

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER  
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: Statoil North America, Inc.

STATE: ME

**PROJECT TITLE :** Hywind Maine

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0000410	EE0005988	GFO-0005988-001	

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:

<b>A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b>	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.)
<b>B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring</b>	Site characterization and environmental monitoring (including, but not limited to, siting, construction, modification, operation, and dismantlement and removal or otherwise proper closure (such as of a well) of characterization and monitoring devices, and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis). Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. (This class of actions excludes activities in aquatic environments. See B3.16 of this appendix for such activities.) Specific activities include, but are not limited to: (a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, radar, and temperature gradient), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, and the establishment of survey marks. Seismic techniques would not include large-scale reflection or refraction testing; (b) Installation and operation of field instruments (such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools); (c) Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells; (d) Aquifer and underground reservoir response testing; (e) Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment; (f) Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants (such as drilling using truck- or mobile-scale equipment, and modification, use, and plugging of boreholes); (g) Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams; (h) Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities (such as assessment of potential wind energy resources); (i) Sampling of flora or fauna; and (j) Archeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 800 and 43 CFR part 7.
<b>B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects</b>	Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

**Rational for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Statoil North America, Inc. to prepare for and facilitate the deployment of four 3 megawatt wind turbines approximately three nautical miles off the coast of Maine. This NEPA determination applies to Budget Period 1 (BP1) which includes preliminary activities, such as information gathering, analysis, field surveys and computer based simulations and modeling. This determination does not apply to Budget Periods 2-5. DOE will carry out further NEPA review for Budget Periods 2 -5 if the Recipient's project is selected to proceed beyond BP1.

BP1 Tasks are as follows:

Task 1.0 – Design: Statoil would complete Pre-Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) during BP1

Subtask 1.1 Design Basis

Subtask 1.2 Design Definition: Preliminary design for wind turbine including Final Design for support structure including mooring system: Some laboratory work would be completed at the University of Maine regarding fiber rope as alternative mooring design.

Task 2.0- Preparations for Marine Operations, Installations, Substructure Fabrication, and Procurement

Subtask 2.1 Pre-qualification of contractors

Task 3.0 – Environmental and Permitting Process: Under this task, Statoil would initiate all permitting and approval studies.

Subtask 3.1 Project Site Planning: Statoil would use a contractor to perform geophysical, geotechnical and wind modeling surveys and studies. This task involves field work.

Subtask 3.2 Agency Engagement/Stakeholder Outreach

Subtask 3.3 Environmental and Design Parameter Studies: The project team would conduct environmental studies and site investigations to support the impact assessments required for local, state, and federal regulatory permit applications. This would be conducted as desktop work.

Subtask 3.4 Field Surveys: The field surveys to be completed during this period include: Avian and bat surveys, Marine Mammal risk survey, Terrestrial Cultural Resources and Historic Property Surveys, Marine Cultural Resources Surveys, Marine Benthic Surveys, Wetland delineation Survey including sediment transport analysis.

Subtask 3.5 Permits, Approvals and Consultation

Task 4.0 Grid Interconnection: The project team would initiate all necessary grid interconnection requirements, as well as any needed power off-take agreements. These include any applicable FERC interconnection requirements as well as any utility specific requirements.

Subtask 4.1 Substation definition: The work is a part of the grid application process

Subtask 4.2 Onshore cable design and routing: Statoil would deliver a complete design and construction work package with a bill of material, which would form the basis for an Invitation to Tender. This task would be performed as a combination of desk top and field work. The field work would be walk-over surveys for visual terrain registration and documentation, as well as geo-radar surveying work to determine and document soil conditions.

Task 5.0- Reports to Submit for Down Select and Presentation: Under this task, the project team would be submitting all necessary reports to the DOE ahead of the down-selection meeting.

Authorization of federal funds for site planning and field survey activities under Subtask 3.1 and 3.4 is subject to additional consultation. The recipient is restricted from initiating site planning and field survey activities until all consultations are complete.

Laboratory work would be completed at the University of Maine (UMaine) Composites and Advanced Structures Lab located at 35 Flagstaff Road, Orono, Maine. UMaine has completed an R&D questionnaire addressing the protocols for laboratory safety, risk management and waste disposal. The University complies with standard safety procedures and all processes and procedures are monitored by UMaine Environmental Health and Safety Department (EHS). The University has all applicable permits in place to conduct research on campus. All handling and disposal of gases, chemicals and liquid effluents would be executed by EHS personnel who comply with appropriate regulations of OSHA.

DOE has determined that the activities in BP1 are consistent with actions defined in DOE categorical exclusion A9 "information gathering," B3.1 "site characterization and environmental monitoring," and B3.6 "small scale research and development pilot projects," and are 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:

Budget Periods 2-5

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Budget Period 1

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.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

All required federal consultations, including but not limited to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, must be completed prior to DOE authorizing funds for site planning and field survey activities under Subtask 3.1 and 3.4. The recipient is restricted from initiating site planning and field survey activities until all consultations are complete and notification has been received from DOE. The DOE Contracting Officer will notify the recipient, in writing, when the consultations have been completed and of any conservation or mitigation measures that must be implemented for site planning and field survey activities.

Note to Specialist :

Kelly Daigle 2/4/2013

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

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



Date: 2/4/2015

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

