PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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

RECIPIENT: University of Maine **STATE:** ME

PROJECT TITLE : DeepCwind Consortium National Research Program

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-EE0002981	DE-EE0002981	GFO-10-121-001	EE2981

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:

The purpose of this NEPA submission is to lift the NEPA hold on SOPO Sub-Task 5.1. The work to be completed under SOPO Sub-task 5.1 is Physical Ocean Environment Monitoring. The work will be carried out using meteorological sensors mounted on a buoy which will be deployed for the duration of the project (two years) in the Gulf of Maine.

Data: The observations which will be collected from the buoy are: wind speed and direction, visibility, irradiance, barometric pressure, GPS, directional waves, and water-column currents.

Test Site: The test site where the buoy will be deployed is near Monhegan Island in the Gulf of Maine. The GPS location is a 2 square mile rectangular region bounded on the north by: 43deg 43' 18.23" N latitude, on the south by 42deg 42' 15.44" N latitude, on the east by 69deg 20' 16.76" W longitude, and on the west by 69deg 20' 17.76" W longitude. The exact location will be determined during deployment via consultation with local fisherman.

Buoy platform and technology: The buoy is a solar powered platform, 2m in diameter, weighing 1700 lbs. The float portion is made from closed cell foam. The anchor is a stack of 1m sized railroad wheels. The buoy is equipped with a Campbell Data logger, cell phone antenna for dialing into the system, and telemetry system (GOES) to transfer the data via satellite back to the University of Maine.

Deployment Method: The buoy will be moved from a nearby location where it has been monitoring for several years to the Monhegan Island site for this project. As described by the recipient, the deployment of the buoy system is performed from a medium-sized vessel approximately 100 ft length overall. The buoy and its sensors are deployed using a U-frame or crane and allowed to float aft of the vessel, secured by the steel mooring cable. After the subsurface sensors are attached to the cable, the chain and anchor are attached. The ship then steams to the launch site and the anchor is allowed to free-fall to the bottom.

Decommission: Recovery of the buoy includes all components of the buoy, mooring, and anchor.

Permits already held: The University of Maine has been deploying similar buoy/sensor arrangements in the Gulf of Maine since 1994. The US Coast Guard (USCG) has an approval of this class of buoy on file from the US Army Corps of Engineers. The final exact location of the buoy will be filed with the USCG and the location and qualities will be disseminated to Mariners.

This project involves the deployment of an environmental monitoring device for two years in the Gulf of Maine for the purpose of obtaining data, therefore it qualifies as a CX under B3.1.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:
Subtask 4.6 (final design) and Subtask 5.2; including capital equipment purchase, final design, earth moving, site prep, construction and deployment activities associated with the construction and deployment of off-shore wind turbines.
This restriction does not preclude you from:
Tasks 1 – 3 (all subtasks), Task 4 (subtasks 4.1 – 4.5 only), Subtask 5.1, Tasks 6-7
If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Subtask 4.6 and Subtask 5.2 in the current SOPO of this project are conditional and unallowable activities under this award. NEPA recommend the recipient's funding be placed on ASAP approval.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 3/21/10

NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____

Field Office Manager