PMC-EF2a

(2/04/02)

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

RECIPIENT: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians **STATE:** CA

PROJECT TITLE : Agua Caliente Wind/Solar Project at Whitewater Ranch

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000424	EE0005623	GFO-0005623-001	

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, analysis, and dissemination	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.)
B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring	Site characterization and environmental monitoring (including, but not limited to, siting, construction, modification, operation, and dismantlement and removal or otherwise proper closure (such as of a well) 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). Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. (This class of actions excludes activities in aquatic environments. See B3.16 of this appendix for such activities.) Specific activities include, but are not limited to: (a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, radar, and temperature gradient), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, and the establishment of survey marks. Seismic techniques would not include large-scale reflection or refraction testing; (b) Installation and operation of field instruments (such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools); (c) Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells; (d) Aquifer and underground reservoir response testing; (e) Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment; (f) Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants (such as drilling using truck- or mobile-scale equipment, and modification, use, and plugging of boreholes); (g) Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams; (h) Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities (such as assessment of potential wind energy resources); (i) Sampling of flora or fauna; and (j) Archeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 800 and 43 CFR part 7.

Rational for determination:

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI) to complete a wind/solar power generation feasibility study on its Whitewater Ranch Indian trust lands in southern California. This study would include information gathering, data analysis, cultural and wildlife surveys, modeling, mapping, and reporting.

ACBCI would design, and plan, a 10 MW wind/solar power generation feasibility study on its Whitewater Ranch Indian trust lands in southern California, including installation of a 60-meter meteorological tower for one year to complete a wind assessment and confirm the wind resource. However, since the meteorological tower does not have a site location specified, another environmental review of the meteorological tower will be completed in the future. The data collected would be modeled, mapped, and reported at conferences.

This project comprises information gathering, and site characterization; therefore the DOE has categorized this project into Categorical Exclusions A9, and B3.1.

Budget: $222,350 (DOE); $36,128 (cost share)

Condition of Approval: Do not purchase or construct a meteorological tower for this project. Submit site specific location for the meteorological tower to DOE for another environmental review.

NEPA PROVISION

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:
Do not purchase or construct a meteorological tower for this project. Submit site specific location for the meteorological tower to DOE for another environmental review.

Note to Specialist :

EF2A by Christopher Carusona II

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Electronically Signed By Lori Gray Date: 5/22/2012
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