PMC-EF2a
(2/04/02)

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

RECIPIENT: Incorporated County of Los Alamos **STATE:** NM

PROJECT TITLE : Plant Transformer Purchase - Installation of a Low Flow Unit at the Abiquiu Hydroelectric Plant

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000120	DE-EE0002673	GFO-0002673-002	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:

Rational for determination:

DOE/CX B4.6 - Additions or modifications to electric power facilities that would not affect the environment beyond the previously developed facility area including, but not limited to, switchyard rock grounding upgrades, secondary containment projects, paving projects, seismic upgrading, tower modifications, changing insulators, and replacement of poles, circuit breakers, conductors, transformers, and crossarms.

This NEPA determination applies to the additional scope of work that is being proposed by the County of Los Alamos, Department of Public Utilities (the County) for their Abiquiu hydroelectric plant project. DOE previously reviewed and categorically excluded the original scope of work that included a powerhouse addition and a 3MW low flow turbine generator (GFO-10-110, CX A9 and B5.1).

The County is proposing to use $392,013.72 of DOE (ARRA) and cost-share funds to purchase and install a new transformer for their recently upgraded hydroelectric facility. The increase in plant capacity resulting from the addition of the 3MW turbine generator would force the existing transformer to operate at or beyond its peak rated capacity during periods of high flow. Additionally, the existing transformer is over 20 years old and the potential risk of failure warrants purchase of a new transformer with increased capacity. The new transformer would be placed in the original location as the previous one – no new construction or additional powerhouse alterations would be needed for this equipment upgrade.

The Abiquiu Hydroelectric Facility has a current FERC license, number 7396, issued on April 16, 1986. This was amended in 2006 and approved in 2008 to add the 3 MW of generation and construct the powerhouse addition; including any equipment upgrades such as a new transformer.

The replacement of a hydroelectric facility transformer in existing facilities is anticipated to have negligible or no affects on the human and natural environment. Project activities are consistent with actions outlined in categorical exclusion B4.6 (Additions or modifications to electric power facilities, including transformers) and are therefore 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:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

Rewvied completed by Laura Margason _____

Total Cost (rescoped portion only) = $392,013.72
DOE Share = $137,297.53
Recipient Share = $254,716.19

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 9/20/2011
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