

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION



RECIPIENT: Truckee Carson Irrigation District

STATE: NV

PROJECT TITLE : TCID Hydro Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number Procurement Instrument Number NEPA Control Number CID Number
DE-EE000084 GFO-000084-001

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:

- B4.12 Construction of powerlines** Construction of electric powerlines approximately 10 miles in length or less, or approximately 20 miles in length or less within previously disturbed or developed powerline or pipeline rights-of-way.
- B5.24 Drop-in hydroelectric systems** The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available smallscale, drop-in, run-of-the-river hydroelectric systems that would (1) involve no water storage or water diversion from the stream or river channel where the system is installed and (2) not have the potential to cause significant impacts on water quality, temperature, flow, or volume. Covered systems would be located up-gradient of an existing anadromous fish barrier that is not planned for removal and where fish passage retrofit is not planned and where there would not be the potential for significant impacts to threatened or endangered species or other species of concern (as identified in B(4)(ii) of this appendix). Covered actions would involve no major construction or modification of stream or river channels, and the hydroelectric systems would be placed and secured in the channel without the use of heavy equipment. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.
- B1.13 Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines** Construction, acquisition, and relocation, consistent with applicable right-of-way conditions and approved land use or transportation improvement plans, of pedestrian walkways and trails, bicycle paths, small outdoor fitness areas, and short access roads and rail lines (such as branch and spur lines).

Rationale for determination:

The Department of Energy (DOE) is considering providing federal funding to the Governor's Office on Energy with the state of Nevada for proposed activities that would occur at two locations within what is known as the Newlands Project. The Newlands Project, formerly the Truckee-Carson Project, was one of the first United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) projects authorized by the Secretary of the Interior on March 14, 1903. The Newlands Project provides full service irrigation water from the Truckee and Carson River Basins with the Truckee Canal allowing interbasin diversions from the Truckee River to the Carson River.

The Statement of Work (SOW) for the DOE funded project consists of the following activities at two separate Newlands Project locations, the Lewis Wasteway (V-C2) and the Panicker Drop (A-C3), near Fallon Nevada.

- Reinstallation of the Lewis Spillway structure (V-C2 location)
- Installation of 100 feet of underground utility cable (V-C2 location)
- Construction and utilization of a temporary road within the V-Line Canal prism (V-C2 location)
- Addition of approximately 1,400 feet of new overhead powerline along an existing road to connect to the grid (A-C3 location)
- Utilization of a large turnout area as a materials laydown area (A-C3 location)
- Installation of a small low head hydroelectric turbine (V-C2 and A-C3 locations)
- Construction of a stilling basin below the turbine to reduce water outlet velocity (V-C2 and A-C3 locations)
- Installation of meters, electrical panels, and buried electrical lines (V-C2 and A-C3 locations)
- Installation of a small Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition structure within an existing concrete masonry unit building (V-C2 and A-C3 locations)

Under terms of a contract signed between BOR and TCID, dated December 18, 1926, the care, operation, and maintenance of the Newlands Project was transferred to TCID on December 31, 1926. The United States and TCID entered into a new contract for the care, operation, and maintenance of the Newlands Project on November 25, 1996. As the responsible federal agency, the BOR Lahontan Basin Area Office evaluated the potential environmental consequences of authorizing TCID to complete the above described activities at the two locations within the Newlands Project. The BOR completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed in early July 2014 (see uploaded documents in PMC).

The above tasks identified from the SOW for the DOE funded project were compared to what was analyzed in the EA completed by BOR to determine if those activities were adequately assessed in the EA. All activities proposed as part of the DOE funded project were analyzed as part of the Proposed Action within the EA. After review of the EA, DOE has determined that the EA sufficiently addressed the environmental impacts of the activities identified in the SOW, therefore the DOE is in agreement with BOR's FONSI. The FONSI establishes that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with any of the resources analyzed that would be affected by implementation of the proposed activities. No resources beyond those found in the EA were determined to require additional analysis by DOE. As part of DOE's responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, the DOE did initiate consultation with both the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe (Tribe). The SHPO re-affirmed their previous concurrence with BOR's determination of no adverse effect to historic properties. The Tribe re-affirmed that they had no immediate concerns with the proposed project as proposed.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the proposed project activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that these activities are consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions B4.12 "Construction of powerlines," B5.24 "Drop-in hydroelectric systems," and B1.13 "Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines" and are categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

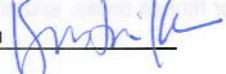
Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block II of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

Submitted by Casey Strickland and Diana Heyder 09/08/2014

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin  Date: 9/8/2014
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager