

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



RECIPIENT: Executive Office of the State of Arizona

STATE: AZ

PROJECT TITLE : Recovery Act: State Geological Survey Contributions to the National Geothermal Data System

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0002850	GFO-0002850-NH1	GO2850

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 Site characterization and environmental monitoring

Site characterization and environmental monitoring (including, but not limited to, siting, construction, modification, operation, and dismantlement and removal or otherwise proper closure (such as of a well) 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). Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. (This class of actions excludes activities in aquatic environments. See B3.16 of this appendix for such activities.) Specific activities include, but are not limited to: (a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, radar, and temperature gradient), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, and the establishment of survey marks. Seismic techniques would not include large-scale reflection or refraction testing; (b) Installation and operation of field instruments (such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools); (c) Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells; (d) Aquifer and underground reservoir response testing; (e) Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment; (f) Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants (such as drilling using truck- or mobile-scale equipment, and modification, use, and plugging of boreholes); (g) Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams; (h) Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities (such as assessment of potential wind energy resources); (i) Sampling of flora or fauna; and (j) Archeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 800 and 43 CFR part 7.

Rational for determination:

DOE and cost share funding would be applied to expanding and enhancing the National Geothermal Data System (NGDS) by creating a national, sustainable, distributed, interoperable network of state geological survey-based data providers that will develop, collect, serve, and maintain geothermal-relevant data that operates as an integral compliant component of NGDS. Arizona Geological Survey (AZGS) would bring data from the State Geological Surveys into the NGDS, by digitizing at-risk legacy, geothermal-relevant data (paper records, samples, etc), publishing existing digital data using standard NGDS data services, and through limited collection of new data in areas lacking critical information.

All tasks within the original SOPO were categorically excluded under CX A9 by GFO-10-085 on April 16, 2010 because they all concerned the gathering, analysis, and dissemination of data via reports, publications, and the development of computer software and web-based programming. However, after that NEPA determination, the New Hampshire Geological Survey (NHGS) determined that they should repurpose their efforts and focus on datasets related to temperature, thermal conductivity, and other sources more related to energy production and has decided to add some fieldwork activities to the original scope of their project. This NEPA determination is specific to the additional fieldwork activities proposed by the NHGS.

Collection of New Data – New Hampshire

This task involves the collection of bore-hole temperature measurements and whole rock samples for chemical analyses. Temperature measurements would be collected from existing groundwater wells and would be accessed through the existing road network. Rock samples would be collected from bedrock outcrops also using the existing road network and traveling by foot, as necessary. All sampling sites would be accessed on foot where they are not accessible by road (no off-road vehicles will be used). There would be no new surface disturbance associated with these activities. Work would occur throughout New Hampshire and could occur within floodplains, sole-source aquifers, and/or the coastal zone. Because of the nature of the proposed activities, there are no reasonably

foreseeable impacts that would have any effects on floodplains, sole-source aquifers, or the coastal zone.

Based on review of the project information, DOE has determined that the additional fieldwork activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that these activities are consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions B3.1 "Site characterization and environmental monitoring," and is 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:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

Casey Strickland 6/17/2013

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

6/10/2013

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: _____

6/17/2013