

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 Rock Skirt Project for Fire Protection; NREL Tracking No. 17-019

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-17-019	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-1968 (NREL STM)	SITEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, U.S. DOE NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY, SOUTH TABLE MOUNTAIN CAMPUS, GOLDEN, COLORADO
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Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to install rock skirts around eight facilities to reduce wildfire risk at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) South Table Mountain (STM) campus located in Golden, Colorado.

NREL completed a wildland-urban interface defensible space study for wildland fire and identified eight buildings on the STM campus that required increased protection from such events. The purpose of the proposed project is to install rock skirts in specific areas around the buildings to provide the required level of fire protection. The rock skirts would be 5 feet wide, with the exception of the Solar Radiation Research Laboratory which would be 2 feet wide. The rock skirts would consist of ¾" river rock.

The installation of the rock skirts would require the following steps: (1) grub and clear existing vegetation to a depth of approximately 2 inches; (2) apply herbicide to eliminate vegetation from sprouting after installation; (3) install a weed barrier; (4) install roll top galvanized steel edging; (5) place river rock to a depth of 2 inches in prepared areas; and (6) install stormwater BMPs as needed.

The buildings and the area of rock skirt that would be required for each are:

Energy Systems Integration Facility: 2100 square feet
Science and Technology Facility: 1000 square feet
Vehicle Testing and Integration Facility: 1400 square feet
Solar Radiation Research Laboratory: 200 square feet
Waste Handling Facility: 800 square feet
Thermal Test Facility: 400 square feet
Bulk Storage Building: 600 square feet
Maintenance Facility: 900 square feet

In total, approximately 7,400 square feet of area would be disturbed to install the rock skirts, and an additional 7,400 square foot area may be disturbed due to equipment and worker movement, including laydown areas. All work would occur on NREL property in areas that have been previously disturbed. All ground disturbing activities would be conducted in accordance with NREL Lab Level Procedure 6-1.28: Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Construction Activities: South Table Mountain Site. The disturbed areas not covered with river rock would be revegetated in accordance with NREL policies and procedures.

The proposed project involves the use of an herbicide, which be used in accordance with label instructions. The herbicide would not be applied during rainy or windy conditions to limit application in unwanted areas, and only enough herbicide needed for the day's activities would be prepared.

Individuals working on this project would be exposed to construction and excavation hazards typical of this type of work. Existing corporate health and safety policies and procedures would be followed including employee training, proper protective equipment, engineering controls, monitoring, and internal assessments. Additional policies and procedures would be implemented as necessary if new health and safety risks are identified.

Project activities would not affect cultural resources, threatened or endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands and no permits would be required. A migratory bird nesting survey would be completed if project activities occur between March 15 and September 15. If nests or eggs are found, the area would be cordoned off with a proper buffer until nestlings fledge.

Mobile air emissions from construction equipment, such as trucks, skidsteer, and excavation equipment, would be negligible and short-term. Fugitive dust would be controlled in accordance with NREL policies and procedures. Construction-related noise would consist of a short-term, intermittent increase in ambient noise levels and would follow applicable noise ordinances. Construction waste generated during the construction phase of this project would be reused, recycled, or disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations and NREL policy and procedures.

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:

A migratory bird nesting survey would be completed in the proposed project area if project activities occur between March 15 and September 15.

Note to Specialist :

NREL

Prepared by Nicole Serio, August 25, 2017

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/11/2017

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: _____