

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 : NWTC Road Repairs; NREL Tracking No. 14-016

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-14-016	

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:

This proposed project would consist of repairing and upgrading gravel access roads located at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) National Wind Technology Center (NWTC), located southeast of the intersection of Colorado Highway (CO) 93 and CO-128, in Jefferson County, Colorado. The NWTC is a federally-owned facility that consists of 305 acres and is primarily utilized for wind energy research, development, and testing.

The gravel roads at the NWTC were damaged by flooding in September 2013. The proposed project would repair 2,600 linear feet of gravel roads, referred to as Sections A-D (see the Statement of Work attached in PMC). Any improvements to Section E (Row 4) have been removed from SOW. The existing roads would be re-graded and rebuilt with road base and recycled asphalt. The work would reuse existing road base to construct sloping road shoulders. Loose materials on the roads that would not be repurposed would be removed and hauled off-site. Heavy equipment typical of road construction would be used to perform the work. Roads would be rebuilt within the same footprint of the existing roads. Site access had been re-routed around some impassable areas. These areas would be reclaimed and reseeded with the approved native seed mix. All equipment and materials would be staged on existing roads or previously disturbed areas along access roads.

This project would involve ground disturbance. In order to repair the roads, a total of 2,600 linear feet (or 38,800 square feet) would be temporarily disturbed within the footprint of the road. This would include the width of the existing roads and include a shoulder (less than two feet) on both sides of the road. The total temporary disturbance would be approximately 0.89 acres (Attached in PMC).

A U.S. EPA General Construction Permit for stormwater is not required for this project since total disturbance is less than 1.0 acre. The project would be completed in accordance with NREL Procedure 6-1.29: Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Construction Activities: NWTC. Any mobile point emission sources from construction equipment would be negligible. Construction-related noise would consist of a short-term increase in ambient noise levels. Per agency consultations conducted during the Site-Wide Environmental Assessment for the NWTC (DOE/EA-1914), no cultural resources, threatened or endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands would be impacted by this proposed project. If any construction or construction-related activities occurs between mid-March and mid-September, a survey for ground-nesting birds would be completed by NREL's EHS Office before these activities are initiated, per NREL policy. NREL and contractors would follow federal, state, local safety and security regulations.

The proposed action to upgrade gravel access roads was analyzed as part of the proposed action in the 2014 Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of NREL's NWTC (DOE/EA-1914). A Finding of No Significant Impact determination for DOE/EA-1914 was issued in May 2014. As this proposed project was analyzed as part of the proposed action in DOE/EA-1914 and with no extraordinary circumstances identified, the May 2014 FONSI

