

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-19-013 Solar Monitoring Station Operated at SolarTAC

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-19-013	GO28308

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

DOE/EA-1968 SITEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, U.S. DOE NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY
(NREL STM) LABORATORY, SOUTH TABLE MOUNTAIN CAMPUS, GOLDEN, COLORADO

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) proposes to enter into a Technical Services Agreement and Loaned Government Personal Property arrangement with MRI Global (MRI) with respect to solar monitoring equipment currently installed at the Solar Technology Acceleration Center (SolarTAC), located in Aurora, Colorado.

SolarTAC is an approximately 74-acre outdoor facility for the development, testing, and validation of solar products that is available for use by solar manufactures, researchers, and electric utilities. The site is owned by MRI and is a fully developed and permitted site complete with utility and support services.

NREL previously held a lease for several acres of testing space at the site and installed and operated a solar monitoring station there that provided irradiance data for users. Although NREL no longer has a lease agreement at the site, MRI requested that the equipment remain at the site for continued use. NREL proposes to loan the solar monitoring equipment currently installed at SolarTAC to MRI for up to 3 years. The DOE-owned equipment that would be loaned includes two pyranometers, pyrliometer, tracker, GPS antenna and receiver, temperature/relative humidity probe, pressure gauge, cell modem, 2 ventilators, wind gauge, 2 enclosures, rain gauge, and a data logger. MRI would be responsible for maintaining the equipment.

As part of the Technical Services Agreement, NREL would calibrate the radiometers and temperature and relative humidity device at the NREL South Table Mountain site located in Golden, Colorado, and would provide training and troubleshooting assistance as needed. All calibration work would occur in existing laboratory space that currently performs such work. At the end of the agreement, NREL would remove the solar monitoring station equipment. No ground disturbance would be required during decommissioning, as the equipment is installed on an existing support structure which would remain in place at SolarTAC.

Project activities would not affect cultural resources, threatened or endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands and no permits would be required. A migratory bird nesting survey would be completed if project activities occur between March 15 and September 15. If nests or eggs are found, the area would be cordoned off with a proper buffer until nestlings fledge.

The project does not involve ground disturbance or facility modifications, and no direct or indirect impacts resulting from the proposed project would be anticipated. Individuals working on this project could be exposed to physical hazards; existing corporate health and safety policies and procedures would be followed.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the proposed project would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or the environment. DOE has determined the proposed action is consistent with and bounded by the activities that are analyzed in the Department of Energy's STM Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1968) and FONSI.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

A migratory bird nesting survey will be completed if project activities involving ground disturbance occur between March 15 and September 15.

Notes:

NREL
Nicole Serio 1/22/2019

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Kristin Kerwin Date: 1/25/2019
NEPA Compliance Officer

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- ☒ Field Office Manager review not required
- ☐ Field Office Manager review required

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager