

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: City of Boise

STATE: ID

**PROJECT TITLE :** Boise City Geothermal System Expansion, Phase 2

|  |                                      |                            |                   |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b> | <b>Procurement Instrument Number</b> | <b>NEPA Control Number</b> | <b>CID Number</b> |
|  | DE-EE0000318                         | GFO-10-545                 | GO318             |

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:

- C12** Siting, construction, and operation of energy system prototypes including, but not limited to, wind resource, hydropower, geothermal, fossil fuel, biomass, and solar energy pilot projects.
- 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:

The City of Boise would bring direct use geothermal heat to the campus of Boise State University to reduce utility costs, reduce use of fossil fuel, improve the quality of the airshed, and provide an opportunity for hands-on research on direct use of geothermal heat for space heating in large buildings.

This project has a C12 NEPA determination from GFO-09-401 signed on September 25, 2009 that required an Environmental Assessment (EA) to be completed to assess existing and potential impacts of the project. At that time, the project consisted of extending the City of Boise's geothermal system across the Boise River on Capitol Boulevard to the western portion of the Boise State University (BSU) campus. Subsequent to that NEPA determination, the City of Boise received additional funds to allow for the extension of their geothermal system across the Boise River on Broadway Avenue to the eastern portion of the BSU campus (Phase 2 of the present SOPO). Due to the change in scope of work for the project another NEPA determination was needed.

Phase 1 – Western portion of BSU campus

1.0 Design – includes design and environmental review

2.0 Construction

Phase 2 – Eastern portion of BSU campus

3.0 Environmental Review

4.0 Design

5.0 Construction

6.0 Research and Study on the Use of Direct Use Geothermal Heat

Existing and potential impacts of the construction activities are unknown at this time. Per the DOE NEPA implementing regulations (Appendix C to Subpart D to 10 CFR Part 1021 - C12, as noted above), preparation of an Environmental Assessment is required prior to allowing federal funds for construction activities project.

Even though both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the present SOPO have individual C12 NEPA determinations, only one EA is being prepared that includes both Phases of the present SOPO. A Notice of Scoping soliciting comments and informing the public of the Department of Energy's intent to prepare a Draft EA for this project (inclusive of both Phase 1 and Phase 2 construction activities of the present SOPO) was sent out June 10, 2010 and was open for public commenting through June 28, 2010. Presently, an EA is being prepared that includes the entire scope of work for the project (both Phase 1 and Phase 2 construction activities).

Condition of Approval: Allowable – Phase 1 (Task 1.0) and Phase 2 (Tasks 3.0, 4.0, and 6.0); Prohibited – Phase 1 (Task 2.0) and Phase 2 (Task 5.0).

Based upon the information provided, Phase 1 (Task 1.0) and Phase 2 (Tasks 3.0, 4.0, and 6.0) are categorically

excluded under CX A9 "Information gathering/data analysis/document preparation/dissemination." This proposed project has the potential to impact surface and subsurface resources and therefore an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required (C12) for Phase 1 (Task 2.0) and Phase 2 (Task 5.0). DOE must analyze the impacts associated with the construction and installation of the geothermal system according to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**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/NSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Phase 1 (Task 2.0) and Phase 2 (Task 5.0)

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Phase 1 (Task 1.0) and Phase 2 (Tasks 3.0, 4.0, and 6.0)

The City of Boise is authorized to initiate the preparation of an EA by a third-party contractor, consistent with DOE NEPA implementing regulations. DOE, City of Boise, and third-party contractor shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) defining the scope of services to be completed by the third-party contractor on behalf of DOE.

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 involves tasks which are unallowable prior to further environmental analysis. GO NEPA requests that this project be placed on ASAP Approval.

EF2a prepared by Casey Strickland

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

*Robin R. Lweeney*  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/14/10

**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:

*Col. [Signature]*  
Field Office Manager

Date: 9/14/10