

PMC-EF2a

(20102)

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



RECIPIENT:NREL

STATE: CO

PROJECT IBRF Construction – Phase II – Replacement of Temporary Berm by Permanent Foundation for IBRF;
TITLE : NREL Tracking No. 10-033

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		NREL-10-033	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)
--------------------	---

Rational for determination:

B1.6 Installation or modification of retention tanks or small (normally under one acre) basins and associated piping and pumps for existing operations to control runoff or spills (such as under 40 CFR part 112). Modifications include, but are not limited to, installing liners or covers.

The proposed project would be for storm water improvements associated with AFUF/IBRF facility construction activity 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 improvements would occur directly south of the IBRF/AFUF facility in the northern right-of-way of Denver West Parkway, and approximately located at 39.7403°N 105.1807°W. This area was classified in the July 2003 Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (SWEA) of the NREL STM Complex (DOE/EA-1440) as Development Zone 3 (West Campus), and was analyzed for additional site development including modifications to existing facilities, such as the AFUF, and infrastructure improvements, such as storm water control and detention.

In November 2009, NREL completed a NEPA determination (NEPA Worksheet, dated 11/5/09) for the construction of a temporary berm over the drainage swale that occurs south of the AFUF/IBRF, and north of Denver West Parkway. That conditional NEPA approval stated that any proposed plans for converting the berm or temporary driveway to permanent structures, or to extend the berm to the east, would require additional NEPA review. The IBRF Stage I construction was complete in June, 2010, and Stage II is scheduled to begin in early August 2010. In accordance with the previous conditional NEPA approval, this NEPA submittal relates to a proposed permanent modification to the existing berm, to accommodate the new IBRF Stage II project. The permanent berm would encompass the existing footprint of the temporary berm, and would extend an additional 50 lineal feet (approximately) east on the existing water detention pond area directly to the south of the AFUF building. Work for this project would include: 1) removal of the existing fill material; 2) removal of an existing 36" diameter "temporary" plastic corrugated storm pipe; 3) installation of new, permanent 24" diameter reinforced concrete pipe to storm sewer; and 4) backfill and compaction with select fill material in accordance with the IBRF Stage II design.

Based on a drainage analysis (March 19, 2010), uploaded to the PMC database, it was determined that, even before initiating the IBRF construction project, the drainage system in the West Campus of NREL was insufficient in some cases to detain flows from a 100-year storm. For the proposed project, extending the berm to the east would further reduce the water detention capacity of the current detention Pond C, located south of the AFUF. However, Pond B, upstream of the AFUF, and south of the Shipping and Receiving Building, has the capacity to retain more water than it currently can hold (see IMG_9177 S&R Pond B1, View Looking West #2.jpg). Water currently flows quickly out of Pond B because the lower left portion of the outlet structure orifice plate is missing (see IMG_9182 S&R Pond B1, View Looking East #2.jpg, uploaded to this database). The plan would be to correct this rapid flow by replacing the existing orifice plate with a 9.5" outlet structure orifice plate that would allow water to drain the Pond B area more

slowly (see drawing: IBRF Stage II Phase 1 Civil Drwg #IBRF-001-C500 (2).pdf, uploaded to the PMC database). This would compensate for any decrease in detention capacity in Pond C, associated with this proposed project. Without the proposed improvements, the drainage analysis shows the IBRF to be increasing the discharge rate to the downstream neighborhood. The proposed drainage improvements would mitigate this impact, and achieve discharge rates similar to pre-IBRF conditions.

As the total area of land disturbance may exceed one acre, NREL and the construction contractor would file a Notice of Intents (NOIs) with US EPA Region VIII for storm water associated with construction activity permit and develop a site-specific storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) to supplement the STM SWPPP and NREL policy 6.2-15 as needed. 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 required of the contractor per NREL procedures. Additionally, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identified no jurisdictional wetlands and no WOUS at the STM site in a recent jurisdictional determination. There would be no historic properties affected by this proposed action. The development of this area, within Site Development Zone 3, was scope within the 2003 SWEA, which included formal consultations with SHPO. This proposed action would not impact the amphitheatre, foot bridge, or ammunition igloo. No federally listed threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitats have been identified at the STM. Fugitive particulate emissions from the construction 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, scrapers, dump trucks etc., but these emissions would be negligible given the size and duration of the construction activity. NREL and all contractors would follow all federal, state, local safety and security regulations.

Based upon the information above and the findings July 2003 Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's South Table Mountain Complex (DOE/EA-1440) with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determined issued July 2003, this project's impacts to the human and natural environment can be deemed less than significant, this project would qualify for Categorical Exclusions B1.6.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

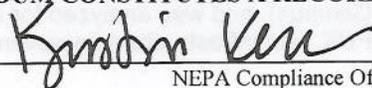
Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

EF2A created by Rob Smith on 07/29/2010

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/29/2010

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: _____