

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT:Colorado School of Mines

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE : CELLULAR COFFERDAMS FOR HYDROPOWER USE

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001286	DE-EE0007245	GFO-0007245-001	

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:

A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination	Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)
--	--

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Colorado School of Mines (CSM) to conduct a comprehensive study on the use of cellular cofferdams as basis for the design and construction of water retaining structures to sustainably and cost-effectively harness hydropower. A cofferdam is a structure, often temporary, that retains water and soil and allows the enclosed area to be pumped out and excavated dry for construction.

CSM is proposing to complete five Tasks:

- Task 1 – Review Cofferdam Design and Construction Practices
- Task 2 – Develop Cofferdam Design Concepts
- Task 3 – Perform Computer Modeling of Cofferdam Performance
- Task 4 – Develop Procedures for Design, Construction and Decommissioning of Cofferdams.
- Task 5 – Study Environmental and Economic Impacts of Cofferdam Designs

All work would be limited to information gathering, data analysis and computer modeling. The output of each task would be a written report. All work would be completed at the Colorado School of Mines, in Golden, Colorado. No fabrication, construction, or deployment would occur. Solid waste generated by the project would be limited to normal office supplies and would be disposed of appropriately.

No additional affects to resources or additional concerns were found to exist during this review.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the research, activities in Tasks 1-5 would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion A9 "information gathering, data analysis and computer modeling", 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 :

Water Power Program

This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored provision

NEPA review completed by Roak Parker on 12.21.2015

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

12/23/2015

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: _____