PMC-EF2a
(2.06.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Research Foundation of SUNY **STATE:** NY

PROJECT TITLE : Improving atmospheric models for offshore wind resource mapping and prediction using LIDAR, aircraft, and in-ocean observations

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000414	DE-EE0005377	GFO-0005377-001	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:

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.

B3.2 Aviation activities
Aviation activities for survey, monitoring, or security purposes that comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

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.)

A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations
Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rational for determination:

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to State University of New York (SUNY) to develop, research, model, and collect data of environmental factors that influence wind turbine structures along the Atlantic coast. This study would include information gathering, data analysis and modeling, mapping, and reporting.

SUNY would design, plan, and install a data collection system at the existing offshore Cape Wind Tower (CW) site near Nantucket Island. Instrumentation including, anemometers and optical wave sensors would be installed on Cape Wind Tower site and powered by existing solar photovoltaic array. Transportation to and from the CW tower would be by a water taxi service owned and operated by Patriot Party Boats, Inc. and would follow all US Coast Guard safety and operating procedures. Additionally, a Long-EZ aircraft would collect weather data using an attached Best Aircraft Turbulence (BAT) probe. All aviation activities would follow Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety, and operating procedures. The data collected would be modeled, mapped, and reported at conferences.

Instrumentation will be installed temporarily at and existing operational wind tower site. DOE does not expect any impacts to Threatened or Endangered (T&E) species or T&E species habitat. DOE also has determined that this project will not affect any cultural or historic resources.

This project comprises information gathering, site characterization/environmental monitoring, and aviation activities; therefore the DOE has categorized this project into Categorical Exclusions A9, B3.1, and B3.2.

Budget: $ 675,219.00 (DOE); $ 198,379 (cost share)

Condition of Approval: Where applicable, SUNY and the project sub-contractors will meet other Federal Agency rules and regulations, such as the Federal Aviation Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Park Service and U.S. Coast Guard.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:
Where applicable, SUNY and the project sub-contractors will meet other Federal Agency rules and regulations, such as the Federal Aviation Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Park Service and U.S. Coast Guard.

Note to Specialist :

EF2A by Christopher Carusona

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 2/22/2012
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 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