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: FC Building 251 Onsite Wastewater System

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-19-048	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 1914 (NREL NWTC) 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) is proposing to install an onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) at the NREL Flatirons Campus (formally called the National Wind Technology Center) located in Jefferson County, Colorado. The proposed project is needed to meet the sanitary needs of building 251. The proposed location would be on the east side of the campus, just west of site 4.0 and of the existing septic field.

Building 251 is currently served by an existing OWTS consisting of septic tanks and a gravity dosed leach field. The system is over 20 years old and has exceeded its useful life. The system was originally designed to serve 70 people and due to growth at the site, it currently serves 128 employees. The system is currently hydrologically overloaded and there have been recent observations of standing water in the sewer lines. This project would accommodate the septic needs of current and future building occupants up to 133 people.

The project design includes digging out the old system's dosing tank and pump and replacing it with a new 2000 gallon per day (gpd) unit. New drain lines would be installed to accommodate the updated system. This would include trenching and installing about 410 feet of 2" and 4" PVC piping between the new dosing tank and the new leach field.

Due to the high clay content of the soil and high water table for the site, the new leach field would need to be a raised between 4.0-5.5 feet using sand and backfilled with native soil to allow for extra filtration. The area of the leach mound would be approximately 130' x 160'. The existing leach field and drainpipe would be abandoned in place, while the existing settling tanks will be reused.

A 20' wide x 50' long rock tracking pad and a 100' x 100' laydown area would be utilized for construction activities.

The area proposed for installation is common scrub grassland that has been previously disturbed by ongoing activities at the site. Total ground disturbance due to construction is estimated to be no more than 0.87 acres. Per NREL procedures, all areas disturbed from construction would be backfilled and restored (grading, seeding, and mulching).

All ground disturbing activities would be conducted in accordance with NREL procedures for Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Construction Activities at Flatirons Campus. A stormwater permit would not be needed for this project due to its small size, however, appropriate erosion control measures would be deployed and maintained during and after the project.

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 Flatirons Campus, therefore this project would not adversely affect these resources. The site has a small area considered critical habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse at the southeast corner, DOE has designated this a conservation zone and no activities occur in that region of the site.

The proposed OWTS system requires a permit from the Jefferson County Public Health Office (JCPH). An application was submitted and JCPH issued a temporary permit (#19-119564), on August 29, 2019, approving the design and location. Upon completion of construction, the JCPH would visit the site to inspect the completed system, after which a final operating permit would be issued.

An upgraded septic system was analyzed in DOE/EA-1914, however it specified that it would be installed in zone 1 of the campus. The proposed project has components in both zone 1 and zone 2. The septic field would be in zone 2, but it is in the far northern section of that zone right at the edge of zone 1 and environmental characteristics are the same. The proposed septic field is next to the current septic field, in an area not utilized for research, therefore the purpose and use of the area would remain the same.

Based on the review of the proposed activities, DOE has determined that this project falls into the category of “infrastructure upgrades”, which was analyzed in section 2.1.1.3 of the 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.

Notes:

NEPA review completed by Laura Margason on October 21, 2019

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Electronically Signed By: Casey Strickland Date: 10/22/2019

NEPA Compliance Officer

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- [x] 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