PMC-EF2a
(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: NRG Energy, Inc. **STATE:** TX

PROJECT TITLE: Evaluation of Wilcox Geothermal Reservoir and Demonstration of Geothermal Energy Production PHASE I

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000318	DE-EE0004437	GFO-0004437-001	4437

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:

Energent Corporation (NRG) would use U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) grant funds to demonstrate a geothermal resource to produce electricity. Phase I would include a feasibility study, preliminary design and permits needed. Phase II would include the procurement, installation, and testing of the equipment. Phase III would include operation and maintenance of the facility.

The project is divided into three phases with multiple tasks and sub-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 would determine which projects would 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- Feasibility Study, Engineering Design, and Permitting
Task 1 - Assessment of Existing Data
Task 2 - Permitting Requirements, Applications, and Approvals
Task 3 - Development of a Reservoir Model
Task 4 - Drilling Plan and Well Testing Protocols
Task 5 - Design Requirements for Test Equipment and Demonstration Equipment
Task 6 – Water Management and Evaluation of CO2 Storage Potential
Task 7 - Project Performance Estimate
Task 8 - Cost Estimates for Phase 2
Task 9 - Project Risk Assessment
Task 10 - Project Schedule and Resource Plan
Task 11 – Feasibility Analysis
Task 12 - Management and Reporting
Down-Selection Process Following Completion of Phase 1:

Phase 2 - Procurement, Installation, and Commissioning of Equipment

Phase 3 – Operation and Maintenance of Facility

Condition of Approval: Allowable – Phase I (all tasks); Prohibited – Phase II and III (all tasks).

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

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 II and III (all tasks)
This restriction does not preclude you from:
Phase I (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 II (all tasks). NEPA requests that this project be placed on ASAP Approval.

This EF2A was written by Christopher Carusona

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 12/14/10
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