

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** : NREL 18-016 NWTC Building 251 Landscape Renovation

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-18-016	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
------------------------------------	--

**Rationale for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) proposes to renovate existing landscaping and grounds around building 251 at the National Wind Technology Center (NWTC). The purpose of the work would be to improve the aesthetics and usability of the building's exterior areas for NREL employees and visitors.

The NWTC is a federally-owned facility located southeast of the intersection of Colorado Highway (CO) 93 and CO-128, in Jefferson County, Colorado. It consists of 305 acres and is primarily utilized for wind energy research, development, and testing.

Project activities would include removing the existing landscaping (including an old sand volleyball court - sand, goal posts, and concrete curb), asphalt/concrete paving and paths, trees, shrubs, edging, masonry retaining wall, metal railings, cobble mulch, and signs. The majority of existing vegetation would be maintained and protected. New landscaping would involve installation of terraces, patios, and site appropriate vegetation; mineral mulch around the entire perimeter of the building; concrete paving paths on the north side of the building; a concrete pad/trash enclosure east of the building; a fenced sports court north of the building; metal railings around the perimeter of the building; and irrigation throughout. As part of this project NREL would also create a permanent platform for the wind turbine blade currently on display.

Equipment used would include but not be limited to a backhoe, a dump truck, a skid steer, two concrete trucks, a concrete pump, a fork lift, one crane, pickup trucks, a soil compactor and up to fifteen workers.

Project activities would begin in July and would last an estimated 5 months. The estimated area of ground disturbance due to project activities, including laydown and stockpile of soils and materials, is 1.07 acres. This would require coverage under an EPA Construction General Permit that would be acquired prior to construction commencing.

Hazardous materials used during this project would be managed in accordance with applicable regulations and NREL policy and procedures. Construction waste would be segregated and recycled to the extent practicable. Construction contractors would abide by applicable environmental, health, and safety regulations and NREL policies and procedures. Ground disturbing activities would be conducted in accordance with NREL Lab Level Procedure 6-1.29: Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Construction Activities and best management practices (BMPs) would remain in place following construction throughout vegetation restoration.

No cultural resources, threatened or endangered species, wetlands, or floodplains would be impacted by this

proposed project. Since ground disturbing activity occurs between March and August, a migratory bird nesting survey would be conducted prior to onsite project activity. If nests or eggs are found, the particular area would be cordoned off with a proper buffer until nestlings fledge.

Based on the review of the proposed activities, DOE has determined that this project falls into the scope of activities that were analyzed in DOE's 2014 Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the NREL NWTC (DOE/EA-1914). DOE has determined that this activity 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 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 :

Completed by Laura Margason on May 31, 2018.

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

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

  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/1/2018

#### 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: \_\_\_\_\_