

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: NREL

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE : STM SIDEWALK – FTLB TO WEST ENTRANCE; NREL Tracking No. 11-019

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		NREL-11-019	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:

- DOE/EA-1440** Final Site-Site Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (February 2003)
- DOE/EA-1440-S-I** Final Supplement to Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (May 2008)
- DOE/EA-1440-S-II** Final Supplement-II to Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (November 2009)

Rational for determination:

BACKGROUND

This project would be for the construction of a new pedestrian walkway located at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain (STM) Complex, City of Golden, County of Jefferson, and State of Colorado. This proposed action would occur in Site Development Zone 3 (West Campus) and Zone 4 (Central Campus). The lighted concrete sidewalk would be constructed on the north side of STM Denver West Parkway decreasing the probability of a collision between a car and a pedestrian. Currently, pedestrians must walk in the street to get to any of the buildings between the FTLB and the West Entrance. This creates an unsafe condition for pedestrians and increases the risk of an accident.

PROPOSED ACTION

The walkway would consist of a 5-foot wide sidewalk on the north side of STM Denver West Parkway adjacent to existing curb and connecting the crosswalk in front of the FTLB to the sidewalk at the STM west entrance at Quaker Street. Other components of the proposed project include:

- ADA compliant ramps at each road crossing.
- A sidewalk at the west gate pedestrian access that would replace the gravel path currently in use.
- Accommodations for sidewalk at the retaining area south of the S&R building.
- Removal and replacement of plants at road intersections.
- Removal of the gate and associated fence at the road crossing between the FTLB and OTF.
- Installation of LED sidewalk lighting similar to lighting near the FTLB and RSF buildings.
- Coordination of sidewalk at west entrance with redevelopment of Quaker intersection.

The design would be performed by Site Operations PMEC engineers. Construction would be performed by a general contractor. The construction would be completed in phases that minimize impact to the traffic flow and access to buildings along the Denver West Parkway. The contractor would set up and maintain traffic control in the area where they are working. BMP's would be placed in accordance with the approved STM SWPPP (NREL Laboratory Level Procedure 6.2-15). Existing curbs, plants and signs would be removed to accommodate construction where needed. Earth moving equipment would be used to excavate and prepare subgrade material and concrete would be placed directly from the truck. A retaining wall would be built at the S&R retention pond to provide space for the sidewalk. The disturbed areas would be regraded and seeded in accordance with the approved STM SWPPP and NREL procedures. The light poles would be similar in style, height and frequency as is along the existing sidewalk from the RSF to the FTLB.

PRIOR NEPA DETERMINATIONS

The development of this area (within Site Development Zones 3 and 4) was included and assessed in the July 2003

Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (SEWA) of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (STM) (DOE/EA-1440) with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination issued July 2003. Subsequently, campus infrastructure improvements including "landscaping, walkways, and bikepaths" in Site Development Zone 4 and 3 were analyzed as part of the Proposed Action in the May 2008 Supplement-I to the SWEA (DOE/EA-1440-S-I) and the November 2009 Supplement-II to the SWEA (DOE/EA-1440-S-II), which both resulted in FONSI determinations. Therefore, the Affected Environment and Impacts of the development of Site Development Zones 3 and 4 described in DOE/EA-1440, and infrastructure improvements analyzed in DOE/EA-1440-S-I and DOE/EA-1440-S-II are hereby incorporated by reference into this NEPA determination.

IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTION

The sidewalk would be 5 feet wide and approximately 2,845 feet in length. This would result in a square foot area of 14,225 sq ft (0.33 acres). The total disturbance is estimated to be twice that size to allow for construction equipment to work along the length of the sidewalk, to scrape and access both sides of the walkway and to install light poles and conduit along the entire length. This total disturbed area would be approximately 28,450 square feet (0.66 acres). The sidewalk would be installed adjacent to the existing curb along Denver West Parkway. The ground currently supports reclaimed grasses (smooth brome - dominating). This upland grass area is of low quality. Soil would be disturbed along the entire length of the sidewalk as the ground is graded and prepared for sidewalk installation. The retention area on the south side of the S&R building would be disturbed for the installation of a short retaining wall to provide a horizontal surface to support the sidewalk. The volume of the retention area would not be reduced by the installation of the sidewalk and retaining wall. All disturbed areas would be repaired and reseeded in accordance with the approved SWPPP.

Although the middle drainage swale is adjacent to the project location, no dredge or fill of Waters of the U.S. (WOUS) including wetlands or seeps is anticipated and storm water BMPs would be used as prescribed through the SWPPP. Additionally, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identified no jurisdictional wetlands and no WOUS at the STM site in a recent Jurisdictional Determination. The proposed project area is also not within the 100-year floodplain per FEMA FIRM Map Panel FM08059C0281E.

There are no historic properties affected by this proposed action. The development of this area, within Site Development Zone 4, was included in the Proposed Action of the 2003 SWEA, which included Section 106 consultations with SHPO. This proposed action would not impact the amphitheatre, foot bridge, or ammunition igloo. However, excavation contractors would be briefed to be aware of the possibility of resources being unearthed and to contact EHS should any features or structures be discovered during excavation. No areas of the STM Complex are identified as Prime or Unique Farmland per USDA NRCS.

There are no federally listed threatened or endangered species within the proposed project site or within the NREL STM Complex. The STM Complex is within the Denver Urban Drainage Block Clearance Zone for the Preble's mouse. Habitat for the Ute ladies-tresses orchid or the Colorado butterfly plant does not exist on the STM as confirmed by 2010 rare plant surveys. If construction begins during the bird breeding season, nesting surveys would be conducted prior to any ground disturbing activities including grubbing and grading per NREL EHS policies.

The proposed action would result in de minimis fugitive dust emissions from ground disturbing activities and mobile source pollutants from construction equipment. No generation of hazardous waste is anticipated and the project would utilize minimal hazardous materials. NREL and all contractors would abide by established protocols and procedures for the management of munitions of concern and other potentially hazardous artifacts from former Camp George West activities/operations. NREL and all contractors would follow all federal, state, local safety and security regulations.

Neighbors have expressed concerns about lighting from the surface parking lot. The sidewalk lighting would be on timers and motion sensors similar to the lighting along the sidewalk from the RSF to the FTLB.

NEPA DETERMINATION

As this entire scope of this proposed project was analyzed as part of the proposed action in DOE/EA-1440-S-I and DOE/EA-1440-S-II and with no extraordinary circumstances identified, the May 2008 and November 2009 FONSI determinations apply to this proposed action.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

EF2a prepared by Rob Smith on 04/08/2010

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Lori Plummer *Lori Plummer* Date: 4/8/2011
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