

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: NREL

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE: NREL-23-014 Big Adaptive Rotor Downwind Experiment - Flatirons Campus

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	GFO-NREL-23-014	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) proposes to take sound measurements of existing wind turbines operating at the NREL Flatirons Campus (FC) in Boulder, Colorado. The purpose of the proposed project is to characterize the loads and noise emissions of the GE 1.5 MW turbine when operating in a downwind configuration.

Four microphones and a data acquisition system would be deployed. Above ground cables would be installed to provide power and device communication. The microphones would be placed at set distances away from the GE tower base on the FC. The microphones would also be deployed at set distances within the neighboring Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge (RFNWR). The microphones would be deployed in the fall of 2023 and would be removed in the spring of 2024.

DOE has an existing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Use Permit with the RFNWR to allow NREL to conduct specific research activities within the Refuge. The proposed project is consistent with the activities allowed via the Permit.

The proposed project would not affect cultural resources, wetlands, floodplains, or threatened and endangered species. The project would not involve ground disturbance nor produce hazardous air emissions or hazardous waste. All equipment would be removed at the conclusion of the project.

Individuals working on this project could be exposed to physical and electrical hazards. Existing corporate health and safety policies and procedures would be followed including employee training, proper protective equipment, engineering controls, and monitoring, as well as obtaining a Safe Work Permit. Additional policies and procedures would be implemented as necessary if new health and safety risks are identified.

Based on the review of the project, DOE has determined that the proposed project fits within the scope of activities that were analyzed in the 2014 Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the NREL NWTC (DOE/EA-1914). DOE has determined that the proposed project is bound by the environmental impact analysis contained in this EA and its respective FONSI, and no further NEPA review is required.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

NREL
Nicole Serio, 6/28/2023

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 Electronically
Signed By: [Lisa Jorgensen](#)
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/30/2023

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: _____