

PMC-EF2a

2010-021

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



RECIPIENT: 1001 South 15th Street Associates LLC

STATE: PA

**PROJECT TITLE :** Recovery Act: 1010 Avenue of the Arts- New School & Performing Arts Theater

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0000116	DE-EE0002776	GFO-10-284	GO2776

**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:

New School & Performing Arts is proposing to install a Ground Source Heat Pump system to service the New School & Performing Arts School. However this project is in the process of conducting their feasibility study and has yet to select a Ground Source Heat Pump system. Therefore DOE will issue a determination for Phase 1 "Feasibility Study and Engineering Design" of the project; including the drilling of a test conductivity borehole. Phase 2 "Installation & Commissioning of Equipment" will require further NEPA review immediately following test well data and conceptual system design. DOE will require all information collected during Phase 1 to be submitted to the Department for further NEPA review before project implementation can occur.

This information gathering presents no significant environmental impact and therefore this task is Categorical Excluded under CX A9 "Information Gathering" and CX A11 "technical advice" from further NEPA review. The drilling of the test conductivity borehole will be drilled a previously disturbed area on the school's grounds adjacent to the school. The test well will be an integral part of the feasibility study. The test borehole will then be used to conduct thermal conductivity testing on the soil, this will determine the system's heating and cooling potential which will then be compared to the baseline of the buildings heating and cooling needs and a system will be designed with these demands. There are no known drinking water aquifers used in this part of the city and the test well will comply with the Pennsylvania Well Water Drilling Regulations and a licensed well driller will be used.

The drilling of a test conductivity borehole is therefore determined to have no significant impact to human health and/or environment and is hereby Categorical Excluded from further NEPA review under B3.1 "Environmental Monitoring and Site Characterization".

**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 "Installation and Commissioning of Equipment"

Any Demolition, Construction, and/or Installation related to the proposed project. Excluding activities related to the test well.

This restriction does not preclude you from:  
Phase 1 "Feasibility Study and Conceptual Engineering Design"

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.

**BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :**

Field Office Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_