

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: Sprint Communications Company L.P.

STATE: Mult

PROJECT TITLE : Recovery Act: Demonstrating Economic and Operational Viability of 72-Hour Hydrogen PEM Fuel Cell Systems to Support Emergency Communications on the Sprint Network

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-PS36-08GO98009	DE-EE0000486	GFO-10-071	EE486

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.

Rational for determination:

Sprint Communications Company L.P. would use DOE funding demonstrate the economic and operational viability of utilizing fuel cells to provide backup power for mission-critical communication sites that require 72-hours of autonomous operation.

Sprint will deliver, install, and operate 260 new hydrogen PEM fuel cell systems, 330 on site refillable medium pressure hydrogen storage systems (in support of 260 new sites and 70 existing sites), and provide periodic performance reports from the operating systems. The systems will be either 4/5kW or 10kW systems.

This project consists of the following tasks:

- Task 1 - Configure 72-Hour Hydrogen Fuel Storage Options ["generic" (typical) Hydrogen Fuel Cell (HFC) deployment scenarios]
- Task 2 - Address National Hydrogen Permitting Barriers to 72-Hour Fuel Storage Configurations
- Task 3 - Define System Monitoring Requirements and Last Mile Re-Fueling Strategies
- Task 4 - Identify Exact Site Locations and Local Siting & Permitting Barriers to Deployment
- Task 5 - Procure, Install and Commission Fuel Cell Systems into Operation
- Task 6 - Collect Fuel Cell System Data
- Task 7 - Analyze Data, Produce Project Reports and Share Best Practices with DOE

Tasks 1 – 4 and 7 involve researching deployment scenarios, barriers, monitoring development, site identification/surveying, and permitting necessities for the installations of backup fuel cell systems. These tasks comprise information gathering, data analysis, and planning activities; therefore a CX A9 will apply.

Tasks 5 – 6 will involve the installation and commissioning of the fuel cell systems on 330 cell tower location. Details on these activities are not specified at this time; therefore a NEPA determination cannot be made until more information has been supplied on installations.

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.

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:

Tasks 5 and 6 - pending submittal of an EF1 for the first twenty (20) selected sites
Construction, site prep or deployment activities of hydrogen fuel cell backup power systems for cell towers.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 - including preliminary planning activities for construction, site prep, and deployment activities of the hydrogen fuel cell backup power systems for cell towers.

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.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

You are required to submit the GO-EF1 Environmental Checklist form to DOE as well as the Environmental Questionnaire for each of the first twenty (20) selected sites under this award. You are restricted from taking any additional action at these sites using Federal funds prior to receiving authorization from DOE.

Upon receipt and review of the EF1 and Environmental Questionnaire, DOE Contracting Officer will provide written notification of authorization to proceed. After review of the first twenty sites, DOE will determine the need for any additional site-specific information and will notify recipient of any subsequent environmental questionnaire requirements. You are restricted from taking any action at these sites prior to receiving authorization from DOE.

Note to Specialist :

This project has NEPA conditions placed on tasks involving future installations pending additional information and EF1 submissions. We request this project be placed on ASAP approval for funding.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

1/19/10

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:

Field Office Manager

Date:
