

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 GE 1.5MW Turbine Upgrade to Wind Farm of 1; NREL Tracking Number 16-001

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL 16-001	GO28308

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:

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 (DOE) proposes to upgrade the controls of the National Wind Technology Center's (NWTC's) GE 1.5MW turbine from "single turbine" status to "wind farm" status in order to experiment with the turbine in a simulated wind farm configuration.

National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) researchers are proposing to permanently install cabling, conduit, three potential transformers (PTs) and three current transformers (CTs) for data acquisition from the Site 4.0 GE Turbine transformer through a new conduit trench leading to an existing utility vault and ending at the existing data shed. The cables would be installed through existing vaults and conduit. However, a new trench that is approximately 42 feet long, 36 inches deep, and 24 inches wide would be needed where existing access is not available and to install the transformers. This trench would be located east of the existing data shed and west of the GE Turbine along the north side of the access road to the GE Turbine.

Because of the large number of existing utilities in the work area, the removal of material and creation of the trench would be done by vacuum truck. The area of disturbance, including a work area adjacent to the trench, would be approximately 260 square feet and a total of 252 cubic feet of material would be removed from the trench. These materials would be removed from the site via the vacuum truck and properly disposed of following all applicable regulations. All utilities within the immediate area of the project would be located prior to excavation with the vacuum truck. Once the cables, conduit, and transformers are installed, the trench would be backfilled with a layer of sand first, then the remaining space filled with clean material from outside sources. Upon completion, the project area surface disturbance would be raked and seeded with the NREL-recommended seed mixture and erosion control measures would be put in place. A laydown area or access road would not be required as the trench would be adjacent to the existing access road for Site 4.0. This installation would be permanent and would not require any future ground disturbance.

As the area of disturbance would be less than 0.1 acre, no air permits or storm water pollution prevention plans would be required. This is a measurement and control project; therefore there would be no change in generated power. The transformers are "dry type" and would not off-gas PCBs, SF6, or any other ozone depleting substances. Per agency consultations conducted during the Site-Wide Environmental Assessment for the NREL National Wind Technology Center (DOE/EA-1914), no cultural resources, threatened or endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands would be impacted by this proposed project. There would be no change in the use mission or operation of existing facilities and no modifications or new permits, additional licenses and/or authorizations would be necessary. NREL and contractors would follow all applicable federal, state, and local regulations as well as NREL Environmental

Health and Safety (EHS) policies and procedures. Environmental Procedures followed for this work would include:

- LLP 6-1.21 Particulate Emissions Control for Construction - identifies particulate emission control requirements for NREL construction activities.
- LLP 6-1.29 Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Construction Activities: National Wind Technology Center – applies to construction activities that involve soil disturbance and procedure guides in the protection of stormwater quality and promotes successful restoration at NWTC.
- LLP 6-1.51 Construction Environment, Health, and Safety

DOE has determined based upon the information above there are no extraordinary circumstances presented by this proposed action. DOE has determined the proposed project is bounded by the analysis of the December 2014 NREL NWTC Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1914) and its Finding of No Significant Impact and is therefore 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 11 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 :

NREL
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.
Review completed by Rebecca McCord 11/16/2015.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 Electronically Signed By: Lori Gray
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/20/2015

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: _____