

PMC-EF2a

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



(201402)

RECIPIENT: Montana Tech of The University of Montana

STATE: MT

PROJECT TITLE : Recovery Act-Geothermal Technologies Program

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-EE0000116	DE-EE0002821	GFO-10-228	0

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.
- A11** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.
- 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:

Montana Tech of The University of Montana proposes to install a Ground Source Heat Pump which will service the newly constructed Natural Resources Building. However this project is still developing their feasibility study and has yet to select neither a Ground Source Heat Pump system nor a site for the installation. Therefore the DOE will issue a determination for Phase 1 of the project. Phase 2: Task 2 and 3 will require further NEPA review directly following site selection and conceptual system design. DOE will require all information collected during Phase 1 and Phase 2 Task 1 to be submitted to the Department for further NEPA review before project implementation can occur.

Phase 1

Phase 1 task 1 (including all sub tasks) is entirely consistent of studies, including feasibility studies and other studies to determine the location of the interface between the heat pump and the HVAC system as well determining the design criteria for the overall system.

Phase 1 task 2 (including all sub tasks) and 3 are made up of computer modeling to determine the correct system size, estimating the costs of the different sized heat pumps and producing a schematic flow diagram and a proposed sequence of operation.

Phase 1 task 4 subtask 4.1 involves securing all regulatory and environmental permits,

Phase 1 task 4 subtask 4.2 involves field investigation work including monitoring of water temperature and other parameters.

Phase 2

Phase 2 task 1 involves the preparing of construction bid documents based on the output from phase 1.

Phase 2 tasks 2 and 3 is prohibited at this time pending further review of information collected during Phase 1 and Phase 2 Task 1. Currently there is not enough information to make a NEPA determination for example system size, number of bore holes needed, if any special design requirements are needed, permits needed/obtained etc.

Phase 3

Phase 3 tasks 1, 2 and 3 all involve data collection, data analysis, project monitoring, document preparation and dissemination all of which present no environmental impact.

This information gathering presents no environmental impact and therefore this task is Categorically Excluded under CX A9 "Information Gathering" and CX A11 "technical advice" from further NEPA review. The collection of water samples and conventional laboratory testing of samples collected presents no environmental impact and therefore this

sub task is categorically excluded from further NEPA review under CX Category B3.1c.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Phase 2; Tasks 2 & 3 are prohibited at this time pending further review of information collected and submitted to DOE during Phase 1 and Phase 2; Task 1.

Any Demolition, Construction, and/or Installation related to the proposed project.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Phase 1

Phase 1; Task 1 (including all sub tasks) is entirely consistent of studies, including feasibility studies and other studies to determine the location of the interface between the heat pump and the HVAC system as well determining the design criteria for the overall system.

Phase 1; Task 2 (including all sub tasks) and 3 are made up of computer modeling to determine the correct system size, estimating the costs of the different sized heat pumps and producing a schematic flow diagram and a proposed sequence of operation.

Phase 1; Task 4 subtask 4.1 involves securing all regulatory and environmental permits,

Phase 1; Task 4 subtask 4.2 involves field investigation work including monitoring of water temperature and other parameters.

Phase 2

Phase 2; Task 1 involves the preparing of construction bid documents based on the output from phase 1.

All other actions which involve 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).

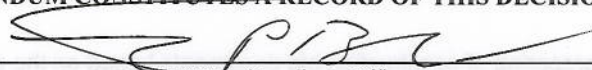
If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

3/23/10

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.