



Department of Energy

Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

May 31, 2002

DOE/EA 1378

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

For the

NATIONAL WIND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Site Operations and Short-Term and Long-Term Improvement Programs

Golden, Colorado

AGENCY: Department of Energy, Golden Field Office

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) conducted a Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (EA) of the National Wind Technology Center (NWTC) to evaluate potential impacts of site operations and short-term and long-term improvement programs.

DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) leads the national research effort to develop clean, competitive, and reliable renewable energy and power delivery technologies for the 21st century. The mission of EERE's Wind Energy Program is to help the United States attain the substantial economic, environmental and energy security benefits likely to result from expanding the domestic and worldwide use of wind energy by fostering a world-class, domestic wind industry. The program focuses on research, testing and field verification work needed by U.S. industry to fully develop advanced wind energy technologies, and on coordination with partners and stakeholders to overcome barriers to wind energy implementation. EERE's principal research vehicle to accomplish this goal is the NWTC.

The program of improvements addressed in the EA includes existing and new permanent physical improvements to the site including buildings, equipment, utilities, and other infrastructure. The program also includes existing and new activities that do not require permanent facilities or infrastructure, such as research programs, facility operations, management practices and maintenance activities. The components of the Proposed Action are divided into Short-Term (2002-2006) and Long-Term (2007-2021) implementation periods.

The schedule for implementation of the site improvements is dependent on federal budgeting decisions and fluctuating priorities, therefore the Proposed Action cannot be specific with respect to actual construction schedules. In addition, certain site planning and architectural details are tentative and subject to modification. Thus, the EA employs a "bounding analysis" approach for evaluating environmental impacts that could result from an array of development options within a conceptually defined site "buildout" scenario. The purpose of this approach is to promote a comprehensive assessment of potential impacts from future site use and development.



All discussions and findings related to this site and the proposed action are contained in the attached Final EA and appendices. The Final EA is hereby incorporated by reference.

COPIES OF THE FINAL EA ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE DOE NEPA PROCESS CONTACT:

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DETERMINATION:

Based on the information in the Final EA, DOE determines that site operations and proposed short-term and long-term improvements do not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act. Therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required, and DOE is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

Issued in Golden, Colorado, 51st day of MAY, 2002.



John Kersten
Acting Manager, Golden Field Office