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FMC-EF2a

(20602)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Dehlsen Associates **STATE:** CO

**PROJECT TITLE :** Siting Study for a Hydrokinetic Energy Project Located Offshore Southeast Florida

| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
|---|---|---|---|
| DE-FOA-0000069 | DE-EE0002655 | GFO-10-119 | GO0 |

**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.

**B3.1** Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities covered include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include, but are not limited to:

Rational for determination:

Dehlsen Associates will be using DOE funding to identify an approach for siting and designing marine renewable energy facilities (including transmission cables) along the Florida Coast, that will satisfy regulatory and resource management agency requirements that impacts to protected resources be avoided or minimized by a thorough analysis of alternative sites and installation methods.

A parallel study will also be conducted that will help develop a complete mapping of benthic habitat types in the areas of most interest to future developers. This will be to enabling projects to select site locations that have the highest probability of being permitted and advance to site-specific surveys earlier in the process.

Tasks for this project include:

Task 1 - Compile Habitat Mapping from Existing Data
Task 2 - Develop Project Siting Study Approach and Survey Methodology
Task 3 - Conduct Field Habitat Surveys
Task 4 - Present Siting Study Results

Task 3 involves field studies that will investigate benthic substrate and habitat types. Dehlsen will use sonar capabilities in order to map and identify geophysical habitat on the ocean floor. They will then go back to areas of interest and conduct a video survey to that will guide the evaluation of sediment type,species assemblage, and/or presence/absence.

The proposed field survey will consist of six east-west transects, with three lines running approximately 20 miles for a total of 360 line miles in depths of less than 30 meters along the coast of southeast Florida. These surveys will use widely available side-scan and/or multibeam sonar and video equipment attached to boating equipment.

Tasks 1, 2, and 4 of this project comprise information gathering, analysis, and map developing; therefore a CX A9 will apply.

Task 3 comprises field studies in order to develop benthic substrate and habitat characterizations; therefore a CX 3.1 will apply.

**NEPA PROVISION**

None Given.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 1/19/10

NEPA Compliance Officer

**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: _____ Date: _____

Field Office Manager