in DOE/EA-1440-S-II, would be comparable to the proposed haul road of this project. A Finding of No Significant Impact determination for DOE/EA-1440-S-II was issued in November 2009.

Fugitive particulate emissions from the construction would be controlled in accordance with the existing STM land disturbance air permit (APCD# 08JE0889L), including mitigation measures such as dust suppression. The hauling of the soils and stockpiling of the spoils would require the utilization of mobile point emission sources, such as front-end loaders, scrapers, dump trucks, etc. but these emissions would be negligible given the size and duration of the construction activity. Furthermore, onsite stockpiling of the soil spoils versus offsite disposal at the designated disposal facility would generate far less air emissions. It is estimated that would take 1,500 truckloads to transport the soil to the offsite disposal facility with a 60-mile roundtrip. There are no historic properties affected by this proposed action. The development of this area, within Site Development Zones 4 and 5, was scoped within the 2003 SWEA and the 2009 Supplement II to SWEA, which included formal consultations with SHPO. Additionally, there are no impacts to offsite traffic anticipated by this proposed project.

Based on the information above and the assessments and FONSI determinations for EA-1440, EA-1440-S-I, and EA-1440-S-II, this project's impacts to the human and natural environment can be deemed less than significant.

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: 4/22/2010
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