PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: NREL **STATE:** CO

PROJECT TITLE: High-Flux Solar Furnace Building Expansion; NREL Tracking No. 10-020

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		NREL-10-020	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)

DOE/EA-1573 Finding of no significant impact and final environmental assessment of three site development projects at The National Renewable Energy Laboratory South Table Mountain Site

B1.15 Siting, construction (or modification), and operation of support buildings and support structures (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated buildings) within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Covered support buildings and structures include those for office purposes; parking; cafeteria services; education and training; visitor reception; computer and data processing services; employee health services or recreation activities; routine maintenance activities; storage of supplies and equipment for administrative services and routine maintenance activities; security (including security posts); fire protection; and similar support purposes, but excluding facilities for waste storage activities, except as provided in other parts of this appendix.

Rational for determination:

The proposed project consists of the expansion of the High Flux Solar Building (FHSB) at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain (STM) Complex, City of Golden, County of Jefferson, and State of Colorado. The HFSB is located on the mesa top in Site Development Zone 1 at 39.7428°N 105.1783°W. The scope of this proposed project would include the construction of a 20-ft by 24-ft single-story expansion on the west side of the FHSB and the completion of the necessary supporting utility infrastructure.

The expansion space would consist of office space and a restroom. The wastewater that would be generated by the restroom would be connected to the existing individual wastewater disposal system, a septic and leach field system, with a rated capacity of 450 gallons per day and the capability to service up to 25 people per day. The existing system is adequately sized for the proposed action and would comply with State of Colorado and Jefferson County IWDS regulations. In addition to the 480 SQFT FHSB expansion, this proposed project would require a utility trench for the new water, wastewater, and natural gas lines emanating from the Solar Radiation Research Laboratory (SRRL) building running north through previously disturbed soil (mainly the existing parking area) to the FHSB. The trench excavation would measure 5-ft wide by 6-ft deep with a length of 210 feet. The total area of land disturbance for this proposed action, 1530 SQFT, would be far less than the threshold (1 acre or 43560 SQFT) for requiring a storm water associated with construction activity permit with Region VIII EPA. However, to limit potential erosion and promote sediment control, NREL would implement Best Management Practices as per their STM Storm Water Pollution Prevention procedure (Procedure 6-2.15).

Impacts to the human and natural environment by NREL construction on the mesa top have been previously assessed by DOE/NREL in the July 2003 Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (DOE/EA 1440) as well as the July 2007 Final Environmental Assessment of Three Site Development Projects at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory South Table Mountain Site (DOE/EA 1573). Findings of no significant impacts were issued for both EAs. DOE/EA 1440 specifically included the "modification of existing facilities," such as "various internal and external improvements," in Site Development Zone 1 (mesa top) within its Proposed Action. This proposed expansion of the FHSB would not impact any cultural resources, designated wetlands or floodplains, federally listed endangered or threatened species, designated critical habitat, or prime farmlands. The proposed action would be conducted in accordance with existing NREL environmental, health, and safety protocols and procedures.

In 2005, a wildlife survey identified no threatened, endangered, or candidate wildlife species at STM, nor was there habitat for such species identified. Similarly, in 2001 a vegetation survey listed only one plant species that had the potential to occur at STM, but its required habitat is not on the mesa top and furthermore is not found anywhere on the

STM, but in adjacent areas along Lena Gulch to the south of STM. Should construction, clearing or excavation occur outside of the parking lot area, NREL/DOE would require and perform a ground nesting bird survey if activities would occur between April 15th and September 15th.

Based upon information above, as well as the assessments and findings by the July 2003 Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (DOE/EA 1440) and July 2007 Final Environmental Assessment of Three Site Development Projects at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory South Table Mountain Site (DOE/EA 1573), this project's impacts to the human and natural environment can be deemed less than significant and this project would qualify for Categorical Exclusion B1.15.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Lori Plummer / Lori Plummer Date: 4/30/2010

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