PMC-EF2a

(2.06.02)

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

RECIPIENT: Snohomish PUD **STATE:** WA

PROJECT TITLE: Hydro Electric Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
			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 (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.

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

A11 Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rational for determination:

Washington Department of Commerce will provide $153,600 in Recovery Act funds to Snohomish County Public Utility District No. 1 to conduct preliminary engineering analyses in support of a project to harness hydroelectric power from the Everett, WA Reservoir 4 water transmission line. The Snohomish County Public Utility District No. 1 office is located at 2320 California Street, PO Box 1107, Everett, WA 98206-1107.

The Project comprises 3 phases:
- Phase 1 activities are the preliminary activities prior to the construction of the project;
- Phase 2 is the construction of the project; and
- Phase 3 is the start-up of the project.

Recovery Act funds support the Phase 1 activities, which include:
- Hydraulic review and analysis of the Panther Creek Screenhouse and Pipeline 4;
- Design of conduit hydro facilities including pipe, powerhouse, turbine, generator, tailrace, transmission and SCADA systems;
- Design of Panther Creek Screenhouse piping project to increase hydraulic capacity including analysis, design, and construction.
- Application for Conduit Hydroelectric Exemption from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); and
- Capital equipment purchase to include longer lead time items such as the turbine and generator.

Phases 2 and 3 would proceed following engineering analyses support for the project.

The recipient has indicated that it will apply in December 2010 to FERC for a hydroelectric exemption/license for the construction and operation of the project. The recipient has also indicated that a Washington State Environmental Policy Act checklist will be completed as part of the permitting process.

The recipient has indicated that it will contact the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to construction activities to review project-specific data and protection measures necessary to meet the requirements of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Noise disturbance during construction will be limited to daytime working hours.

Although Recovery Act funds are to support the Phase 1 activities only, DOE views the Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase

3 activities as connected actions. There is some concern of the possible impact of this project on the environment that must be addressed more fully and which requires input from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Army Corps of Engineers. This information must be collected before commencing on the Phase 2 activities.

In view of the information provided by the State and recipient, DOE has determined that the work outlined in the Phase 1 activities is consistent with activities identified in Categorical Exclusions A9, A11, and B5.1, but subject to the conditions noted below.

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:
Capital equipment purchase to include longer lead time items such as the turbine and generator.
This restriction does not preclude you from:
• Hydraulic review and analysis of the Panther Creek Screenhouse and Pipeline 4;
• Design of conduit hydro facilities including pipe, powerhouse, turbine, generator, tailrace, transmission and SCADA systems;
• Design of Panther Creek Screenhouse piping project to increase hydraulic capacity including analysis, design, and construction.
• Application for Conduit Hydroelectric Exemption from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC);
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.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:
conduct consultation with the following organizations and agencies before purchasing Phase 1 capital equipment:
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- State Historical Preservation Office

provide the DOE Project Officer and NEPA Compliance Officer with information from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Fish and Wildlife Service, and Corps of Engineers before purchasing the capital equipment

obtain DOE written concurrence before proceeding with the acquisition of the capital equipment

Note to Specialist :

According to the project officer, funding for the project is $153,600. The recipient is precluded from purchasing the capital equipment for this project prior to consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, SHPO, and the Corps of Engineers. Otherwise, absent a significant change in the scope of this effort, a change in funding will not affect my determination.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 8/31/10
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.