PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT:GSA **STATE:** NY

PROJECT TITLE : Alexandria Bay, NY, Met Tower; GSA Border Station; NREL Tracking No. 10-007

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		NREL-10-007	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:

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.

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:

Rational for determination:

This project is for the commissioning of a meteorological (met) tower to be installed at the adjacent to the Alexandria Bay Land Port of Entry (LPOE), located in the Village of Alexandria Bay, Wellesley Island, Jefferson County, State of New York. The subject site is owned by the Thousand Island Bridge Authority and has granted the General Services Administration (GSA) a Right of Entry agreement to install the tower with the GSA's intention of purchasing the property in the near future. A NREL contractor would install a 50-meter met tower at the Alexandria Bay LPOE for 12 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 pre-disturbed surface not within an Airfield Safety Zone. The met tower would be located an existing staging area in the southwestern extent of Alexandria Bay Land Port of Entry facility. The met tower system would be assembled onsite on consists of a lattice tower on a concrete base with four concrete anchor points. The tower foundation would require an excavation approximately 13 feet by 13 feet by 7 feet deep. Data from anemometers, vanes, and temperature sensors would be collected with a data collector and access would be provided by existing roads. The tower would be dismantled and removed from the site following at the conclusion of the wind resource assessment.

The GSA indicates that no new permits are needed for the proposal, and the purposed action would not result in the generation of air emissions or hazardous waste. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) finalized an Environmental Assessment on April 13, 2005 and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on April 18, 2005 for the overall LPOE build out (more than 34 acres). A Categorical Exclusion Checklist specifically for the met tower installation was completed by GSA and signed on October 28, 2009. The GSA Categorical Exclusion Checklist did not note any significant environmental issues. The project site is within a CMZ, but a CMZ consistency determination letter from the State of New York was provided to the GSA on February 9, 2009. The DHS consulted with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regarding mitigating potential impacts to raptors and the Indiana bat during construction. Specifically to mitigate impacts to the Indiana bat, USFWS stated that necessary tree clearing would need to be minimized and limited to the period between October 1 and April 1. However according to GSA, the installation of the met tower will not require any tree clearing activities. Bird diverters would be installed on the guy wires, as necessary.

Based upon the information above and the GSA 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