

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: Deepwater N.E., LLC

STATE: RI

PROJECT TITLE : Rhode Island Sound Offshore Wind Project Bird and Bat Monitoring Program

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-PS36-09GO99009	DE-EE0004344	GFO-0004344-001	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:

- 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:
- 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.
- B3.3** 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:

Deepwater N.E., LLC is proposing to use \$295,360 in DOE funding to utilize advanced technologies to develop high-resolution spatial data of habitat and migration corridors for avian and bat species of concern in a region of high potential wind development. The pre-construction environmental monitoring program will identify bird and bat species that may be impacted by the proposed Rhode Island Sound Wind Farm and other proposed offshore wind power projects sharing similar characteristics with a particular focus on the federally listed Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and Roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*), as well as all bat species present.

The proposed project consists of six tasks.

- Task 1: High Definition Aerial Survey Monitoring
- Task 2: Ornithologist's Study
- Task 3: Avian Radar Monitoring Operations and Queries
- Task 4: Avian and Bat Acoustic Study
- Task 5: Offshore Operations
- Task 6: Project Management and Reporting

All aspects of the proposed project are consistent with activities outlined in A9 "information gathering", B3.1 "environmental monitoring" and B3.3 "field research"; therefore, the proposed project is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

The recipient is required to present documentation of approval from the appropriate agency to the project officer regarding offshore deployment of monitoring equipment buoys before DOE funds can be used for that activity.