

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: NWTC - Siemens Turbine UAS Inspection by CU/RMS; NREL Tracking No. 19-026

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-19-026	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:

B3.2 Aviation activities Aviation activities for survey, monitoring, or security purposes that comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is proposing to use an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) to conduct inspections of blade A of the Siemens turbine at Site 4.4 of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Flat Irons Campus (formally called the National Wind Technology Center) located in Jefferson County, Colorado.

The proposed project would be sponsored by Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy (SGRE) as part of an ongoing CRADA agreement between NREL and SGRE. The project would be partnership with NREL, SGRE, the University of Colorado Engineering students, who have developed the inspection methodologies being used for this project, and Red Mountain Scientific (RMS), an authorized DOE Commercial Aviation Services provider, who would be piloting the UAS flights.

Several flights would be conducted over the course of the week of April 15-19, 2019. RMS would conduct the flights in compliance with their Small UAS Operating Policies and Procedures and with FAA Part 107 regulations. The aviation plan for this project has been reviewed and approved by the Golden Field Office's Aviation Manager and Office Director. The identified flight risks for the subject mission have been adequately identified and mitigated to moderate risk per the DOE Risk Assessment. Flights would be conducted in accordance with NREL safety procedures.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Should flight conditions change or the documented mitigation factors are unable to be implemented the mission will need to be paused so a reevaluation of hazards can occur.

NEPA review completed by Laura Margason on April 10, 2019.

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:  _____ Date: 4/12/2019
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager