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-23-012 Waste Handling Facility 2 at the South Table Mountain Campus-NREL

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	GFO-NREL-23-012	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 (NREL STM) SITEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, U.S. DOE NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY 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 design, construct, and operate the Waste Handling Facility 2 (WHF 2) at the NREL South Table Mountain (STM) campus in Golden, Colorado. The purpose of the proposed project is to construct and operate a new, larger facility to manage the current and anticipated future increase in hazardous waste generated at the STM campus.

WHF 2 Facility

The original Waste Handling Facility (WHF 1) was built in 1991 and is nearing the end of its useful life as research, and thus waste generated by research, has increased and is expected to increase in the future. The proposed project would result in the construction of WHF 2 to replace the WHF 1 in function. The WHF 1 would be repurposed.

The proposed location for the WHF 2 is to the southwest of the Field Test Laboratory Building (FTLB), within the undeveloped hillside to the west of the exiting parking lot. The WHF 2 would be a one-story, approximately 8,300 square feet building that would consist of segregated storage areas, a large waste processing room with a work area, storage areas, and a building support area. The WHF 2 would also consist of a loading dock and fenced exterior storage area measuring approximately 800 square feet. Four parking spaces would be installed, two of which would be equipped with EV charging stations.

Construction

The estimated total area of disturbance, including exterior support areas, areas of construction disturbance, and landscaping would be approximately 26,000 square feet. Construction laydown and storage would be located immediately adjacent to the construction site and would utilize existing hardscaped areas to minimize the overall disturbance of the project. A traffic plan would be developed and implemented to minimize traffic disruption on the STM campus.

Operation

The building would be sized to accommodate NREL's current and anticipated waste handling capacity to store, stage, and process hazardous waste for packaging and shipment to offsite disposal facilities (no waste treatment or disposal occurs on-site). Activities would be consistent with those already occurring at the existing WHF 1. Maintenance of WHF 2 would include routine maintenance and repair of building systems, utilities, and building equipment.

Timeline

Design-Build activities for WHF 2 are proposed to begin in late summer or early fall of 2023, with project completion in late 2025. The building would be a permanent feature on the STM campus until it reaches the end of its useful life. At the end of the building's useful life, it would be remodeled, repurposed, or demolished.

Impacts Analysis

All ground disturbance would occur in areas previously disturbed during the development of the STM campus, including the construction of the FTLB, Research and Innovation Laboratory, and Outdoor Test Facility. Construction activities would be conducted in accordance with existing NREL policies and procedures that guide such work. Erosion control measures would be implemented and maintained during construction to minimize any potential erosion and/or stormwater impacts. All disturbed areas would be restored and revegetated as appropriate.

DOE initiated consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on June 20, 2023 per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for potential impacts to historic properties. The SHPO concurred with DOE's finding of "no adverse effect" on June 26, 2023.

Project activities would not affect threatened or endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands. 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.

Construction and operation of WHF 2 would increase the use of water at the STM campus. During development of the STM Sitewide Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1968), DOE consulted with the USFWS on impacts to Platte River Water depletions resulting from operations at the NREL STM Campus. The consultation process established water usage thresholds for the STM campus. The additional water needed to support WHF 2 would not exceed the USFWS consultation threshold.

Operation of WHF 2 would increase the use of energy at the STM campus. Building design would integrate sustainable principles and NREL's decarbonization goals where possible.

Waste generated during both construction and operation would be reused, recycled, or disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations and NREL policy and procedures. Clean topsoil unearthed from excavation activities would either be reused or disposed of offsite or staged onsite for future use. Mobile air emissions from construction equipment would be short-term and minor and are not anticipated to appreciably contribute to the local load of air pollutants. Hazardous waste would be managed in accordance with NREL's programs and procedures and regulatory requirements. Construction-related noise would consist of a short-term, intermittent increase in ambient noise levels and would follow applicable noise ordinances.

Individuals working on this project could be exposed to various physical, chemical, and electrical hazards during construction and operation. Existing corporate health and safety policies and procedures would be followed including employee training, work/worker authorization, 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 Section 3.2.2, "New Building Construction and Modifications of Existing Buildings", of the 2014 Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the NREL STM (DOE/EA-1968). 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.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

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

All required permits shall be obtained prior to commencing project activities.

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 Date: 6/30/2023

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