

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT:NREL

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE : NWTC Site 4.4 Crane Pad; NREL Tracking No. 10-038

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		NREL-10-038	GO10337

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:

DOE/EA-1378	Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's National Wind Technology Center
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Rational for determination:

This proposed project would entail the construction of a Site 4.4 crane pad at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) National Wind Technology Center (NWTC), located southeast of the intersection of Colorado Highway (CO) 93 and CO-128, in the County of Jefferson, State of Colorado. The NWTC is a federally-owned facility that consists of 305 acres and is primarily utilized for wind energy research, development, and testing. The pad would be used to support a large crane to remove the turbine blades on the Siemens turbine to replace them with heavily-instrumented blades for testing purposes. The crane would not be a permanent fixture and would be removed from the site upon the completion of the blade change.

The crane pad would of a 42' x 42' pad consisting of Class 6 roadbase placed 6" thick at the Site 4.4 (Siemens) turbine site at the NTWC. See attached sketch in PMC for specifics. Pad would be centered at 67.9' from the wind turbine. Majority of the pad surface would be placed upon the existing improved surface with a smaller portion, approximately 20' x 42' extending out into adjacent vegetation. Most of this vegetated area is previously disturbed leaving only a small area 8' to 10' by 42' of undisturbed grassland vegetation impacted. The adjacent vegetated area would need to be graded to align with improved surfaces at Site 4.4. Equipment used would be a motor grader, steel drum roller, and water truck. Access to the site would be upon existing roads with no improvements required.

The installation and removal of wind turbines and their associated support infrastructure and equipment, as well as the installation of testing pads and supports structures, were included within the scope of the Proposed Action analyzed in the May 2002 Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the NREL NWTC (DOE/EA-1378). Therefore, the proposed crane pad would be within the bounds of this analysis. The proposed project would not create any point-source air emissions, hazardous materials, or hazardous waste. The construction of the pad would require the utilization of mobile sources of air pollutants, described above, but would result in de minimis emissions based upon length of operation and the limited number of equipment needed. The total area of land disturbance would be less than 2,000 SQFT, and therefore not require an EPA Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity permit as it is under one acre. The proposed project would still be conducted in accordance with NREL Procedure 6-2.16 Storm Water Pollution Prevention for Construction Activities: National Wind Technology Center to minimize erosion and fugitive dust. Per agency consultations conducted during the Site-Wide Environmental Assessment for the NWTC (DOE/EA-1378), no cultural resources, threatened or endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, critical habitats, or prime farmlands are located at the NWTC and none would be impacted by this proposed project. A survey for ground-nesting birds would not be required per NREL EHS&Q policies as the working would commence after the end of nesting season (after August 15th). NREL and all contractors would follow all federal, state, local safety and security regulations.

Based upon the information above, this proposed project was analyzed within the Proposed Action as analyzed in DOE/EA-1378 and with no extraordinary circumstances identified with this subsequent analysis, the May 2002 Finding

of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination for DOE/EA-1378 applies to this proposed action.

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 09/14/2010

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Rou Hummer
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/14/2010

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:
