

PMC-EF2a

201002

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



RECIPIENT: Skychaser Energy, Inc

STATE: WI

PROJECT TITLE : Recovery Act: Lake Elizabeth Micro-Utility

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-EE0000116	DE-EE0002823	GFO-10-257	GO2823

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.

Rational for determination:

Skychaser Energy, Inc is proposing a Technology Demonstration Project under the Geothermal Technologies Program of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The project will demonstrate specific methods for overcoming existing barriers to the large-scale commercialization of geothermal heat pumps and related services.

The site of the proposed project is the Lake Elizabeth condominiums, a new construction project to be built near the shore of its namesake located in Twin Lakes, Wisconsin. The proposed ground source heat system will have an estimated 73 ton capacity and will be a closed loop heat exchanger. Because design and siting information does not exist, Skychaser is requesting DOE funds to perform feasibility studies and conceptual design work.

Since information gathered from Phase 1 will be used to review the environmental impact of Phase 2 and 3, this determination is only applicable to Phase 1. The information gathered during Phase 1 needs to be submitted to DOE for further NEPA review if a determination is to be made for Phase 2 "System Installation and Commissioning" and 3 "Operation, Data Collection and Marketing";

The tasks for Phase 1 are as follows:

- 1.0 Phase 1 - Feasibility, Agreements and Design
 - 1.1 Task 1 - Receive Approval for Funding from DOE
 - 1.2 Task 2 - Feasibility Assessment
 - 1.2.1 Subtask 2.1 - Technical
 - 1.2.2 Subtask 2.2 - Economic
 - 1.3 Task 3 - Finalize Agreements
 - 1.3.1 Subtask 3.1 - Power Purchase Agreement
 - 1.3.2 Subtask 3.2 - Professional Services Agreements
 - 1.3.3 Subtask 3.3 - Finalize Statement of Work and Issue RFQ
 - 1.3.4 Subtask 3.4 - Issue Purchase Orders to Vendors
 - 1.3.5 Subtask 3.5 - Local Permits Filed
 - 1.3.6 Subtask 3.6 - Begin Media Capture of Project Development
 - 1.4 Task 4 - Engineering Design
 - 1.4.1 Subtask 4.1 - Ground Loop
 - 1.4.2 Subtask 4.2 - Mechanical System
 - 1.4.3 Subtask 4.3 - Control System
 - 1.4.4 Subtask 4.4 - Remote Administration & Billing System
 - 1.4.5 Subtask 4.5 - Media

Through a review of the above information, it can be determined that Phase 1 of the proposed project will not have a significant impact to human health and/or environment. Therefore Phase 1 is hereby Categorical Excluded under CX A9 "Information Gathering" and CX A11 "technical advice" from further NEPA review.

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: "System Installation and Commissioning"

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

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Phase 1: "Feasibility, Agreements and 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:
