

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-19-001 OTF CNG System Decommissioning

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-19-001	GO28308

**Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:**

**CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:**

Description:

**DOE/EA-1968** SITEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, U.S. DOE NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY  
**(NREL STM)** LABORATORY, SOUTH TABLE MOUNTAIN CAMPUS, GOLDEN, COLORADO

**Rationale for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) proposes to decommission the compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station and associated infrastructure located at the Outdoor Test Facility (OTF) at the NREL South Table Mountain (STM) site in Golden, Colorado.

The purpose of the proposed project is to remove the CNG system as it is no longer in service and has no anticipated future use. Equipment that would be removed include 40 CNG cylinders (each cylinder is 51" in height and 10" in diameter), a natural gas compressor, stainless steel process piping, and two fueling stations. These materials would be excessed, recycled, or disposed of as appropriate.

The CNG tanks contain approximately 15,700 cubic feet (cu. ft.) of odorized natural gas at an approximate pressure of 3,000 psig. Several disposal options for the tanks were evaluated, including on-site flaring, venting, using the gas in heating equipment, and disposal of the filled cylinders by a hazardous materials disposal company. The proposed option is to vent the CNG tanks prior to removing the equipment, as it reduces potential fire and safety hazards. The tanks would be vented to the air at a height of 15 feet and at a release rate of approximately 1 cu. ft. per minute over a 5-6 week period.

Venting the tanks at a release rate of 1 cu. ft. per minute is not anticipated to result in a detectable odor, nor is it anticipated to create a flammable atmosphere. A venting manifold would be developed to maintain the desired release rate. The area surrounding the OTF would be closed to pedestrian and vehicle traffic while the tanks are vented. The tanks would release approximately 784 pounds of methane to the atmosphere, which has greenhouse gas impacts equivalent to 11 tons of carbon dioxide. Prior to fully venting the tanks, a small release and "sniff test" would be performed to verify that odors are not detected in the vicinity. The empty tanks, weighing approximately 190 pounds each, would be disconnected from the system and individually removed for disposal.

The proposed project would not involve any ground disturbance, and no permits would be required. Project activities would not affect cultural resources, threatened or endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands. Mobile air emissions from equipment used for the project, such as trucks and power tools, would be negligible and short-term. Noise impacts would result in a short-term, intermittent increase in ambient noise levels when disassembling the system and would follow applicable noise ordinances.

Individuals working on this project could be exposed to physical, pressure, fire, and electrical hazards during the course of this project. Existing corporate health and safety policies and procedures would be followed, including employee training, proper protective equipment, engineering controls, and monitoring. Additional policies and procedures would be implemented as necessary if new health and safety risks are identified.

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.

Notes:

**NREL**

**Nicole Serio 11/19/2018**

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

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



**Kristin Kerwin**

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: **11/19/2018**

**FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION**

- ☒ Field Office Manager review not required  
☐ Field Office Manager review required

**BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :**

Field Office Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_