

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 :** STM Hardscape Improvements (SERF/VTIF/OTF); NREL 14-006

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-14-006	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:

<b>DOE/EA 1440 (NREL STM)</b>	Final Site-Site Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (February 2003)
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**Rationale for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes various pedestrian safety improvements at DOE's South Table Mountain (STM) campus of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado.

**PROPOSED ACTION**

The proposed project would include three hardscape improvements to address several pedestrian safety issues outside of the Vehicle Technologies Integration Facility (VTIF), the Outdoor Test Facility, and the Solar Energy Research Facility (SERF). The improvements outside of the VTIF would consist of the addition of a 75-foot long 4-foot wide sidewalk along the southwest and west sides of the building to provide safe maintenance access to outdoor equipment pads. At the OTF, a new bus stop is needed to drop off and pickup shuttle riders. Currently passengers must wait by the roadway, which provides an unsafe condition. A 10-foot by 20-foot concrete pad for a bus stop would be built along Denver West Parkway. Additionally, a bus shelter currently in storage at the Joyce Street Facility may be installed at this location. Hardscape improvements outside of the SERF would include a 90-foot long 6-foot wide sidewalk on the southwest side of the building near the pedestrian bridge crossing the middle drainage. This would provide a more direct pedestrian route to SERF from other buildings and prevent employees from walking on vegetation. All three hardscape improvements would occur in previously disturbed areas, and the Project Management Plan and location maps are uploaded to the PMC. These activities would occur in Site Development Zone 3 – West Campus and Zone 4- Central Campus.

**PREVIOUS NEPA DETERMINATIONS**

Operation and maintenance of new and modified facilities were within the scope of the Proposed Action analyzed in the July 2003 NREL STM Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1440). Specifically, the Proposed Action of DOE/EA-1440 included construction of new and modification of existing site pedestrian amenities in Site Development Zones 3 and 4. DOE/EA-1440 and its Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are hereby incorporated by reference.

**IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTION**

Stormwater quality and erosion impacts would be minimal. The proposed project would disturb a total of 1,560 square feet (0.04 acres) with 520 square feet of temporary disturbance and 1,040 square feet of new hardscape. Industry standard construction best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater management would be utilized and maintained. The construction and subsequent restoration activity would abide by established procedures, specifications, and processes of NREL Lab Level Procedure 6-2.15 Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Construction Activities: South Table Mountain Site.

There are no floodplains, wetlands, or Waters of the United States in the vicinity of the proposed project area. NREL has received a Jurisdictional Determination from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the ephemeral drainages on



the STM site.

Fugitive particulate air emissions from the construction would be controlled in accordance with the existing STM land disturbance air permit (APCD# 08JE0889L), including mitigation measures like dust suppression as necessary. The construction phases would require the utilization of mobile point emission sources, such as front-end loaders, concrete trucks, excavators, etc., but these emissions would be negligible given the size and duration of the construction activity.

In the 2010-2011 site-wide wildlife survey, no threatened, endangered, or candidate wildlife species were observed at STM, nor was habitat for such species identified. Similarly, the vegetation survey during the same time period found no rare plants or habitat that may support federally protected plant species in the area proposed for this project. A migratory bird nesting survey would be conducted prior to any ground or vegetation disturbing activities if these activities are conducted after March 15th and before September 15th. 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 construction.

Archeological and cultural resources on STM site were assessed in DOE/EA-1440 and its two subsequent Supplemental Environmental Assessments (DOE/EA-1440-S-I and DOE/EA-1440-S-II), including Section 106 consultations with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer. The proposed project would not impact known cultural resources at the STM site. Furthermore, construction contractors would be briefed on the possibility of resources being unearthed, and to stop work and contact NREL EHS should any features or structures be discovered during excavation or trenching activities.

There would be noise typical of construction equipment during construction activities, which would only occur between 8am and 5pm Monday through Friday. Construction-related noise would consist of a short-term increase in ambient noise levels, would occur intermittently, and would comply with applicable noise ordinances. No operational noise impacts are anticipated by this proposed project.

#### NEPA DETERMINATION

DOE has determined based upon the information above, there are no extraordinary circumstances presented by this proposed action. The proposed project is bounded by environmental impact analysis contained in DOE/EA-1440 and its Finding of No Significant Impact.

#### 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 :

ND prepared by Rob Smith on 2/21/14.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Electronically  
Signed By: Lori Gray

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

2/21/2014

#### 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 :