

PMC-EF2a

(2014.02)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: US Navy

STATE: RI

PROJECT TITLE : Enhanced Wind Resource Assessment at Naval Station Newport; NREL Tracking No. 08-015c-1

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		NREL-08-015c-1	GO10337

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

B3.1 Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities covered include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include, but are not limited to:

Rational for determination:

This project is for the commissioning of a temporary mobile mini-SODAR (sonic detection and ranging) acoustic wind profiler unit (a trailer) associated with an NREL meteorological (met) tower to be installed at the Naval Station Newport in Rhode Island. The NEPA determination for the met tower (NREL Tracking No. 08-015c) was signed on 7/23/09. Subsequently, it was determined that a mini-sodar unit should also be installed to enhance the wind data collection capabilities for this project.

The mini-SODAR unit collects data from a higher altitude than the met towers, and would be used experimentally for this project. For example, the trailer-mounted mini-SODAR unit would be commissioned and installed adjacent to DOE/NREL's 60m met tower for calibration purposes and select sites. The selected sites, Prichard Field in CP, NE side Building 1112 CP, Katy Field CHI, Helipad CHI, South side of Building W36 CP, & west side of Building 6CC (former bldg 42) are included in the wind resource assessment and feasibility studies. The Katy Field site is a known Brownsfield. However, due to the temporary use and non disturbing activities, the SODAR would have no impact to the site.

The mobile mini-SODAR would then be moved for 1-3 months at a time (over the one year period of met tower data collection) to selected sites between the two met towers on Naval Station Newport to collect atmospheric data. The data would be analyzed to determine if locations other than the met tower sites have more favorable wind characteristics for potential wind development. This is a cost saving effort that should allow the evaluation of wind potential of multiple sites, while installing only two met towers. The SODAR unit would be placed in previously disturbed areas, and no clearing/grading, or trenching for electrical connections would be required. The mini-sodar unit would be loaned to the Navy by NREL, and would be de-commissioned and returned to NREL at project completion.

There is no known adverse interaction between SODAR and wildlife. Research of the available literature has found that the acoustic frequencies used by bats for echolocation range from 14,000 to 200,000 Hz and are well above the operating frequency ranges of the sodar.

The CHI Helipad site is located in an area of historical significance. Consultation between the US Navy and Rhode Island State Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RISHPHC), resulted in a letter stating that this proposal will have no adverse effect on historic properties stated by the RISHPHC.

The US Navy previously conducted an environmental review of this project, and determined no significant environmental impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed action, and that the project falls under CX 20

Based on the information above and US Navy determination to approve this proposal, this project's impacts to the human and natural environment can be deemed less than significant and this project would qualify for Categorical Exclusion B3.1.

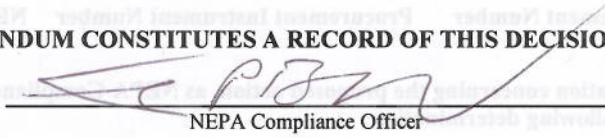
NEPA PROVISION

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

1/6/09

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

Field Office Manager review required

NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

- Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____