

PMC-EF2a

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



(2.04.02)

**RECIPIENT:** Minnesota Municipal Power Agency**STATE:** MN**PROJECT TITLE :** St. Francis School Buffalo Minnesota Better Buildings

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-EE0003810	GFO-0003810-SF1	

**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:

<b>A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b>	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.)
<b>B2.1 Workplace enhancements</b>	Modifications within or contiguous to an existing structure, in a previously disturbed or developed area, to enhance workplace habitability (including, but not limited to, installation or improvements to lighting, radiation shielding, or heating/ventilating/air conditioning and its instrumentation, and noise reduction).
<b>B2.2 Building and equipment instrumentation</b>	Installation of, or improvements to, building and equipment instrumentation (including, but not limited to, remote control panels, remote monitoring capability, alarm and surveillance systems, control systems to provide automatic shutdown, fire detection and protection systems, water consumption monitors and flow control systems, announcement and emergency warning systems, criticality and radiation monitors and alarms, and safeguards and security equipment).
<b>B5.19 Ground source heat pumps</b>	The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available smallscale ground source heat pumps to support operations in single facilities (such as a school or community center) or contiguous facilities (such as an office complex) (1) only where (a) major associated activities (such as drilling and discharge) are regulated, and (b) appropriate leakage and contaminant control measures would be in place (including for cross-contamination between aquifers); (2) that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in subsurface temperature; and (3) would be located within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

**Rational for determination:**

DOE grant funds would be used to install a 157 ton, closed vertical loop ground source heat pump (GSHP) system at the existing 76,000 square foot St. Francis Xavier School located at 219 19th Street NW, Buffalo, MN 55313.

The area of disturbance for the well field is approximately 50,800 square feet. All trenching that is required for the supply and return lines running from the well field to the geothermal heat exchange equipment and between the wells themselves would be backfilled and would meet State of Minnesota mandated specifications for site and soil restoration. The GSHP would be a closed, vertical loop system utilizing a 25% or higher ratio of food-grade propylene glycol to water as an anti-freeze solution. Installation of the wells would follow Minnesota Department of Health rules/procedures and International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA) installation standards. The drilling contractor is IGSHPA certified.

Project work would occur on previously disturbed ground (formerly cropland) that is not within either a floodplain or a wetland. The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the project and in a letter dated February 24, 2012, concluded that "no properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by this project." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program website does not list any endangered species within the county where the project is located (Wright County).

Funds associated with this award: \$3,398,252 (DOE)

Based on the information outlined above and a review of the planned GSHP system, it is determined that this proposed project would not have a significant impact to human health and/or environment. Therefore the proposed project is hereby Categoricaly Excluded under A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination", B2.1

"Workplace enhancements", B2.2 "Building and equipment instrumentation", and B5.19 "Ground source heat pumps", from further NEPA review.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

EF2a prepared by Casey Strickland

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Date: 3/13/2012  
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