PMC-EF2a

(2.06.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Oregon Department of Energy **STATE:** OR

PROJECT TITLE : Christmas Valley Renewable Energy Assessment

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0000424	GFO-10-169	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:

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:

DOE funds will be used to conduct a site assessment of the Christmas Valley site in central Oregon to determine if future development of the site is feasible for a large scale solar power system, as well as geothermal and wind resources. The property is BLM land formerly under U.S. Air Force Control as an Air Combat Radar transmitter site. The proposed tasks for this project are the following:

Task 1.0 – Site Assessment (B3.1): The applicant will conduct a solar site assessment examining potential issues related to direct solar access such as dust or shading, a geotechnical survey, an environmental assessment, and site platting. The solar site assessment and site platting qualify for a categorical exclusion under B3.1. The geotechnical survey and environmental assessment activities are prohibited until further information is submitted by the applicant.

Task 2.0 – Utility Interconnection Study (A9): The purpose of this task is to perform data analysis and feasibility studies to identify opportunities and challenges for delivering electricity generated from the site to the grid. CX A9 applies to this activity.

Task 3.0 – Contracts and Agreements (A9): The purpose of this task is to identify issues and potential solutions associated with establishing contracts between the State, the utilities and any third party developer(s) involved in developing this site. CX A9 applies to this activity.

Task 4.0 – Site Improvements and Preparation: The purpose of this task is to move from assessment to a project readiness stage. Depending on the outcome of the first three tasks, this task may include either physical improvements to the site or legal work. Because the exact activities of this task are not known at this time, this task is currently prohibited pending further NEPA review.

Task 5.0 – Project Management and Reporting (A9): The applicant will submit reports and other deliverables as required by the terms and conditions of the Federal Financial Assistance Award and Reporting Checklist instructions. CX A9 applies to this activity.

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:
Task 1 - Site Assessment:
-Geotechnical survey
-Environmental assessment

Task 4 Site Improvements and Preparation:
All activities

This restriction does not preclude you from:
Task 1 - Site Assessment:
-Solar site assessment
-Site platting

Task 2 - Utility Interconnection Study

Task 3 - Contracts and Agreements

Task 5 - Project Management and Reporting

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: _____ Date: 4/7/10
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