

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: NREL

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE : South Table Mountain Site-Wide EA; NREL Tracking No. 12-003

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		NREL-12-003	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:

C12 Energy system demonstration actions

Siting, construction, operation, and decommissioning of energy system demonstration actions (including, but not limited to, wind resource, hydropower, geothermal, fossil fuel, biomass, and solar energy, but excluding nuclear). For purposes of this category, "demonstration actions" means actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

DOE/EA 1440 (NREL STM)

Final Site-Site Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (February 2003)

Rational for determination:

The 327-acre National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) South Table Mountain (STM) site is located on the southeast side of South Table Mesa, north of I-70 and west of the I-70 and Denver West Boulevard interchange in unincorporated Jefferson County, near Golden, Colorado. The STM site provides laboratory, testing, and office space, as well as support infrastructure and a visitor's center. The Denver West Office Park (DWOP) is located east of the STM site in the vicinity of the I-70/Denver West Boulevard interchange near Golden, Colorado. DOE and NREL occupy three buildings located at the eastern end of the office complex (Buildings 15, 16, and 17) and one building (Building 27) located north of I-70 just east of the STM site. DWOP provides administrative offices and space for limited laboratory activity. Combined, the STM site and the DWOP are referred to as the STM Complex.

In July 2003, DOE issued the Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's South Table Mountain Complex and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for proposed site development activities (DOE/EA-1440). The site-wide environmental assessment (SWEA) evaluated the impacts that would be associated with long-term build-out of the STM site and the areas suitable for future development. As project-specific funding has become available to implement the STM site build-out vision, additional project-specific NEPA analyses have been generated as well as supplemental NEPA analyses to update the SWEA in accordance with Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1021.330.

In July 2007, DOE issued the Final Environmental Assessment of Three Site Development Projects at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory South Table Mountain Site (DOE/EA-1573). This environmental assessment (EA) tiered off the SWEA, provided updated descriptions of the existing environment at the STM site, and impacts expected from the three proposed projects including the construction and operation of the RFHP.

Subsequent NEPA analyses have been conducted as necessary to respond to changes in laboratory operations, build-out, programs, and mission. DOE issued its first supplement to the SWEA (SWEA/S-I), Final Supplement to Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's South Table Mountain Complex (DOE/EA-1440-S-1) in May 2008, and a second supplement to the SWEA (SWEA/S-II), Final Supplement-II to Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's South Table Mountain Complex (DOE/EA-1440-S-II) in November 2009. These supplemental NEPA documents also tiered off the SWEA, provided updated descriptions of the existing environment at the STM site, and the impacts expected from their respective Proposed Actions.

The DOE NEPA implementing regulations [10 CFR 1021.330(d)] require DOE to evaluate existing site-wide NEPA documents at least every five years to determine whether it adequately addresses current agency plans, functions, programs and resource utilization with respect to environmental impacts.

A new Site-Wide EA is proposed to evaluate the potential individual and cumulative environmental impacts of reasonably foreseeable activities at the STM. Currently, natural resource surveys are in progress including wildlife and vegetation surveys to establish current baseline conditions of the STM. The proposed EA would address any changes in the regional environment that may have occurred since the previous EA and would evaluate new site development proposals and operations. A site-wide review provides an overall NEPA baseline that is useful for tiering or as a reference when preparing project-specific NEPA reviews. The environmental impact information that a site-wide review provides can be incorporated by reference in later NEPA reviews, so that later reviews can be simpler in scope and focus on project-specific issues.

Reasonably foreseeable activities for the STM are discussed in a number of DOE/NREL planning documents including the Fiscal Years 2010-2021 Ten-Year Site Plan, the Fiscal Years 2011-2022 Ten Year Site Plan, and the NREL Campus Master Plan. During the EA scoping process, NREL and DOE staff would collaborate with appropriate STM staff, the public and stakeholders to clearly define the proposed action(s) and alternatives to be addressed in the new Site-Wide EA.

Existing information is not available to determine if any impacts from future proposed actions would be significant or if they could be mitigated. Upon completion of the EA, it would be determined if it was necessary to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or if a Finding of No Significant Impact could be issued.

Development of the EA, including all NEPA components, such as soliciting public input on the EA Scoping and the Draft EA (including public meetings) would be completed by a subcontractor (to be determined) and the Alliance for Sustainable Energy staff. A DOE NEPA Document Manager would be assigned to oversee the EA process. Ongoing natural resource surveys have already received NEPA determinations and are in progress.

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:
Prepare a Site-Wide EA, following the format and protocol prescribed by the DOE.

Note to Specialist :

EF2a prepared by Rob Smith 1/13/2012 and revised on 1/19/2012.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 1/19/2012

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: 1-24-12