

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Dept.

STATE: NM

PROJECT TITLE : New Mexico Geothermal Resource Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052	DE-EE0000108		EE108

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.
- A11** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rational for determination:

The State of New Mexico will use \$200,000 of Recovery Act funds to support the New Mexico Energy Conservation and Management Division in its efforts to update and further expand its geothermal energy resource assessment information. The project originated from the need to obtain better information concerning statewide geothermal resource assessments in promoting geothermal industry projects.

The project will be managed by the Geothermal Group, which shall oversee the development of a Statewide geothermal resource assessment and database. The purpose of the resource assessment and database shall be to sufficiently characterize the State's geothermal resource and provide a database to prospective geothermal developers that shall promote commercial-scale development of the State's geothermal resource. The Geothermal Group shall also develop technical and policy recommendations to accelerate full-scale development of New Mexico's deep-source geothermal resource.

The project will encompass the following activities: data collection, selection and development of database and mapping software and publishing of the information on a web-based interface. There will also be extensive collaboration between NM Tech and EMNRD to coordinate the geothermal working group, to collect stakeholder input for the database.

Based on the information provided by the State, I have determined that this project is classified as Categorical Exclusion A9 and A11.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

My records indicate that NM's Recovery Act funds have no remaining NEPA conditions; however, that assessment does not appear to agree with those of the Project Officer and the State of NM. This determination is made just for assurance. According to the Project Officer, funding for this project is set at \$200,000. Unless the scope of this project changes significantly, a change in funding will not affect my determination.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

3/16/10

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: _____