PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT:NREL **STATE:** MN

PROJECT TITLE : Meteorological Tower Installation Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwa Indian Reservation; NREL Tracking No. 10-012

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		NREL-10-012	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:

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:

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:

This project is for the commissioning of a meteorological (met) tower to be installed at the Ledin Site (N 46.17926 W 93.80338), located on the west side of Lake Mille Lacs on the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwa Indian Reservation, City of Onamia, Township of Kathio, County of Mille Lacs, State of Minnesota. The site is to the west of the Mille Lacs wastewater treatment facility, which has a physical address of 43282 Timber Trail Rd, Onamia, MN 56359. The Ledin Site is a Brownfield site recently purchased by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwa and is part of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 's RE-Powering America's Land: Siting Renewable Energy on Potentially Contaminated Land and Mine Sites initiative. The site was contaminated by a prior owner by illegal dumping of trash, debris, appliances, farm equipment, etc. A NREL contractor would install a 60-meter met tower at the Ledin site for up to 24 months. Data collected from the met tower anemometers, vanes and temperature sensors would be used to provide a feasibility study for wind potential at the site.

This met site proposal is on undisturbed surface not within an Airfield Safety Zone. The met tower would be located on a grassy field on the central portion of the southern extent of the property. Per the April 24, 2009 Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and the Millie Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources, the proposed met tower location is not near the potential areas of potential contamination on the property. The met tower system would be assembled onsite on consists of a tilt-up tower on a 4' x 4' steel base plate and secured by four anchor points. Data from anemometers, vanes, and temperature sensors would be collected up to 24 months and transmitted to NREL via cell phone transmission. Access to the met tower would be provided by existing roads. The tower would be dissembled and returned to NREL upon completion of the assessment.

The Mille Lacs Band indicates that no new permits are needed for the proposal, and there would no generation of air emissions or hazardous waste. Per the Environmental Assessment Worksheet provided by the Mille Lacs Band, there are no federally listed endangered or threatened species known to occur in the area. There are however red-shoulder hawks occupying the adjacent habitats and the Great Blue Heron Rookery is located approximately one mile away. To minimize impacts to songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors, bird diverters or other proven methods to make guy wires visible would be employed. The Mille Lacs Band Department of Natural Resources will be conducting an avian impact study.

Based on the information above and Mille Lacs determination to approve this proposal, this project's impacts to the human and natural environment can be deemed less than significant and this project would qualify for Categorical Exclusions A9 and B3.1(h).

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