PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: NREL **STATE:** CO

PROJECT TITLE : NREL STM South Access Rd JeffCo Fence Project; NREL Tracking No. 12-015

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-12-015	GO28308

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:

B1.11 Fencing	Installation of fencing, including, but not limited to border marking, that would not have the potential to significantly impede wildlife population movement (including migration) or surface water flow.
DOE/EA 1440 S-II (NREL STM)	Final Supplement-II to Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (November 2009)
DOE/EA 1440 (NREL STM)	Final Site-Site Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (February 2003)

Rational for determination:

BACKGROUND

This proposed project would be for the installation and maintenance of a fence as part of the second full service access road for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL's) South Table Mountain (STM) site in Golden, Colorado. The installation of this proposed fence is at the request of Jefferson County to minimize the light intrusion to the adjacent neighborhood by vehicles utilizing the turnaround just south of the NREL property line.

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action would consist of the installation and maintenance of an approximately 410 feet long fence. The fence would start near the new south Site Entrance Building (SEB) at the turnaround and would then follow the concrete wall of the turnaround curve west of the road right-of-way and continue south along the west edge of the western sidewalk for approximately 280 feet. All construction would be within the existing construction right-of-way and the existing chain-link fence would remain except for a small length at the turnaround loop adjacent to the SEB where the old and new fences adjoin (see callout on 3039b-Landscape Plan Revision.pdf uploaded to the PMC). The fence would be constructed of wood using panels 4 feet tall along the straight portion (280 ft length) and would be only 2.5 feet tall along the curved portion of the fence. The reason the curved portion of the fence would have shorter panels is due to the fact that they are to be mounted on the road-way guardrail and this portion of the fence has an effective height from the road surface of 4.5 feet. Therefore, the height of the fence overall would be no more than 4.5 feet from ground height dependent on how close to the ground the panels are installed. See design specifications uploaded into the PMC database.

PRIOR NEPA DETERMINATIONS

A second full service access road for the NREL STM was included as part of the Proposed Action analyzed in the November 2009 Final Supplement-II to the Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's South Table Mountain Complex (DOE/EA-1440-S-II), and resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination for the proposed B/C access road corridor. Once the final alignment of the access road within the B/C corridor was determined through agency consultation, a NEPA Supplemental Analysis was conducted in July 2011 for the specific proposed alignment to determine if any extraordinary circumstances existed or if the proposed alignment would remain bounded by the November 2009 FONSI. The July 2011 Supplemental Analysis determined that no further NEPA documentation was required for the proposed development of a second access to the STM site and the conclusions of the November 2009 FONSI remain valid. Both of these NEPA documents are hereby incorporated by reference. However, the inclusion of this additional fence was not specifically part of the south access road Proposed Action as analyzed in these two documents and further NEPA analysis (this determination) is required for the proposed fence.

IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTION
The installation of the proposed fence would occur on previously disturbed lands and result in the disturbance of approximately 630 SQFT of soil for the installation of fence posts to a depth of around three feet below ground surface. The proposed fence installation would be covered under an existing state-issued stormwater associated with construction activity permit and no additional federal, state, or local environmental permits would be required. The proposed fence would be not be located within the 100-year floodplain or impact the wetland complexes associated with Lena Gulch.

The construction of the fence would be implemented during migratory bird nesting season and in accordance with NREL procedures a nesting bird survey would be conducted by NREL biologists prior to the initiation of construction activities. The proposed construction and maintenance of the fence would not impact any federal or state listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat. The proposed fence design, which is uploaded to the PMC, would not conform with the Colorado Division of Wildlife's wildlife friendly fence design guidance as the height of the proposed fence would be greater than 42 inches. However given its short total length of 210 feet, it is not anticipated that the proposed fence would impact the mobility and migratory patterns of any wildlife.

The construction of fence would occur as part of south access road construction project and the subcontractor would follow established safety protocols and requirements. Construction activities would be conducted during normal business hours during the week and would meet applicable Jefferson County noise ordinance levels. Public controversy over the proposed fence is not anticipated as the fence would prevent light pollution and not significantly alter the existing built environment in the adjacent neighborhood's viewshed.

NEPA DETERMINATION
Based upon the information above, the proposed action would qualify for Categorical Exclusions (CX) B1.11.

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 Rob Smith on 04/23/2012. Revised on 5/18/2012 reflect a change in proposed action.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Electronically Signed By: Lori Gray / Lori Gray Date: 5/21/2012
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