

PMC-EF2a

(20102)

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



RECIPIENT: Iowa Office of Energy Independence

STATE: IA

PROJECT TITLE : Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) wind turbine

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA000052	DE-EE0000162	GFO-09-144-007	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:

- B5.1** Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.
- 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:

The State of Iowa will provide \$131,500 in Recovery Act funds to The Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) located at 2006 South Ankeny Blvd, Ankeny, IA for the installation of a 50 kW wind turbine.

The wind turbine will be connected to the Iowa Energy Center Energy Resource Station (Building #23) and the DMACC electrical distribution system located on the DMACC Campus. The footprint of the wind turbine will impact approximately 256sqft of land and involve excavation of a 30-inch deep, 400ft trench that will accommodate the electrical line connecting the turbine to Building #23. The trench will be refilled and area restored to original condition. The area impacted by the construction is previously disturbed land.

The Iowa Energy Center will partner with DMACC and provide data acquisition equipment to monitor the energy performance and manage the important data evaluation and analysis processes. Live performance data will be available on the Iowa Energy Center website. DMACC has a wind turbine technician program and these students will utilize the wind turbine as part of their curriculum.

Consultations were requested from the following agencies: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office, the Office of the State Archeologist, and the City of Ankeny. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicated that the project would not likely impact federally-listed endangered or threatened species; the FAA stated that the turbine structure does not exceed obstruction standards and would not be a hazard to air navigation; the Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service recommended that the turbine site be checked for mortality to bats once operational; the Office of the State Archeologist indicated no archaeological site within or very near the project location; and the Iowa SHPO states that no sites have been recorded within or very near the project area.

As for the City of Ankeny, the City Council approved Resolution No. 2010-041 which (1) ...directs staff to prepare regulations governing small wind energy conversion systems..." and (2) directs "that the City staff work with the Des Moines Community College and Ankeny Zoning Board of Adjustment to process and evaluate the Community College proposal within the current guidelines as a special use permit...." The College is still awaiting final approval for the special use permit.

Based on the information received from the State; recipient; and various federal, state, and local, organizations, the work outlined is consistent with activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B5.1, "Actions to conserve energy" and A9, "Information gathering/data analysis" and may proceed pending final approval by the City of Ankeny for the special

use permit requested by the College.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

Provide the DOE project officer with a copy of the City of Ankeny special use permit for the wind turbine.

Note to Specialist :

According to the project officer, funding for this project is \$131,500. Absent a significant change in the scope of this effort, a change in funding will not affect my determination.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/28/10

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: _____