PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Westmoreland County **STATE:** PA

PROJECT TITLE : Westmoreland County (PA) - Geothermal at New Juvenile Detention Center - ARRA-EECBG

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA0000013	DE-EE0000940		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:

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

Rational for determination:

Westmoreland County (located in southwest Pennsylvania) plans to use funds as reimbursement for the cost of constructing a 100 ton ground source heat pump system serving their 48,000 square foot Juvenile Detention Building in the city of Greensburg. The project is currently substantially complete, with final commissioning expected to occur in May 2010.

The project is a 100 ton vertical closed looped ground source heat pump system consisting of 36 wells drilled vertically to a depth of 420 feet and spread across 8000 square feet. The recipient states that the site is in a previously disturbed area between the Juvenile Detention and County Detention Center buildings.

A State licensed driller was used and installation met or exceeded IGSHP and NGWA guidelines. The system has been grouted with bentonite grout. All well piping connected to the well vault was installed in a trench and backfilled. The heat exchange fluid consists of 70% water/30% glycol, which was filled by well, with any overflow put in loose barrels and returned into the automatic storage/fill system. The internal system will be filled and vented by return. The vents will be returned via hoses to the glycol feed/storage system.

The recipient maintains that no wetlands or floodplains were affected by the installation, and the project area is not in a coastal zone. The disturbed area was graded and revegetated. The recipient indicated that they have complied with all local and state regulations regarding well drilling and geothermal installation.

It has been determined that a NPDES Permit was not required from the PA Department of Environmental Protection, because less than one acre of land was being disturbed. No erosion control or stormwater approvals or permits were required for this project. The letter indicated that the project did not impact a waterbody, so no water obstruction or encroachment permits were needed. The WCD letter also maintained that a PA Natural Diversity Index (PNDI), which is run by the PA Natural Heritage Program, did not need to be performed, because no PADEP or County Conservation District permits were being obtained. However, DOE performed a PNDI review using the State's online database tool, and the search indicated that no further reviews were required by state agencies (PA Game Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Fish and Boat Commission) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The WCD asserts that they maintained a presence on site during construction and inspected erosion controls and storm water management practices and were satisfied with what had been implemented. They remain in contact with site officials.

This project has already been completed without prior NEPA approval. The County applied for pre-award costs on October 29, 2009 for the geothermal project mentioned above and stated in the letter that the construction contract was awarded June 11, 2009. The pre-award costs were later approved by the DOE Contracting Officer in a letter

dated November 11, 2009: "[T]his letter constitutes written approval to incur pre-award costs for work performed under the pending agreement." The Assistance Agreement was signed on December 21, 2009.

Through a review of the above information, it has been determined that the proposed project will not have a significant impact to human health and/or environment. Therefore the proposed project is hereby Categorically Excluded from further NEPA review under B5.1 "actions to conserve energy."

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: _____ Date: 4/23/10

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