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 NREL-19-036 STM SERF Energy Center Cooling Tower System Leak Repair

 Funding Opportunity Announcement Number
 Procurement Instrument Number
 NEPA Control Number
 CID Number

 DE-AC36-08GO28308
 NREL-19-036
 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-1968SITEWIDE 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 upgrade the cooling tower and replace the existing condenser water supply and return piping to fix a water leak from the piping at the Solar Energy Research Facility's (SERF) cooling tower located at the NREL South Table Mountain (STM) campus in Golden, Colorado. A design for upgrading the cooling tower would be developed and submitted to DOE for review before that scope of work could commence.

The existing condenser water supply and return piping is located both above and below ground. The proposed project would replace these pipes and provide new electrical conduits for future power wiring for the cooling tower upgrade. Specific activities include: a) potholing for existing utilities locates prior to starting work; b) sawcutting and removing approximately 210 sq. ft. of asphalt; c) excavating a trench across the service road north of the SERF; d) removing and replacing the below grade condenser water piping; e) placing conduits for future electrical wiring; f) replacing of the dual basket strainer; and g) restoring the disturbed areas, which would include backfilling the trench and replacing the asphalt, as well as grading, seeding, or mulching the disturbed areas, as appropriate.

Trenching would disturb an area that is approximately 10 feet by 25 feet, and the trench would be approximately 5 feet deep. The trench would be shored, braced, or widened as needed to ensure the safety of workers. The installation of the trench would disturb access to the service road north of the SERF, and road closure or traffic control would be used as required.

Ground disturbance would occur in areas that have been previously disturbed, and the laydown area for equipment and materials would be on pavement adjacent to the project area. Erosion control measures would be used and maintained during and after the project period. All ground disturbing activities would be conducted in accordance with existing NREL policies and procedures that guide such work.

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 involving ground disturbance 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.

Mobile air emissions from construction equipment, which would include a skidsteer, backhoe, cement truck, delivery and pickup trucks would be negligible and short-term. Construction-related noise would consist of a short-term, intermittent increase in ambient noise levels and would follow applicable noise ordinances. Construction waste would be reused, recycled, or disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations and NREL policy and procedures. Concrete washout would either occur offsite or using EcoPans. A water saw may be used for concrete cutting; discharge water would be immediately contained or vacuumed and disposed of offsite.

Individuals working on this project could be exposed to physical and electrical hazards. Existing corporate health

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and safety policies and procedures would be followed including employee training, proper protective equipment, engineering controls, and monitoring. Workers could also be exposed to silica; engineering controls and air monitoring would be implemented as required, and respiratory protection would be used when needed. Additional policies and procedures would be implemented as necessary if new health and safety risks are identified.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assisstance agreement:

Actions to upgrade the cooling tower are not authorized until the design and additional information is provided by NREL to DOE for review.

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 5/13/2019

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

Date: 5/14/2019

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:

Field Office Manager

Date: