

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 Installation of UGE Visionair Turbine; NREL Tracking No. 14-007

|  |                                      |                            |                   |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b> | <b>Procurement Instrument Number</b> | <b>NEPA Control Number</b> | <b>CID Number</b> |
|  | DE-AC36-08GO28308                    | NREL-14-007                | 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 1378 (NREL NWTC)</b> | Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's National Wind Technology Center |
|--------------------------------|--|

**Rationale for determination:**

NREL is working with Urban Green Energy (UGE), a small-scale wind energy company, to potentially install a new wind turbine and tower at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL's) National Wind Technology Center (NWTC), located southeast of the intersection of Colorado Highway (CO) 93 and CO-128, in Jefferson County, Colorado. The NWTC is a federally-owned facility that consists of 305 acres and is primarily used for wind energy research, development, and testing.

UGE is proposing to install an additional turbine and tower at the NWTC's Site 3.3a. UGE proposes to install a VisionAIR™ 18-meter (59-foot) self-supporting monopole tower and vertical axis wind turbine. VisionAIR™ technical documentation is provided under Supporting Documents in the PMC. The NWTC's Site 3.3a has been previously used and the tower would be affixed to an existing foundation. No guy wires would be required. The existing meteorological tower would be used. Conduits for electrical and data connections would run above ground to pre-existing junction boxes next to the foundation. The turbine would be connected to the grid at the data shed. No excavation or trenching would be required. Once installed, NWTC personnel along with UGE VisionAir™ staff would conduct an independent turbine power performance operating characteristics test, using internationally-recognized test procedures and NREL's accredited system. The tower and turbine would be a temporary installation and would be removed by UGE in April 2016.

A U.S. EPA General Construction Permit for stormwater is not required for this project since there are no ground disturbing activities proposed. Any mobile point emission sources from construction equipment would be negligible. Construction-related noise would consist of a short-term increase in ambient noise levels. Per agency consultations conducted during the Site-Wide Environmental Assessment for the NWTC (DOE/EA-1378), no cultural resources, threatened or endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands would be impacted by this proposed project. An FAA permit application is not required for this project, due to the height of the tower. If any construction or construction-related activities (i.e., surveying, off-road vehicle traffic, etc.) occurs between mid-March through mid-September, a survey for ground-nesting birds would be completed by NREL's ESH&Q Office before these activities are initiated, per NREL policy. NREL and all contractors would follow all federal, state, local safety and security regulations.

The proposed action (the addition of one small-scale wind turbine at Site 3.3a) was analyzed as part of the proposed action in the May 2002 Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of NREL's NWTC (DOE/EA-1378). A Finding of No Significant Impact determination for DOE/EA-1378 was issued in May 2002. As this proposed project was analyzed as part of the proposed action in DOE/EA-1378 and with no extraordinary circumstances identified, the May 2002 FONSI determination applies to this proposed action.

**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 :

Completed by Amy VanDercook 2/21/14.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin Date: 2/21/2014  
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