

PMC-EF2a

(2010)

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

**RECIPIENT:**Board of Regents, NSHE, on behalf of UNR**STATE:** NV

PROJECT TITLE : Characterizing Structural Controls of EGS-Candidate and Conventional Geothermal Reservoirs in the Great Basin: Developing Successful Exploration Strategies in Extended Terranes

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0002748	GFO-10-154	GO2748

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.
- 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:

Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), on behalf of University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) would characterize the structural controls of Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) Candidate and conventional geothermal reservoirs in the Great Basin. The field work would take place in Eastern, Central, and Western Nevada. The lab work would take place at UNR in Reno, Nevada. The project would be divided into 12 tasks:

PHASE 1 (YEAR 1) REGIONAL ASSESSMENT

- Task 1 Structural Inventory
- Task 2 Define Favorable Structural Settings/Preliminary Structural Catalogue
- Task 3 Regional Slip Tendency Analysis

PHASE 2 (YEAR 2) DETAILED INVESTIGATIONS

- Task 4 Selection of Sites for Detailed Studies
- Task 5 Detailed Studies
- Task 6 Develop and Teach Geothermal Exploration Seminar

PHASE 3 (YEAR 3) DETAILED INVESTIGATIONS AND SYNTHESIS

- Task 7 Completion of Detailed Studies at Representative Sites
- Task 8 Comparative Analysis
- Task 9 Completion of Structural Catalogue
- Task 10 Development of Exploration Strategies
- Task 11 Project Management and Reporting
- Task 12 Technology Transfer/Commercialization

UNR claims no additional permits are needed and there would be no generation of air emissions associated with this work. Vented gas cabinets and fumehoods are used with scrubbers to prevent release of air pollutants. The university claim that all hazardous waste is disposed of according to university, local, state, and federal regulations. According to the university, a Chemical Hygiene Plan, waste disposal, and safety protocols are in place monitored by the each university Environmental Health and Safety Department.

This proposal comprises conventional laboratory operations, site characterization, and data gathering/analysis; therefore this project is categorized as CX A9 and B3.1.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

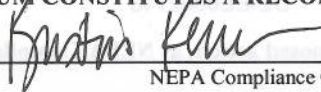
Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

01/28/2010

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: _____