

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 - FTLB Architectural Maintenance; NREL Tracking No. 17-001

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-17-001	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-1968</b>	SITEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, U.S. DOE NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY
<b>(NREL STM)</b>	LABORATORY, SOUTH TABLE MOUNTAIN CAMPUS, GOLDEN, COLORADO

**Rationale for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to perform both interior and exterior structural modifications of the Field Test Laboratory Building (FTLB) at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) South Table Mountain (STM) campus located in Golden, Colorado.

The FTLB exterior improvements would include:

- Add a new trench drain in the west parking lot,
- Widen the FTLB east access road,
- Install a new stormwater catch basin on the northeast end of the FTLB,
- Re-concrete the south end (lower) lot of Renewable Heat Fuel Plant (RFHP), and
- Replace damaged existing windowpanes.

The FTLB interior improvements would include:

- New floor finishes in hallways,
- New protective wall coverings in hallways,
- New lighting in hallways, restrooms and other areas,
- Door hardware improvements,
- Remodel of existing restrooms rooms, and
- Remodel of some offices.

Modifications to surface drainage on the existing FTLB west parking lot would include installing a new trench drain, approximately 180-feet long, parallel to the building. The trench drain would be connected to an existing underground drainpipe via a new underground drainpipe that would be approximately 110-feet long. The approximate area of disturbed asphalt would be 11,450 square feet (0.26 acres). The trench drain would be installed in a trench that is approximately 3 feet wide by 18 inches deep. The drainpipe would be installed in a trench that is approximately 4 feet wide by 4 feet deep. An Eccentric type manhole would be placed at the connection of the two drainpipes. Asphalt would be re-applied after the completion of the installation.

The access road along the east side of the FTLB would be widened to provide 20 feet of clearance for vehicular access to the FTLB central plant and RFHP south side lower level. Due to a recent construction project, the width of a portion of the access road along the east side of the FTLB was reduced to approximately 16 feet. This portion of the access road would be widened by four feet to provide 20 feet of clearance needed for vehicular access to the FTLB central plant and RFHP south side lower level. The work would also include re-concreting the surface pad on



the south side of the RFHP. The approximate area of disturbance is 7,200 square feet (0.17 acres). Approximately 4,500 square feet (0.10 acres) of existing landscape area would be cleared and graded for the road expansion. The road widening work would be constructed immediately adjacent to the Middle Drainage.

The new catch basin on the north end of the FTLB east access road would be installed at an existing in-fall location and connected to an existing storm drain that drains to the West Drainage. The catch basin and re-contouring will help stabilize the steep slope in the immediate area.

The stormwater running off the payment of the FTLB west parking lot would be collected in the new trench drain and directed to the existing stormwater collection system, so there is not expected to be any change in stormwater quality, volume, or timing as a result of this project. Open trenches or excavations will be covered or fenced to prevent wildlife, employees, or construction workers from falling in.

FTLB east access road construction would increase the risk of stormwater runoff entering the drainage; however, precautions would be implemented to control construction runoff. A new 6-inch curb would redirect stormwater away from the paved area and to the south. A small portion of the new paved area would encroach on the mapped 100-year high-water area. No permits are required for this and no change in the flood flow is expected as a result of the construction.

For all exterior projects, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan would be developed and implemented to control construction runoff. Additional impacts include a limited and temporary increase in noise and emissions resulting from construction operations, which would be minimized by applying NREL safety policies and procedures.

Interior remodeling impacts would involve restricting some areas and temporarily moving some employees. Potential hazards include an increase in noise and dust to employees and contractors, which would be minimized by existing NREL safety policies and procedures.

Construction safety hazards for the entire project would be mitigated by following existing NREL safety 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. If non-paved ground disturbing activity occurs between March and August, a migratory bird nesting survey would be conducted prior to onsite project activity. In the event that evidence of cultural resources or human remains are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, workers are to stop all work in the vicinity until a qualified archaeologist evaluates the significance of the find.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the proposed project would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or the environment. DOE has determined the proposed action is consistent with and bounded by the activities that are analyzed in the Department of Energy's STM Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1968) and FONSI.

#### NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved. If the Recipient moves forward with activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of a final NEPA decision, the Recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving Federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

If ground disturbing activity occurs in non-paved areas between March and August, a migratory bird nesting survey would be conducted prior to onsite project activity.

Note to Specialist :

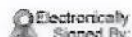
NREL

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Chris Rowe, 10/31/2016

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

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



Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/3/2016

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