

Eric  
Haas

PMC-EF2a

(201.02)

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



RECIPIENT: Snohomish County PUD

STATE: WA

**PROJECT TITLE :** Snohomish County PUD Geothermal Energy Study

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
CDP	DE-EE000325	GFO-09-326	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.

## Rational for determination:

Snohomish county Public Utility District (PUD) Number 1 (from Washington State) would complete a Geothermal Energy study in and around Snohomish County. The goal of this project is to research and develop possible geothermal energy sources in the Snohomish County area. The project is divided into five tasks.

Tasks 1-3 are Categorical Excludable since they include informational gathering and site characterization to conserve power.

Task 1.0 Select site(s) for exploration well drilling

Conduct review of all data so far accumulated by the District and make selection of the most suitable site(s) for exploration well drilling. During 2007-08 a preliminary assessment of potential geothermal resources in the region was conducted for the District. Geology, geophysics, tectonic stress information, seismic data, temperature data from wells and springs, geochemistry, terrain and accessibility data, and land use information were all reviewed for the study

Task 2.0 Acquire rights and permits

Acquire necessary resource rights and permits for exploration well drilling. Develop exploration well design and drilling plan.

Task 3.0 Communications and outreach planning

Develop and execute a communications and outreach plan.

Tasks 4-5 are not Categorical Excludable since the geothermal gradient well locations have not been identified and therefore cannot be analyzed at this time.

Task 4.0 Exploration well site preparation and drilling

Subtask 4.1 Exploration site preparation

Conduct all necessary site preparation for drilling activities (e.g., drill pad preparation, drilling cellar excavation, etc.).

Subtask 4.2 Drill exploration wells

Drill two exploration wells of up to 2,000 feet deep. Core will be recovered from approximately 300 feet to TD. (The District currently envisions the option of drilling a third, 2,000 foot-deep cored hole; though this is subject to change as drilling plans are developed).

Task 5.0 Evaluate exploration wells and decide whether to proceed

Subtask 5.1 Evaluate exploration wells

Evaluate exploration wells based on temperature gradient, geologic composition, and other characteristics to assess potential for geothermal development.

Task 6.0 Management and Reporting (Task 6 is Categorical Excludable since it includes informational gathering and reporting).

The objective of Task 6.0 is to ensure that the project fully meets all District and DOE requirements by providing timely updates, full project documentation, and all necessary reports. Reports and other deliverables will be provided in

accordance with the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist following the instructions included therein. At this time, the location of the geothermal gradient wells have not been identified and cannot be analyzed. Therefore, Tasks four and five are not authorized. Tasks four and five would be analyzed once the locations of the geothermal wells are identified and submitted to the DOE. Condition of Approval:  
Allowable: Tasks 1 through 3 and 6  
Prohibited: Tasks 4 and 5

Tasks 1-3 comprises of document preparation, site characterization and development geothermeral energy, therefore Tasks 1-3 are categorized into Categorical Exclusion A9.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

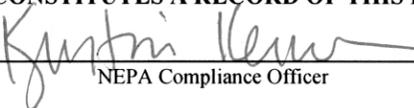
Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:  
Condition of Approval:  
Allowable: Tasks 1 through 3 and 6  
Prohibited: Tasks 4 and 5

Note to Specialist :

Condition of Approval:  
Allowable: Tasks 1 through 3 and 6  
Prohibited: Tasks 4 and 5

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:   
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/23/09

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