PMC-EF2a
(2.06.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Modoc Contracting Company

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : Canby Cascaded Geothermal Development Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000318	DE-EE0004431	GFO-0004431-001	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:

Modoc Contracting Company (MCC) would use U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) grant funds to fulfill its plan to expand its reliance on geothermal resources by producing more hot water and using it to produce power as well as thermal energy. The goal of the project is to complete a cascaded geothermal system that generates green power for the local community, provides thermal energy to support a greenhouse and aquaculture operation, provides sustainable thermal energy for residential units, and eliminates the existing geothermal discharge to a local river.

The project is divided into three phases with multiple tasks. This NEPA determination is specific to Phase I activities. As part of the requirements of the Funding Opportunity Announcement that this project was selected under (DE-FOA-0000318), a down select process will determine which projects will move forward to Phase II. If this award is selected to move forward, more specific project data would be submitted for Phase II/Phase III activities and another NEPA determination would be needed at that time.

Phase 1
1.0 Conduct Environmental Review and Obtain Permits
2.0 Engineer Cascaded Geothermal Power and Thermal System – this includes selection of the generator module, obtaining power plant specifications, preliminary engineering and design, preparing a construction cost estimate, and completing a performance projection.
3.0 Injection Site Study – this includes selection of the site for the injection well, submitting an injection site report, and preparing a drilling and injection test plan. A flow test of a production well is planned so that the proposed injection well can be sized to accommodate the appropriate flow rate.
4.0 Power Sales, Interconnection Study and Transmission Analysis
5.0 Prepare Monthly Progress Reports and Final Feasibility Report

Phase 2 – Construction of the Cascaded Geothermal System
Phase 3 – Long Term Operations and Maintenance of the Facility

Condition of Approval: Allowable – Phase 1 (all tasks); Prohibited – Phase 2 (all tasks) and Phase 3 (all tasks).

Based upon the information provided, Phase 1 (all tasks) is categorically excluded under CX A9 "Information gathering/data analysis/document preparation/dissemination", and CX B3.1 "Site characterization/environmental monitoring."

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:
Phase 2 (all tasks)
Phase 3
This restriction does not preclude you from:
Phase 1 (all tasks)
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 :

This project involves tasks which are unallowable prior to further environmental analysis of Phase 2 (all tasks) and Phase 3 (all tasks). NEPA requests that this project be placed on ASAP Approval.

EF2a prepared by Casey Strickland

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 12/3/10
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