

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 : Alstom Turbine Decommissioning and Removal - Turbine Removal Phase; NREL Tracking No. 18-009a

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-18-009a	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 1378 (NREL NWTC)	Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's National Wind Technology Center
------------------------------------	--

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Alstom Power, Inc. are proposing to decommission the Alstom Eco100 wind turbine located at site 4.1 at the National Wind Technology Center (NWTC) in Jefferson County, Colorado.

DOE and Alstom Power entered into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) in 2010 to conduct certification testing on the company's 3-MW ECO 100 wind turbine and to validate models of Alstom's unique drivetrain concept. The turbine was installed at NREL's National Wind Technology Center (NWTC) in October 2010 and engineers began certification testing in 2011. DOE completed the NEPA review for turbine installation in July 2010.

Research on the turbine is complete and GE International (the parent company of Alstom) is proposing to decommission the turbine and remove it from the NWTC. This would be completed in two phases. Phase 1 of decommissioning would include removal of all aboveground components. Phase 2 would involve removal of all belowground components and infrastructure as well as site reclamation. Phase 2 activities are prohibited pending additional NEPA analysis.

Phase 1 is expected to take 2 to 3 weeks and work would be completed by contractors hired by GE in coordination with NREL employees. Details for Phase 2 have not been identified and construction and reclamation plans have not been developed. GE and NREL are proposing to conduct Phase 1 activities first while specialized cranes are available in May 2018. This determination is for Phase 1 activities only.

Three cranes would be used for Phase 1 activities. A large crane (Liebherr LR1500 crane or equivalent) would be used to disassemble the blades, nacelle, hub, gear box, and tower. Two smaller cranes would be used for other operations, such as removing the blades, stabilizing heavy load trailers and moving items placed on the ground.

Other than minor disturbance from vehicles, no ground disturbing activities would occur during Phase 1. Existing NREL health and safety policies and procedures would be followed including employee training, proper protective equipment, engineering controls, monitoring, and internal assessments.

There are no known cultural resources, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands at the NWTC, therefore this project would not adversely impact these resources. The site has designated critical habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse at the southeast corner of the NWTC, however, the proposed activities would take place in the eastern edge of the site, and would not affect this habitat.

The decommissioning of the turbine was analyzed as part of the proposed action in the May 2002 Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of NREL's National Wind Technology Center (DOE/EA-1378). A Finding of No Significant Impact for DOE/EA-1378 was issued in May 2002. DOE has determined that Phase 1 of this project is bound by the environmental impact analysis contained in this EA and the respective FONSI, and no further NEPA review is required.

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:

Alstom decommissioning Phase 2 activities which would include the removal of all belowground turbine components and infrastructure as well as site reclamation.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Alstom decommissioning Phase 1 activities which would include removal of only aboveground components including turbine blades, hub, nacelle, and tower.

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.

Note to Specialist :

NEPA review completed by Laura Margason on April 12, 2018.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 Electronically
Signed By: Kristin Kerwin
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 4/16/2018

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: _____