

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

STATE: MA

PROJECT TITLE : Marine Renewable Energy Center

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
Congressionally Mandated	EE0000299	GFO-10-028	GOO

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:
- 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:

The New England Marine Renewable Energy Center (MERC) University Consortium is proposing to use DOE CDP funding to demonstrate the feasibility in developing marine renewable energy in the New England area. MERC is comprised of the University of Massachusetts (UMASS), Massachusetts of Technology (MIT), Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), University of New Hampshire (UNH), and University of Rhode Island (URI).

The project is divided into three tasks as described below:

***Task 1. Initial Test Site Assessments (B3.1)**

- Task 1.1 Muskeget Channel Survey: Surveys of sediments and the likely impacts of and on turbines would be studied.
- Task 1.2 NOREIZ Wave Assessment: Metrological buoys will be emplaced and a wind monitoring tower erected. Data would be collected continuously for 12 months and the resources
- Task 1.3 General Sullivan Bridge Tidal Assessment: UNH would study the physical resource at the site and develop an assessment of the scale of testing possible. Biotic environments would be studied and assessments made of potential impacts.

***Task 2 High Potential Research (A9)**

- Task 2.1 Array Wave Modeling
- Task 2.2 Linear Electric Generator (LEG) Design Tool Modeling

***Task 3 Project Management and Public Outreach (A9)**

The universities have stated that no generation of air emissions or hazardous/toxic waste will be associated with this work. According to the universities, safety protocols and standards are in place, monitored by the each university's Environmental Health and Safety Office. Their oceanographic vessels are licensed and permitted for research; and all operators meet applicable marine licensing requirements.

Environmental monitoring will be conducted by use of a met buoy. The buoy is a "Directional Waverider Mk III" manufactured by Datawell BV. It is 70 cm (diameter) sphere that weighs approximately 230 lbs and is equipped with a standard marine navigational light, GPS, and telemetry. It will be deployed via a small boating vessel. No permits are required by the Coast Guard or US Army Corps due to the small size of the devise. The University will file a "Notice to Mariners" with the Coast Guard providing them with the buoy's position.

This project involves computer modeling, information gathering, dissemination, and environmental monitoring and site

assessment activities; therefore a CX A9 and B3.1 apply.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

none

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

2/24/10

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:
