

PMC-EF2a

(2/01/02)

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



RECIPIENT: US Navy

STATE: RI

PROJECT Distributed Generation Wind Power at Navy Sites - Second Met tower at Naval Station Newport, RI;
TITLE : NREL Tracking No. 08-015c-2

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		NREL 08-015c-2	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 project is for the commissioning of a meteorological (met) tower to be installed at the Naval Station Newport in Rhode Island. The NEPA determination for a previous met tower (NREL Tracking No. 08-015c) was signed on 7/23/09. Subsequently, it was determined that another met tower be installed to enhance the wind data collection capabilities for this project.

This project is for the installation and operation of a meteorological (met) tower on the Newport Naval Station in Rhode Island. A NREL contractor would install a 60 meter met tower at the Newport Naval Station 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 would be located at Tank Farm 4 between the former locations of Tanks 39 and 44. 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. Twenty-four guy wires would extend from the tower with the longest wire extending a horizontal distance of approximately 110 feet. Access would be provided by existing roads.

The met tower site is located in an area of historical significance. Consultation between the US Navy and Rhode Island State Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RISHPHC), resulted in a letter stating that this proposal will have no adverse effect on historic properties stated by the RISHPHC.

The US Navy previously conducted an environmental review of this project, and on May 27, 2009, determined no significant environmental impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed action, and that the project falls under CX 20 (Installation and operation of passive scientific measurement devices, where use will not result in changes in operations tempo and is consistent with applicable regulations).

Based on the information above and US Navy determination 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: Kurtis Kew
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/19/2010

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: _____

The project is for the construction of a meteorological (met) tower to be installed at the Naval Station Newport in Rhode Island. The NEPA determination for a minor project (NEPA) (NEPA) was signed on 1/22/10. Subsequently, it was determined that another met tower be installed to enhance the wind data collection capabilities for the project.

The project is for the installation and operation of a meteorological (met) tower at the Naval Station in Rhode Island. A HREL contractor was installed at the Naval Station for 12 months. Data collected from the met tower instrument, valves and temperature sensors would be used to provide a feasibility study for wind potential at the site.

The met tower proposal is on the installed surface and within an Airfield Safety Zone. The met tower would be located at Task Force 4 between the former location of Task 88 and 44. The met tower system would be assembled onsite and mounted using a crane for installation. Data from atmospheric, wind, and temperature sensors would be collected with a data collector. Twenty-four (24) wires would extend from the tower with the longest wire extending a horizontal distance of approximately 110 feet. Access would be provided by existing roads.

The met tower site is located in an area of historical significance. Consultation between the US Navy and Rhode Island State Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission (RISHPC) resulted in a letter stating that the project will have no adverse effect on historic properties listed by the RISHPC.

The US Navy previously conducted an environmental review of the project and on May 27, 2008, determined an equivalent environmental impact was anticipated as a result of the proposed action, and that the project falls under CX 20. Installation and operation of passive acoustic measurement devices, whose use will not result in changes in operations tempo and is consistent with applicable regulations.

Based on the information above and US Navy determination to approve the proposal, the project's impacts to the inner and outer environment can be deemed less than significant and this project would qualify for Categorical Exclusion 20.1.