

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: NREL

STATE: CO

**PROJECT****TITLE :**

NREL Pigeon Abatement Project; NREL Tracking No. 14-011

**Funding Opportunity Announcement Number****Procurement Instrument Number****NEPA Control Number****CID Number**

DE-AC36-08GO28308

NREL-14-011

GO28308

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:

DOE/EA-1968  
(NREL STM)

SITEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, U.S. DOE NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY, SOUTH TABLE MOUNTAIN CAMPUS, GOLDEN, COLORADO

DOE/EA 1914  
(NREL NWTC)

Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the Department of Energy's National Wind Technology Center at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory

## Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes measures to control and deter pigeons on as needed basis to prevent nuisance and health concerns at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) South Table Mountain (STM) campus and National Wind Technology Center (NWTC) located in Golden, Colorado.

Rock doves or feral pigeons are an invasive species and are not protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Pigeon droppings can cause acidic staining and surface damage to buildings and structures. Pigeon waste and nesting debris that plug roof drains and downspouts can cause flooding, as well as block exhaust ducts increasing risk to building fires and equipment failure. Pigeon droppings contain undigested seeds and other foods providing a food source for rodents, fleas, ticks, mites and lice. Several diseases are known to originate from pigeon droppings and may cause occupational exposure situations for workers including histoplasmosis.

In order to prevent nuisance damage to property, prevent health concerns, and control an invasive species in accordance with Executive Order 13112, DOE proposes to employ various measures to control pigeon infestations at NREL facilities as they occur. Such measures would include but are not limited to deterrents (tactile, ultrasonic, sonic, and visual), netting, fencing, poison, trapping and falconry. Trapping and dispatching pigeons would be preferred to poisons to ensure only the targeted species is affected. All trapping, falconry, and poisoning would occur by a certified pest control professional. Proposed activities would also include the cleaning and decontamination of areas after the removal of the pigeons. Necessary repairs to buildings and building systems from pigeon damage would then occur. To prevent pigeons from roosting and nesting deterrents such as netting, wire, spikes, bird slide, and angular features may be used in addition to minor modifications to buildings and structures to prevent future pigeon roosting and nesting.

NREL and its contractors would follow applicable federal, state and local regulations, as well as NREL EHS policies and procedures. The falconer would have proper permits with the State of Colorado and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and would be observed by NREL EHS to ensure that other avian species are not impacted by the falconry activities. The cleaning and decontamination of affected areas would use proper methods, equipment, and personnel. All waste generated by this activity would be properly managed. Trapping and dispatching would use industry standard methods and be conducted in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

Per agency consultations conducted during the Site-Wide Environmental Assessment for the NREL South Table Mountain campus (DOE/EA-1968) and the NWTC (DOE/EA-1914), no cultural resources, threatened or endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands would be impacted by this proposed project.

Performing pest and weed management activities was included within the scope of the Proposed Action (Enhancing

Site Operations) analyzed in the December 2014 NREL STM Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1968). Integrated Pest Management activities were included in May 2014 NREL NWTC Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1914). DOE/EA-1914 and DOE/EA-1968, and their Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSIs) are hereby incorporated by reference. DOE has determined that these activities are bounded by the environmental impact analyses contained in DOE/EA-1914 and DOE/EA-1968, and their FONSIs, and no further NEPA review is required.

**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 :

NEPA review by Rob Smith on 4/9/2015.  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory

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

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



Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

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

4/14/2015

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