

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: US Navy

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE : Wind Resource Study at US Navy Base, Yokosuka, Japan; NREL Tracking No. 08-015d

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		NREL-08-015d	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 proposed project is a working for others (WFO) agreement between the US Navy and NREL to install a meteorological (met) tower (60 meters high) at the US Naval base in Yokosuka, Japan for 12 months. Data collected from the met tower anemometers, vanes and temperature sensors would be used to provide a feasibility study for wind potential at the site.

This met site proposal is on pre-disturbed surface not within an Airfield Safety Zone. The met tower system would be assembled onsite and mounted using a crane for installation. Data from anemometers, vanes, and temperature sensors would be collected with a data collector. If necessary, approximately 12 square feet would be leveled for the met tower. The met tower would be secured by guyed 11 to 14 buried plate anchors.

A small amount of hazardous waste would be generated by using solvents to clean the tower and paint the tower to withstand harsh oceanic conditions. The US Navy indicates that no new permits are needed for the proposal; no generation of air emissions; the hazardous waste would be disposed of properly in accordance to local, and international laws as appropriate. The US Navy indicates that birds are not an issue associated with the proposal.

LIVE-FIRE RANGE SAFETY CONCERN

There are no fire range safety concerns. There are no existing outdoor firing-ranges on the base; the base consists of only two indoor-firing ranges (Bldgs 1558 and 4818) which are distal from proposed project site.

POTENTIAL CLEANUP SITE

In accordance with COMFLEACTINST 11013.1A "Excavation and Road Closure Permit Procedures", proposed project site is not considered Commander, Fleet Activities (COMFLEACT), Yokosuka Special Environmental Areas of Concerns.

WITHIN FLOODPLAIN OR WETLAND

Proposed project site is located on reclaimed land, not within any floodplain/wetland areas and/or within any fluvial or tidal systems, respectively.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONCERNS

In accordance with the Japan Environmental Governing Standards of 2008 (United States Forces, Japan Standards which is to ensure Department of Defense activities and installations in Japan protect human health and the natural environment through the promulgation of specific environmental compliance criteria). The proposed project site is not within any Host Nation Protected Species/Natural Resources with Cultural Significance including but not limited to specially designated flora/fauna; threatened or endangered species and historic environmental conservation areas.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES CONCERNS

The proposed project site is located on reclaimed land, created during the 1940s by the U.S. government. The proposed project site is not listed on the World Heritage List or the Japanese equivalent of the National Register of Historic Places nor any physical evidence of pre-historic or historic human life or activities.

POOR SOIL CONDITIONS or STEEP TOPOGRAPHY

Proposed project site is located on reclaimed land, created with proper drainages with graded flats.

UNDERGROUND UTILITIES/COMMUNICATIONS IMPACT

The proposed project site is at the edge of Yokosuka Base. No known utility or communications lines as determined from utilities engineering drawings are known to be intersected by current design. However, at the time construction is planned, Yokosuka Base requirements dictate (in accordance with COMFLEACTINST 11013.1A) that an onsite utilities survey be completed to identify the exact location of all utility and communications lines before any dig permit for the construction may be issued. Exact locations of utility and communications lines are discovered at this time, and in the event that that any lines should be found, the proposed temporary meteorological tower can be shifted within the project site as necessary to avoid impacting utilities and communication infrastructure.

SEPARATION DISTANCE

The proposed project site is approximately 1-2 km from the three (3) controlled hazardous waste facilities; approximately 1.5 km from the hazardous material (CHRIMP) building; approximately 2 km from fire stations/facilities/fire fighting school and the security office.

Based on the information above and US Navy recommendation to NREL 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

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:  Date: 2/23/10
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