

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: Town of Brookston

STATE: IN

PROJECT TITLE : Brookston Wind Turbine Study

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
CDP	DE-EE0003262	GFO-0003262-002	EE3262

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:

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:

This NEPA review is being conducted due to a location change for the Town's proposed met tower. This review focuses on the change in site location for Task 1 only. All additional tasks remain the same and were determined to qualify for DOE categorical exclusions A9, B3.1, and B5.1 and had a NEPA determination signed on January 24, 2011 (GFO-0003262-001).

Under the revised Task 1, the Town of Brookston (Town) is proposing to erect a 60 meter meteorological tower to gather meteorological and wind data at a site that is being proposed for potential future wind turbine project. The tower would be installed for one year and six anemometers, two weather vanes, a humidity sensor, a pressure sensor, a data logger and a cell phone unit would be attached to record data to test the viability of the site. A certified contractor would be selected to install and monitor the tower during its lifetime. The Town would require that the contractor perform maintenance checks monthly and after each storm event that includes winds near the tower's safety limits.

The new proposed site for the met tower is approximately four miles north of the original site analyzed in the prior NEPA determination. The new site is located at 2655 East 450 South, Chalmers, Indiana. An agreement is in progress between the land owner and the Town for the use of this land. The area is currently being used to grow corn for ethanol production and the proposed met tower site is an unused flat area. No trees or farmland would be cleared for this project. According to the USFWS wetlands mapper tool, the new site is not located in a FEMA designated floodplain area, nor is it located in a mapped wetland area.

The Department of Energy has reviewed this project in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Endangered Species Act. In correspondence relating to the project, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has also reviewed this project and has stated that the site designated for the met tower is located in an area that involves minimal habitat for birds and bats; therefore it is not anticipated to create adverse effects. The USFWS has stated in an email send to the applicant that they do not anticipate any significant adverse effects to migratory birds, bats or ESA-listed species from the construction of the tower at the new location.

Pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer has reviewed the scope of work associated with this project and the new site location. The State Historic Preservation Officer has ruled that this project does not pose an adverse affect to cultural resources based on the information made available.

This project is consistent with actions outlined in categorical exclusion B3.1h (site characterization and environmental monitoring; specifically the installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities, including assessment of potential wind energy resources) is, therefore, categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Review completed by: Laura Margason

Total project dollars = \$90,000 (\$75,000 DOE / \$15,000 cost share)

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

6/24/2011

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: _____