

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 TTF Cargo Container Pad Installation; NREL Tracking No. 14-004

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-14-004	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 1440	Final Site-Site Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL)
(NREL STM)	South Table Mountain Complex (February 2003)

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes the installation of a concrete pad for the placement of two cargo containers adjacent to the Thermal Test Facility (TTF) at DOE's South Table Mountain (STM) campus of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado.

PROPOSED ACTION

There is a need to store heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system testing components used in the HVAC Laboratory within the TTF. These include long flexible rigid air ducts measuring up to 15 feet long and 20 inches in diameter that are used as measurement sections in HVAC system testing. These items have been previously stored in the mezzanine above the HVAC Laboratory, but research has expanded and this space has become too cluttered. There are no other storage areas available within the TTF. There is available space in the Bulk Storage Building on the STM campus or at the Joyce Street Facility, but this would not meet the needs of the mission. Therefore, DOE is proposing the installation of a concrete pad for the placement of two 25-foot cargo containers adjacent to the TTF to store these HVAC system testing components.

The proposed project would consist of clearing the site and preparation for concrete placement, creating concrete forms, laying steel rebar for reinforcement, pouring concrete, installing lighting for the containers, providing exterior door access control at west door of building, and placing cargo containers on pad. The concrete pad would be approximately 20 feet by 30 feet to a depth of 8" below grade. The proposed area for the pad has been previously disturbed, is adjacent to the TTF to the west, and is depicted in the NREL Project Management Plan uploaded to the PMC. These activities would occur in Site Development Zone 3 – West Campus.

PREVIOUS NEPA DETERMINATIONS

Internal and external modifications of existing facilities and infrastructure modifications and improvements 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 facilities in support of research in whole building testing and building energy systems in Site Development Zone 3. 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 no more than 1,200 square feet (0.03 acres) of previously disturbed areas. 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. Given the proximity to the Ortega residential subdivision, construction activities would only be conducted 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

Date: 2/21/2014

NEPA Compliance Officer

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