

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



RECIPIENT: NLR

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE : NLR-26-004 Uprise Energy Off-Grid Small Turbine Testing – Pampa, TX

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-AC36-08GO28308

NEPA Control Number
GFO-NLR-26-004

CID Number
GO28308

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

**B5.18
Wind
turbines**

The installation, modification, operation, and removal of a small number (generally not more than 2) of commercially available wind turbines, with a total height generally less than 200 feet (measured from the ground to the maximum height of blade rotation) that (1) are located within a previously disturbed or developed area; (2) are located more than 10 nautical miles (about 11.5 miles) from an airport or aviation navigation aid; (3) are located more than 1.5 nautical miles (about 1.7 miles) from National Weather Service or Federal Aviation Administration Doppler weather radar; (4) would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on bird or bat populations; and (5) are sited or designed such that the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts to persons (such as from shadow flicker and other visual effects, and noise). Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices. Covered actions include only those related to wind turbines to be installed on land.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Wind Energy Technologies Office is proposing to provide federal funding to Uprise Energy to complete testing of a prototype wind turbine. DOE's National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR) would serve as the Technical Monitor for the contract and would perform engineering reviews of the prototype turbine design.

The purpose of the proposed project is to conduct certification testing of a trailer mounted, 12 kW wind turbine. NLR would first conduct an engineering review of the wind turbine and would make a go/no go decision based on the review to determine if the turbine is ready for certification testing. Once the design is approved, the prototype would be subject to commissioning testing at the RenewTest facility in Pampa, TX. The RenewTest site is an existing wind energy test facility with at least two other active wind turbines undergoing field testing at this time.

The wind turbine that would be tested has a hub height of 50-feet and a rotor diameter of 22.6-feet, resulting in a total height of 61.3-feet. The turbine system includes a telescoping tower to support the wind turbine, trailer mounted components including power electronics and batteries, and deployable outriggers to prevent overturning. No ground penetrations or concrete would occur or be used.

The wind energy system would undergo standard field-testing including power performance, safety and function, duration, and acoustic testing. To conduct field testing on the Uprise system, the RenewTest facility would utilize an existing met tower already present at the location. At the conclusion of the testing period, the Uprise system would be removed.

Impacts

There are seven historical resource locations within 10 miles of the proposed project. No visual impacts to these structures are anticipated due to the temporary nature of the proposed project and intervening structures between the test site and resource locations would obscure the turbine from view.

There are threatened or endangered species that could be encountered the project area: The lesser prairie chicken, piping plover and red knot. Two additional species, the bald eagle (recovering) and monarch butterfly (candidate), could also encounter the project area. The likelihood of these species encountering the wind turbine is low because the proposed project location does not contain suitable habitat for any of these species, these species would travel above the rotor swept area during active migration, and the proposed project location does not contain suitable stopover habitat for these species. For these reasons, DOE has determined that the proposed project would have no effect on the threatened and endangered species, nor does DOE anticipate any adverse impacts to bald eagles, lesser-prairie chicken, or migratory birds.

Project activities would not affect critical habitat, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmland, and no permits would be required. Air emissions or additional noise impacts are not expected to adversely affect wildlife.

The site of the proposed project is not located near National Weather Service nor Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Doppler weather radar detection systems. In addition, the FAA's Notice Criteria Tool was used and determined that the proposed project does not exceed notice criteria; as such, filing with FAA would not be required.

Individuals working on this project could be exposed to hazards during installation of the turbine, tower, and foundation. Existing corporate health and safety policies and procedures would be followed.

For Categorical Exclusion Determinations:

- The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B and C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025). To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10CFR Part 1021, or Appendix B of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, a proposal must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B of both 10 CFR Part 1021 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures.
- There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.
- The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.
- The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

A migratory bird nesting survey shall be completed if project activities involving ground disturbance occur between March 15 and September 15.

All required permits shall be obtained prior to commencing project activities.

Notes:

This project is subject to approval by CMEI leadership.

NLR

Brandon Bammel, 01/29/2026

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

 Electronically Signed By: **Nicole Serio**
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/3/2026

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- ☒ Field Office Manager review not required
☐ Field Office Manager review required

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____