

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: DERTF Hydrogen System Decommissioning, NREL Tracking No. 18-023

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-18-023	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:

B1.23

Demolition and disposal of buildings Demolition and subsequent disposal of buildings, equipment, and support structures (including, but not limited to, smoke stacks and parking lot surfaces), provided that there would be no potential for release of substances at a disposal level, or in a form, that could pose a threat to public health or the environment.

B1.31

Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment Installation or relocation and operation of machinery and equipment (including, but not limited to, laboratory equipment, electronic hardware, manufacturing machinery, maintenance equipment, and health and safety equipment), provided that uses of the installed or relocated items are consistent with the general missions of the receiving structure. Covered actions include modifications to an existing building, within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area, that are necessary for equipment installation and relocation. Such modifications would not appreciably increase the footprint or height of the existing building or have the potential to cause significant changes to the type and magnitude of environmental impacts.

DOE/EA

1914 (NREL NWTC) Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the Department of Energy's National Wind Technology Center at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is proposing to decommission and remove hydrogen fueling and support infrastructure from its current location on the north side of the Distributed Energy Resource Test Facility (DERTF). The equipment takes up about 0.2 acres and was installed in 2008 for hydrogen research.

The DERTF is a small research building situated at NREL's National Wind Technology Center (NWTC), located southeast of the intersection of Colorado Highway (CO) 93 and CO-128, in Jefferson County, Colorado. The NWTC is a federally-owned facility that consists of 305 acres and is primarily utilized for wind energy research, development, and testing.

Hydrogen research at the DERTF was concluded and researchers plan to repurpose some of the components at the Energy Systems Integration Facility (ESIF) located at the South Table Mountain Campus (STM) in Golden, CO. This would include the compressors, low pressure storage tanks, and electrolyzers. Activities specific to the reinstallation of this equipment is unknown at this time, therefore additional NEPA review will be required for these actions.

The remaining support equipment belonging to NREL would be excessed. One storage container, owned by a third party, would be temporarily stored for a later pick up. The remaining infrastructure would be demolished and recycled by a company contracted to NREL. This would include electrical components, piping, and shelving. Forklifts and a truck mounted crane would be used to load equipment and storage containers onto trucks for the transfer, storage, or disposal.

The facility has been de-energized and hydrogen system was purged at the time research concluded. No gasses are

present in the system. The concrete pads where the components sit would be left in place. No excavation would occur as part of this project.

NREL employees and contractors would conduct activities in accordance with established written safety and health procedures and as authorized in a Safe Work Permit.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Completed by Laura Margason on December 20, 2018

Activities involving installation of hydrogen equipment at the STM Campus is subject to additional NEPA review.

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 1/8/2019

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: _____