

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

**RECIPIENT:**City of Boulder, Colorado**STATE:** CO

**PROJECT TITLE :** Modernization of Boulder Canyon Hydro Project

**Funding Opportunity Announcement Number**  
DE-FOA-0000120

**Procurement Instrument Number**  
DE-EE0002675

**NEPA Control Number**  
GFO-10-206

**CID Number**  
0

**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.

**Rational for determination:**

This project will refurbish the existing Boulder Canyon hydroelectric facility with a new turbine, generator, and wiring. Without new equipment, operation of the outdated facility is expected to cease within 5 years or less. The facility could produce over 500,000 megawatt hours of electricity over the lifetime of the project using existing water storage and transmission facilities.

There will be no new construction outside of the facility. The bridge over Boulder Creek that provides access to the facility will need to be reinforced to support the removal of the old equipment and installation of the new turbine and generator.

**Proposed tasks include:**

- Task 1.0 Equipment Procurement
- Task 2.0 Engineering Design Services
  - Subtask 2.1 Final Permitting Activities
  - Subtask 2.2 Historic Preservation Considerations
- Task 3.0 Construction Contract
- Task 4.0 Construction
- Task 5.0 Project Management and Reporting

At this time, the recipient is in a preliminary phase for this project and the proposed action requires a FERC amendment as well as several other federal, state and local permits. DOE funds will only be used to support administrative activities, conducting studies and assessments and preliminary engineering activities; therefore a CX A9 applies.

Once preliminary engineering and designs are prepared, the recipient may provide additional information and a NEPA determination review for those activities may be conducted.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Construction, earthmoving, purchasing of equipment, final engineering plans and design.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Administrative activities, conducting studies and assessments and preliminary engineering activities.

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

This project contains NEPA conditions placed on construction, equipment purchase, and final design activities; only administrative actions (A9 activities) are allowed under this review. NEPA recommends that this project be placed on ASAP approval.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3/30/10

**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: \_\_\_\_\_