

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Tanadgusix**STATE:** AK

**PROJECT TITLE:** Deep Energy Makeover for the POSS Camp at St. Paul Island Alaska

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001660	DE-IE0000094	GFO-0000094-002	GO94

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:

**A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination** Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

**B5.18 Wind turbines** The installation, modification, operation, and removal of a small number (generally not more than 2) of commercially available wind turbines, with a total height generally less than 200 feet (measured from the ground to the maximum height of blade rotation) that (1) are located within a previously disturbed or developed area; (2) are located more than 10 nautical miles (about 11.5 miles) from an airport or aviation navigation aid; (3) are located more than 1.5 nautical miles (about 1.7 miles) from National Weather Service or Federal Aviation Administration Doppler weather radar; (4) would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on bird or bat populations; and (5) are sited or designed such that the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts to persons (such as from shadow flicker and other visual effects, and noise). Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices. Covered actions include only those related to wind turbines to be installed on land.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to Tanadgusix Corporation (TDX) for deep energy retrofits of the Petroleum Offshore Supply Support (POSS) camp facility located on the island of St. Paul, Alaska. These retrofits would be designed to increase facility utilization while reducing fossil fuel use per square foot of occupied space. Retrofits would focus on both thermal and electrical efficiency increases. The current wind-diesel power system at the POSS camp would also be modified to accept an additional 225 kW wind turbine.

A NEPA Determination was previously made on August 17, 2017 for this project. At that time, it was determined that not enough information was available to review Task 5: Wind Turbine Installation and Integration, as a required aeronautical study from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), additional details regarding project design, and siting information were not then available. Accordingly, the NEPA Determination was made conditional and specifically excluded this task from the permitted actions. Since that time, this information has been collected and submitted to DOE. As such, this review covers Task 5.

Currently, there are three existing wind turbines (225 kW capacity each) located approximately 1900 feet west of the St. Paul Island Airport runway. The scope of work under Task 5 would include the installation of an additional fourth 225 kW wind turbine, as well as its integration into the existing wind-diesel power system and control environment at the POSS camp. The wind turbine installation would require a concrete foundation of approximately 50 square feet, as well as temporary disturbance to approximately one acre of land at and around the installation site, for equipment/component placement and crane positioning. An existing dirt access road would also be extended, on land owned by TDX. Likewise, the location at which the wind turbine would be installed is owned and operated by TDX.

The final height for the turbine would not exceed 50m (maximum blade height), with a blade radius of 27m. The FAA conducted an aeronautical study concerning the fourth wind turbine, and issued a determination of no hazard to air navigation on October 15, 2018 for the coordinates and specification details provided. TDX would obtain any other permits or authorizations that may be required to install and/or operate the wind turbine.

Local labor would be maximized for this project so TDX would put additional protocols in place to ensure workers are properly trained and jobs are assigned to workers qualified to perform them safely. A crane and excavation equipment, owned and operated by TDX, would be used for installation of the wind turbine. TDX would commission an erection supervisor and additional specialists, as required, with the requisite experience in rigging and heavy/high lifting.

Once installed, the additional wind tower would be operated by TDX. TDX would be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the tower, including removal and replacement of turbines, towers, and other equipment.

Waste generated by the project would be handled by municipal refuse collection and would be disposed of at the local landfill. The St. Paul Ataqan landfill is permitted for the disposal of construction and demolition wastes with the State of Alaska (Permit No. SW3A044-19). Any heavy scrap would be set aside for barge transport.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) database shows zero threatened, endangered, or candidate species occurring within or near the project area. Five migratory bird species could be present in the project area, or have been present in the past. The Bald Eagle is among the listed species. Because the fourth wind turbine would be installed near the other three existing turbines, in an already-disturbed area, it is unlikely that migratory bird species would establish nests in the project area. Accordingly, DOE has determined that adding an additional wind turbine at an existing wind site in an area previously disturbed by human activity would have little potential to cause effects to migratory bird populations. Nonetheless, and in accordance with the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding between DOE and USFWS, TDX has been notified that they should contact USFWS to discuss compliance with laws protecting migratory birds and bald eagles during the construction and operational lifespan of the turbine.

The area in which the turbine would be installed is near the Sea Island Historic District, which is comprised of historic and archaeological sites, shared between Saint Paul Island and Saint George Island, to the South. Most of the contributing structures and sites on Saint Paul Island are located in St. Paul Village, located approximately 2.45 miles from the project site, or along the southern coastline. The project site is a little under a mile inland, and north of Polovina Turnpike, which serves as the northern boundary of the Historic District. Accordingly, the project site is not within the historic district boundaries and is not near contributing structures to the district. DOE has determined that adding an additional wind turbine to a location so far removed from the historic district and its contributing structures where three other similar sized turbines are currently operating would have no potential to cause effects on historic properties.

DOE also conducted a review of potential issues relating to other resources of concern and found that no effects would be expected to result from the project.

#### **NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Program

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA Provision.

NEPA review completed by Jonathan Hartman, 11/16/2018

#### **FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS**

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the

environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**Casey Strickland**

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/19/2018

**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: \_\_\_\_\_