PMC-EF2a

(2.06.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Harris Miller Miller & Hanson

STATE: MA

PROJECT TITLE : Environmental Effects of Sediment Transport Alteration and Impacts on Protected Species: Edgartown Tidal Energy Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-EE0002656	DE-EE0002656	GFO-10-158	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:

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.

B3.1 Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities covered include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include, but are not limited to:

B3.6 Siting, construction (or modification), operation, and decommissioning of facilities for indoor bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations (for example, preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); small-scale research and development projects; and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than two years) conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions. Construction (or modification) will be within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible).

B3.3 Field and laboratory research, inventory, and information collection activities that are directly related to the conservation of fish or wildlife resources and that involve only negligible habitat destruction or population reduction

Rational for determination:

Harris Miller Miller & Hanson is proposing to use DOE funding to conduct feasibility studies and site assessments in the Muskegot Bay area. This project is proposing to complete the following activities:

(1) Test and evaluate up to 3 groups of mooring lines containing various fouling and anti-fouling materials to assess optimal anchoring performance with the outcome criteria of minimal fouling occurrence. (2) Environmental monitoring and site selection.

(1) The Anti-fouling experiment would place 1-3 groups (3-6 mooring lines) in the Muskegot Bay for six month duration before being removed. These mooring lines would be comprised of a stainless steel line with a flotation device at the top. The floatation devices would be sub-surface devices and would be placed approximately 30ft. below the surface such that it is not a navigational hazard. Testing plates are approximately 25cm X 35cm and will be placed at three separate depths. Consultation with the US Coast Guard would not be required because the buoys are not located on the ocean surface and would not affect navigation.

(2) The environmental monitoring would be assessing the sedimentation transportation of the Muskegot Channel which is between Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Islands. The monitoring of sedimentation rates and paths would be used to model areas of installation avoidance as these are generally areas of increased aquatic life and increased rates of fouling. Measurements of surface and tidal flows would be recorded, calculated, and entered into a computer modeling stimulation. Species habitat and abundance will be assessed using existing data; no new studies or collections would be performed. Once all of the data for the variety of variables is collected, computer simulations and program designing would take place that will evaluate tidal wave technologies.

No construction/destruction related activities will be performed during project implementation. This project is hereby Categorically Excluded under A9 "Information Gathering", B3.1 "Environmental Monitoring", B3.6 "Small scale research and development projects", and B3.3 "Research related to the conservation of Fish and Wildlife".

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: _____ Date: 5/10/10

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