PMC-EF2a
(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Snohomish County PUD

STATE: WA

PROJECT TITLE : Puget Sound Tidal Energy Demonstration Project: Environmental and Permitting Activities

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
Congressionally Driected Project	DE-EE0000301	GFO-10-312	GO0

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:

B3.3 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:

DOE funding for this award will be used to perform feasibility studies for future development of tidal power in the Puget Sound, WA. The project will also involve developing deployment strategies, outreach/consultation activities to obtain required permits and responsibly evaluate the environmental effects of the Admiralty Inlet pilot plant under grant (DE-FG36-08GO18169). The specific scope of the proposed work will be defined by feedback from stakeholders/agencies following the submission of the District's Draft License Application (DLA) to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in December 2009. Snohomish County PUD will have the results evaluated in conjunction with regulatory agencies, tribal governments, and other project stakeholders.

Tasks for this project include:

Task 1 - Environmental and Regulatory Activities
Environmental studies - habitat assessment, water quality, marine mammal, seabird, fish, bathymetrical, geotechnical, and electromagnetic field studies. Field studies being continued from the previous award (DE-FG36-08GO18169) include multibeam hydrographic and sidescan sonar surveys; water quality sampling; hydroacoustic and fish distribution studies; and field surveys of cultural and tribal resources.

Regulatory activities - agency, tribal, and stakeholder consultation; permit and license preparation; pre-installation and project monitoring study plan development. No animal collection, testing or tagging will take place during the habitat assessments.

Task 2 - Management and Reporting
Generation of: Reports, Briefings, Presentations, Applications for Applicable Permits, and the Development of Strategies and Guidelines for future deployment of tidal power in the Puget Sound, WA.

This project will not involve the final design of a tidal power system nor any construction/destruction related activities. Activities will be limited to environmental monitoring, data gathering, and report generation.

This project does not pose a significant impact to human or natural environment, this project is hereby Categorically Excluded from further NEPA review under A9 "Information Gathering" and B3.1 "Environmental Monitoring", and B3.3 "Research Related to Wildlife Conservation".

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