PMC-EF2a
(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT:NREL **STATE:** CO

PROJECT TITLE : Research Support Facility II, Cafeteria; NREL Tracking No. 11-003

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		NREL-11-003	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)

B1.15 Siting, construction (or modification), and operation of support buildings and support structures (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated buildings) within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Covered support buildings and structures include those for office purposes; parking; cafeteria services; education and training; visitor reception; computer and data processing services; employee health services or recreation activities; routine maintenance activities; storage of supplies and equipment for administrative services and routine maintenance activities; security (including security posts); fire protection; and similar support purposes, but excluding facilities for waste storage activities, except as provided in other parts of this appendix.

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:

BACKGROUND

The proposed project would be for the construction and operation of a cafeteria located at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain (STM) Complex, City of Golden, County of Jefferson, and State of Colorado. The cafeteria and associated infrastructure would be located in Site Development Zone 4 (Central Campus) in the parcel to the west of the Research Support Facility (RSF) I on the western side of the middle drainage and to north of Denver West Parkway. The proposed development area would be at approximately 39.7403°N 105.1726°W.

PROPOSED ACTION

The project would consist of a one- or two-story building of approximately 12,000 SQFT with an 8,000 SQFT footprint and 4,000 SQFT mezzanine and outside seating area. With infrastructure, excavation, work areas, laydown areas, and spoils piles the disturbance area is estimated at approximately 20,000 SQFT (8,000 building + 4,000 mezzanine and outside seating + 4,000 spoils + 4,000 road access and laydown areas). The rooftop may incorporate a seating area, photovoltaic panels, solar hot water heaters and/or a "greenroof." The construction method would consist of a combination of slab-on-grade and drilled piers and pre-cast exterior panels. Design criteria would incorporate sustainable principles and be constructed to LEED Gold standards as a minimum.

The cafeteria building would have an east wall that would come within 50 feet from the centerline of the middle drainage (see attached map in PMC). From this point, an open-air patio would extend another 20 to 25 feet closer to the drainage and would be supported by concrete piers. This distance extends into the 100-foot arroyo setback specified in the NREL Campus Master Plan for STM drainageway protection and preservation, but would not result in significant impacts to habitat or wildlife. A walkway would be constructed to intersect other existing walkways along

the middle drainage and to link up the cafeteria to the RSF buildings and other existing facilities (see attached map in PMC) for pedestrian use. Some retaining walls would be installed along the western bank of the middle drainage (see attached map in PMC). These walls would likely be gabion baskets and be tiered to gain the desired height instead of stacking to make one large wall. Current storm water drainage of areas west of this site would be rerouted away from Denver West Parkway to the northeast through an underground pipe and conveyed to the middle drainage via an outfall structure or seep.

PRIOR NEPA DETERMINATIONS

This area is one of the areas of the STM complex identified in the NREL Campus Master Plan as developable. The development of this area (within Site Development Zone 4 – Central Campus) 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 in Site Development Zone 4 were analyzed 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 Zone 4 – Central Campus 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 proposed project would cause approximately 20,000 SQFT (0.46 acres) of land disturbance during the site development and construction phases. While this area of disturbance is less than 1.0 acre, it is anticipated that this area of disturbance would be captured under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity General Permit via existing Notice or Intents (NOIs) and added in the storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) for the RSF II. This would supplement the master STM SWPPP and NREL Laboratory Level Procedure 6.2-15.

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. While the proposed cafeteria location is within the 100-foot arroyo setback specified in the NREL Campus Master Plan, NREL, DOE and the Design/Build Team are developing a site build-out plan that meets the spirit of the buffer area and minimizes the impact to the middle drainage including wildlife migration.

Fugitive air emissions from construction activities would be controlled in accordance with the existing STM land disturbance air permit (APCD# 08JE0889L), including mitigation measures like dust suppression. The construction phases would require the utilization of mobile point emission sources, such as front-end loaders, excavators, scrapers, and dump trucks, but these emissions would be negligible given the size and duration of the construction activity. Once operational, the cafeteria would have some minor air emissions from building mechanical systems and food preparation appliances, such as ranges and/or grills. These air pollutant point sources would be compliant with applicable requirements of the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission regulations, including but not limited to, Regulations No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3. Furthermore, air conditioning/ventilating systems; fires and equipment used for noncommercial cooking of food for human consumption, or cooking of food for human consumption at commercial food service establishments; janitorial activities; and individual pieces of fuel burning equipment that utilizes a gaseous fuel with a max input capacity of less than 10MMBtu/hr for personal comfort heat are exempt from Air Pollutant Emission Notice (APEN) requirements pursuant with Sections II.D.1.b.; II.D.1.e.; II.D.1.pp.; and II.D.1.ggg. of Part A of Colorado Air Quality Control Commission Regulation No. 3 (5 CCR 1001-5).

The operation of the cafeteria would result increased consumption of water, natural gas, electricity, utilization of hazardous chemicals (i.e. cleaning supplies, etc.), generation of wastewater and grease. Water, natural gas, and electricity consumption would be limited by incorporation of sustainable design principals and features into the

building, such as solar powered water heaters, photovoltaic panels, Energy Star appliances, and low-flow toilets and water-free urinals, day lighting, etc. The wastewater effluent would pass through an onsite oil/water separator designed and installed in accordance with applicable codes prior to discharging the effluent into the sanitary sewer system. The oil/water separator would be properly maintained and the accumulated oils, greases, and solids would be sent offsite for proper management at appropriately licensed disposal or recycling facilities. No generation of hazardous waste is anticipated.

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.

NEPA DETERMINATION
Based upon the information above and the analysis of the July 2003 DOE/EA-1440, May 2008 DOE/EA-1440-S-I, and November 2009 DOE/EA-1440-S-II with their Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determinations, this project's impacts to the human and natural environment can be deemed less than significant, this project would qualify for Categorical Exclusions B1.15, and B5.1.

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 11/26/2010

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Lori Plummer Date: 12/10/2010
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