PMC-EF2a

(2.06.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Hull Municipal Light Plant **STATE:** MA

PROJECT TITLE : Hull Municipal Light Plant Offshore Wind Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
CDP	DE-EE0000326	GFO-0000326-002	GO326

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, analysis, and dissemination	Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)
B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring	Site characterization and environmental monitoring (including, but not limited to, siting, construction, modification, operation, and dismantlement and removal or otherwise proper closure (such as of a well) 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). Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. (This class of actions excludes activities in aquatic environments. See B3.16 of this appendix for such activities.) Specific activities include, but are not limited to: (a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, radar, and temperature gradient), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, and the establishment of survey marks. Seismic techniques would not include large-scale reflection or refraction testing; (b) Installation and operation of field instruments (such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools); (c) Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells; (d) Aquifer and underground reservoir response testing; (e) Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment; (f) Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants (such as drilling using truck- or mobile-scale equipment, and modification, use, and plugging of boreholes); (g) Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams; (h) Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities (such as assessment of potential wind energy resources); (i) Sampling of flora or fauna; and (j) Archeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 800 and 43 CFR part 7.

Rational for determination:

The Town of Hull, Massachusetts (Hull) is proposing to use Congressionally Directed federal funding to research and promote Offshore Wind Technology in Massachusetts and the United States. In order to achieve this goal, Hull is proposing to host an Offshore Wind workshop, conduct research by attending National Wind Power events and desktop studies, and then research the feasibility of an offshore wind facility off the City's coast.

This NEPA review is a continuation of a prior review (GFO-0000326-001) that evaluated Phase 1, consisting of Tasks 1 and 2. Activities conducted under these tasks were determined to have no significant impact on the human or natural environment and a DOE CX A9 was applied. This review is being conducted for Phase 2 (Tasks 3.1 – 3.6) activities.

The project tasks are as follows:

Phase 1:
Task 1.0 Prepare Workshop Agenda and Marketing Research for Offshore Wind Workshop.
Task 2.0 Research for Offshore Wind Energy Facilities

Phase 2:
Task 3.0 Develop a Project Plan for an Offshore Wind R&D Platform and an Offshore Wind Generation Facility

(Offshore Wind Turbines)
Subtask 3.1 Analyze Wind Resources
Subtask 3.2 Evaluate Critical Permitting Obstacles
Subtask 3.3 Develop a Project Plan
Subtask 3.3.1 Develop an Engineering Design for the Offshore Wind R&D Facility
Subtask 3.3.2 Identify Turbine Equipment Manufactures
Subtask 3.3.3 Identify Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Companies
Subtask 3.3.4 Evaluate Regulatory and Permitting Requirements/Needs
Subtask 3.3.5 Evaluate Electrical Load Increase Issues
Subtask 3.4 Evaluate Financial Feasibility
Subtask 3.5 Gauge Public Support
Subtask 3.6. Regulatory and Permitting

Task 3 activities are being proposed in order to assist the Town of Hull, Massachusetts, to assess the offshore wind potential for waters off their coastline. Subtasks 3.2 through 3.6 would exclusively include research via desktop studies to determine the feasibility, cost effectiveness, and regulatory requirements for developing their offshore wind potential. These subtasks are consistent with actions outlined in A9 (information gathering, literature surveys, and feasibility studies) and are, therefore, categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Activities proposed in Task 3.1 would involve temporarily installing a SODAR wind measurement unit that would help Hull better define specific wind resource proximal to the site and aid in determining whether the site meets turbine operating parameters.

Hull is proposing to install a Triton SODAR sonic wind profiler and remote sensing unit that measures 6x9 feet at its base, is about 6 feet tall and weighs approximately 750lbs. They are proposing to place it on city property in the back of Hull High school in a secured and fenced section of school grounds that had been previously used as practice athletic fields. The unit would not require any site prep and would be secured to the ground via four 18 inch screws; therefore minimal ground disturbance would occur upon installation. The unit would be deployed up to 12 months to collect sufficient information to assess the wind potential for the area.

DOE conducted an online data search and determined, via FEMA and USGS National inventory maps, that the site was neither on or near wetlands and not within a 100 year flood plain area. DOE also determined, based on a conversation with the State of Massachusetts Historical Commission that the site is not on or near any registered historical resources.

In view of the information above, DOE has determined that the impacts related to task 3.1 are anticipated to have negligible affects on the human and natural environment. The proposed project is consistent with actions outlined in B3.1 (site characterization and environmental monitoring and Installation and operation of field instruments) and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

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: Electronically Signed By Lori Gray / Lori Gray — Date: 8/2/2012

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