

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:** Flatirons Campus CGI Connection to Row 1

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-19-049	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
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Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is proposing to install additional electrical infrastructure that would enable Row 1 test sites, located on the NREL Flatiron's Campus, to be connected into the site's existing controllable grid interface (CGI). The purpose of the project would be to expand research capabilities using the CGI and renewable energy technologies.

All activities would take place in Zone 1 of the campus, between the Distributed Energy Research and Test Facility (DERTF) and the CGI equipment located behind the 5 MW Dyno facility.

The proposed project would relocate and reuse existing switchgear and an existing transformer currently on the north side of the DERTF. The switchgear and the transformer would be moved over to the west side of the building. One would utilize an existing concrete pad and the other would require a new pad to be installed - approximately 9 ft. long x 6 ft. wide x 8 in. deep. Total disturbance would be approximately 400 sq. ft. This equipment would connect to an existing electrical system where all of Row 1 conduits come together.

From this site, a new electrical line would be installed to connect the DERTF electrical system to the far northern edge of the Flatirons Campus. The line would connect to an existing feeder line via a small junction box. Total disturbance for the 350 foot long trenched area and construction activities would be approximately 7,000 sq. ft.

From the feeder line, another junction box and electrical conduit would need to be installed which would connect the feeder line to the CGI components. Another trenched area approximately 350 feet in length would be dug, totaling another 7000 sq. ft. of disturbance. Total ground disturbance for grading, excavation, trenching, and laydown areas would be approximately 14,000 to 15,000 sq. ft.

Zone 1 of the Flatirons campus is considered one of the Research and Support Facilities zones where the majority of onsite facilities reside and which has the most amount of research activity. The two new electrical lines would cross an area currently used as equipment and maintenance storage. There are no conservation areas located in this zone.

The project is proposed to start in mid to late November and run through April of 2020, as weather permits. All ground disturbing activities would be conducted in accordance with NREL procedures for Stormwater Pollution Prevention at the Flatirons Campus. 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 Flatiron's Campus, therefore this project would not adversely affect these resources. The site has designated critical habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse at the southeast corner of the Flatiron's Campus, however, the proposed activities would

take place in the northern portion of the site, and would not affect this habitat.

Based on the review of the proposed activities, DOE has determined that this project falls into actions that “increase and enhance research and support capabilities through constructing new facilities, modifying existing facilities, infrastructure upgrades, and site maintenance activities in the Research and Support Facilities area (Zone 1 and Zone 2)”, as evaluated within Chapter 2.1 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 assessment 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 November 04, 2019

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Casey Strickland Date: 11/4/2019
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