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:
A9  
Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, audits), data analysis (including computer modeling), document preparation (such as conceptual design or feasibility studies, analytical energy supply and demand studies), and dissemination (including, but not limited to, document mailings, publication, and distribution; and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.

Rational for determination:
DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to University of Delaware (UD) to develop, research, model, and collect data of environmental factors that influence offshore transmission lines. This study would include data gathering, reporting, and modeling. The proposal would be completed in office and computer lab environments.

UD would design, and plan an offshore transmission grid off NJ, DE, MD and VA coasts. The data collected would be modeled, mapped, simulated, and reported. There should be no generation of air emissions or wastes associated with this project. This project comprises information gathering, and site characterization; therefore the DOE has categorized this project into Categorical Exclusion A9.

DOE Share $540,000; Recipient Share $135,000

NEPA PROVISION
DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist:

EF2A by Christopher Carusona II

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.
NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:        Date: 2/20/2012

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/NEPA/Nepa_ef2a.aspx?key=12944

2/14/2012