

PMC-ND  
(1.08.09.13)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
NEPA DETERMINATION**



**RECIPIENT:**NREL

**STATE:** CO

**PROJECT TITLE**

NREL; NWTC Site Drainage Improvements Project; NREL Tracking No. 17-010

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-AC36-08GO28308		GO28308

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 1914 (NREL NWTC)** Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the Department of Energy's National Wind Technology Center at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory

**Rationale for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to conduct site-wide drainage and stormwater improvements throughout the DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) National Wind Technology Center (NWTC). The NWTC is a federally-owned facility that consists of 305 acres and is primarily utilized for wind energy research, development, and testing. The site is located southeast of the intersection of Colorado Highway (CO) 93 and CO-128, in Jefferson County, Colorado.

The addition of paved roadways and hardscaping, as well as planned future growth for the site has created the need for detention ponds and improved and additional drainage around the site.

Primary projects activities include:

\*Improving the existing drainages along Row 1, Row 2, Row 3, and Row 4 Roads, the South Access Road, W. 119th Avenue, and the Northern boundary of the site;

\*Adding drainage on the north side of W. 119th Avenue and south of the 5 MW Dyno Building; and

\*Creating three detention basins/ponds east of Building 251.

The three new detention ponds would be installed east of Building 251, to slow water down before draining into the watershed headwaters of Coal Creek. A new drainage trench would be installed at the southeast end of the site, which would drain into Rock Creek and another installed south of the 5 MW Dyno Building, draining eastward.

Project activities would include trenching to create additional drainage channels; adding culverts, rock and riprap as specified by the design; and replacing older drainage infrastructure with reinforced concrete piping. Rock rip rap stabilization materials would be installed to correct the erosion issues. Grading, drainage, erosion control, and landscaping work would also be performed to support the drainage improvements.

An estimated 12.79 acres of soil would be excavated as a part of this project. Following the installation of drainages, culverts, and detention basins, the disturbed areas would be backfilled and revegetated using the NWTC seed mix from the specs. The existing site has been previously disturbed, and any excavated soil would be backfilled or properly

disposed offsite. Construction contractors would abide by applicable environmental, health, and safety regulations and NREL policies and procedures.

Prior to any construction, a migratory bird nesting survey would be conducted. If nests or eggs are found, the particular area would be cordoned off with a proper buffer until nestlings fledge.

Mobile air emissions from construction equipment, such as excavators, back hoes, concrete trucks, support trucks, etc., would be negligible and short-term.

NREL is obtaining a stormwater permit for this and several additional projects being proposed as part of the site improvement plans for the NWTC. This permit would address the stormwater drainage impacts related to adding impervious asphalt and paving.

All ground disturbing activities would be conducted in accordance with NREL Lab Level Procedure 6-1.29: Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Construction Activities: National Wind Technology Center.

Based on the review of the proposed activities, DOE has determined that this project falls into the category of "routine tasks for site maintenance", which was analyzed in Section 1.4.3.3 of the 2014 Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the NREL NWTC (DOE/EA-1914). DOE has determined that this activity is bound by the environmental impact analysis contained in these EAs and their respective FONSI, and no further NEPA review is required.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved. If the Recipient moves forward with activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of a final NEPA decision, the Recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving Federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

NEPA review completed by Laura Margason on April 26, 2017.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

4/27/2017

**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:

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