

PMC-EF2a

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



(2.04.02)

RECIPIENT: Northern Illinois Municipal Power Agency

STATE: IL

PROJECT TITLE : Eagle View Wind Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052	DE-FOA-0000052	GFO-10-313	0

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:

C12 Siting, construction, and operation of energy system prototypes including, but not limited to, wind resource, hydropower, geothermal, fossil fuel, biomass, and solar energy pilot projects.

Rational for determination:

Eagle View is a wind energy project and will consist of purchasing and installing up to 8 large wind turbines (nameplate ratings of each turbine ranging from 1.5MW to 3MW). Specifically the DOE funds would pay for a portion of the turbine purchase, and a portion of the installation cost of the turbines which includes access roads, concrete foundations, electrical wiring connecting all the turbines to the Rochelle municipal utility system (Rochelle is one of three members of Northern Illinois Municipal Power Agency, NIMPA, the applicant), erecting and commissioning the wind turbines.

SEP funding is \$5 million. Total project cost is approximately \$36.3 million. Eagle View Wind Project would use the DOE funds for the entire project. The application materials state that without the SEP grant, the project "may not come to fruition because of economics."

The Eagle View Wind project would be developed on 1,200 acres of agricultural land that is currently used to grow corn and soybeans. This 13MW wind project would consist of 8 wind turbines spread across two parcels of land. Some residences are located in the area. According to the applicant, the project has FAA clearances for structures up to 494 feet in height.

The applicant has stated that USFWS and the SHPO have been contacted. Responses have not been received. The applicant has stated that the project area has no trees or wetland areas.

The size of the project (i.e., eight wind turbines spread over 1,200 acres) raises the potential for public concern and environmental impact. Similarly, the nature of the project does not lend itself to any listed categorical exclusion applicable to general agency actions. As a result, an EA is recommended. In review of the project information, there is little reason to suspect that the project will require an EIS.

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:

DOE funds are not authorized for project site preparation and all installation activities pending outcome of the environmental assessment.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Illinois is authorized to initiate the preparation of an EA by a third-party contractor, consistent with DOE NEPA implementing regulations. DOE, Illinois, and third-party contractor shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) defining the scope of services to be completed by the third-party contractor on behalf of DOE.

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: *Robert L. Sweaney*
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 4/14/10

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: *Ch B...*
Field Office Manager

Date: 4/15/10