

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (Joint Venture with Bethel Native Corporation) **STATE:** AK

PROJECT TITLE : Bethel Wind Energy Construction Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001660	DE-IE-00000084	GFO-00000084-001	

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.)
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Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC) for the installation of a 75-meter 900 kilowatt capacity direct-drive wind turbine with associated access road and wind turbine pad in Bethel, Alaska. The wind turbine would be installed and maintained on Bethel Native Corporation lands off the Old BIA Road west of the Bethel Airport. The turbine would connect to the existing power generation system serving the three intertied communities of Bethel, Oscarville, and Napakiak. This NEPA determination is only for Task 1 of the approved Statement of Project Objectives because this task is foreseeably necessary to define the remainder of the project.

Due to the height of the proposed turbine and the proximity to the Bethel Airport, AVEC submitted project information to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for an Obstruction Evaluation/Airport Airspace Analysis. The FAA has yet to complete their aeronautical study of the turbine and any potential effects to the airport and air navigation. At this time, there is not enough information to complete a thorough review of the construction and surface disturbing activities associated with the installation of the wind turbine at the proposed location. Once the FAA has completed their aeronautical study and additional details of project design and siting are completed, another NEPA review will be required to assess potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of the wind turbine (Tasks 2 through 6).

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined that Task 1 of the proposal fits within the class of action(s) and the integral elements of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021 outlined in the DOE categorical exclusion(s) selected above. DOE has also determined that: (1) there are no extraordinary circumstances (as defined by 10 CFR 1021.410(2)) related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; (2) the proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and (3) the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, related to other proposals with cumulatively significant actions, or an improper interim action. Task 1 of the proposal is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Task 2: Wind Turbine Site Work

Task 3: Turbine Procurement, Delivery, and Installation

Task 4: Start-up, Testing, and Commissioning

Task 5: Post-Construction Grant Administration

Task 6: Energy Production Verification

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Task 1: Grant Administration

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



Casey Strickland

Date: 8/18/2017

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 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: _____