

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 Pika Puffin Testing on a AnemErgonics Tower; NREL Tracking No. 16-005

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-AC36-08GO28308		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:

<b>DOE/EA 1914 (NREL NWTC)</b>	Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the Department of Energy's National Wind Technology Center at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory
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## Rationale for determination:

Pika Energy, Inc. and AnemErgonics, LLC's proposed project would involve installation of a Pika Puffin wind turbine on an AnemErgonics Exoskeleton tower at the National Wind Technology Center (NWTC) Site 3.2b. This project would replace the 65 foot tall, 1.7kW Pika turbine and tower currently installed at the same location (NREL 13-003).

The Pika Puffin is a 7.5kW wind turbine with a 20-foot rotor diameter. The turbine is a direct grid connect with the inverter being in the nacelle (See diagram in the uploaded attachment in the PMC). The AnemErgonics Exoskeleton tower would be installed on the existing foundation at Site 3.2b, four new holes would be drilled in the corner of the foundation to install anchors for the guy wires connections. The tower would be approximately 110 feet tall and would have external guy wires on it. The overall height of the tower and turbine would be no more than 125-feet. Electrical wires would be run through pre-existing conduits, so no excavation would be needed. The purpose of the installation would be to test this turbine prototype and test this tower/turbine configuration. The testing would occur over 2 to 3 years.

Based on the Department of Energy's NWTC Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1914) and related field studies and agency consultations, no cultural resources, threatened or endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands would be impacted by this proposed project. An FAA registration is not required for this project, because the tower is less than 200 feet in height. If any construction or construction-related activities (i.e., surveying, off-road vehicle traffic, trenching, etc.) occurs between March 15 and September 1, a survey for ground-nesting birds would be completed prior to project commencement. NREL and all contractors would follow all federal and state regulations, and all NREL Environment, Health, and Safety Policies, Procedures and Programs.

The installation, testing, and operation of the NWTC Pika Puffin testing on an AnemErgonics Tower is consistent with the activities that are analyzed in the Department of Energy's NWTC Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (DOE-EA-1914). Specifically, this type of project is discussed in detail in the Proposed Action Section 2.1.2 where it states that "An additional component of the Proposed Action would be to increase site use and density by adding wind turbines, meteorological towers and associated infrastructure at existing and new field test sites within Zone 2". DOE-EA 1914 and the associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are hereby incorporated by reference. DOE has determined that the proposed activities are bounded by the environmental impact analysis contained in

DOE-EA 1914, and FONSI, and no further NEPA review is required.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

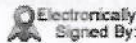
If the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved. If the Recipient moves forward with activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of a final NEPA decision, the Recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving Federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Review completed by Chris Rowe, 1/28/2016.

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

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



Kristin Kerwin

Date: 1/28/2016

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