

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 - Closure of five Groundwater Monitoring Wells on STM Campus; NREL Tracking No. 15-025

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-15-025	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

B5.3 Modification or abandonment of wells Modification (but not expansion) or plugging and abandonment of wells, provided that site characterization has verified a low potential for seismicity, subsidence, and contamination of freshwater aquifers, and the actions are otherwise consistent with best practices and DOE protocols, including those that protect against uncontrolled releases of harmful materials. Such wells may include, but are not limited to, storage and injection wells for brine, carbon dioxide, coalbed methane, gas hydrate, geothermal, natural gas, and oil. Covered modifications would not be part of site closure.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes the abandonment of five existing groundwater monitoring wells at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) South Table Mountain (STM) campus located in Golden, Colorado. Colorado regulations (2 CCR 402-2 Colorado Rules and Regulations for Water Well Construction, Pump Installation, Cistern Installation, and Monitoring and Observation Hole/Well Construction) require that monitoring wells that have not been actively used in the last two years, must be properly abandoned. Purpose of this project is to meet this requirement for the five ground monitoring wells on the STM campus that are no longer needed. The wells are 4" in diameter with total depths less than 25ft below ground surface. A well location figure has been uploaded to the PMC database.

Project activities would include the following:

- Remove surface concrete collar and vault box, recycling and disposing of properly
- Remove top 1 foot of casing
- Backfill well with silica sand up to 6 feet below ground surface (bgs)
- Backfill with neat cement grout from 6 feet bgs to 1 foot bgs
- Install utility locate marker ball
- Backfill with native soil from 1 foot bgs to ground surface
- Reseed and crimp mulch native soil and any other disturbed areas
- Complete and submit a Well Abandonment Report (Form No. GWS-09) for each of the five monitoring wells to be abandoned to Colorado Division of Water Resources.

Ground disturbance would be minimal and only occur in the area immediately adjacent to each well. All disturbed or impacted areas would be properly restored. Any mobile air emission sources from construction equipment, such as a bobcat, support trucks, etc., would be negligible and short-term. Construction-related noise would consist of a short-term, intermittent increase in ambient noise levels and would abide by applicable noise ordinances. Any excess soil generated from the well abandonment would be left at an on-site location designed by the NREL Project Manager and coordinated with NREL EHS. NREL and contractors would follow all applicable federal, state, local regulations and NREL EHS policies and procedures.

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

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activity on DOE property. If nests or eggs are found, the particular area would be cordoned off with a proper buffer until nestlings fledge. This would ensure that no migratory birds, nests or eggs are destroyed during the proposed project.

DOE has determined based upon the information above, there are no extraordinary circumstances presented by this proposed action. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with the actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion B5.3 "Modification or abandonment of wells," 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:

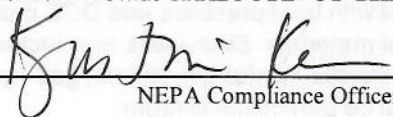
If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing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

Note to Specialist :

NEPA review conducted by Rob Smith on 6/26/2015.
National Renewable Energy Laboratory

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

6.26.2015

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:
