

PMC-EF2a

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



(2.04.02)

RECIPIENT: The University of Texas at Austin

STATE: TX

**PROJECT TITLE :** Extracting and Applying SV-SV Shear Modes from Vertical Vibrator Data Across Geothermal Prospects

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
FOA DE-FOA-0000522	DE-EE0005512	GFO-0005512-001	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:

**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.)

**Rational for determination:**

The University of Texas at Austin (UT) would utilize DOE and cost share funds to develop seismic data-processing technologies that would extract SV-SV shear modes from vertical vibrator data and demonstrate how this new method for acquiring shear-wave seismic data could be used to characterize geothermal reservoirs. Project work would be done on the Pickle Research Campus in Austin, Texas.

This project includes two Phases but this NEPA review is for Phase 1 only. Prior to initiating Phase 2 activities, there would be a go/no-go decision point after which DOE would determine whether or not to fund Phase 2 activities. Additional NEPA review will be required if this project is selected to continue with Phase 2 activities.

## Phase 1 (Proof of Concept)

1. Develop Software
2. Apply Technology to 2D Test Line
3. Construct Database
4. Transfer Technology
5. Project Management and Reporting

## Phase 2 (Prototype and Validation)

Tasks 6 through 15 will require additional NEPA review if the project is selected to continue with Phase 2 activities.

There is no fieldwork associated with Phase 1 of this project.

Phase 1 Budget: \$316,789 (DOE) \$0 (cost share)

Phase 1 of this project is comprised of information gathering, analysis, and dissemination; therefore the DOE has categorized this into Categorical Exclusion A9.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA

decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Phase 2 (all tasks)

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Phase 1 (all tasks)

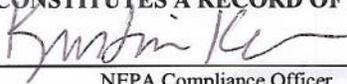
If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

EF2a prepared by Casey Strickland

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

11/29/2011

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_