

PMC-EF2a

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



(2.04.02)

RECIPIENT: University of Maine

STATE: ME

PROJECT TITLE : Validation of Coupled Models and Optimization of Materials for Offshore Wind Structures

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| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number Congressionally delegated | Procurement Instrument Number DE-EE0003278 | NEPA Control Number GFO-10-334 | CID Number EE3278 |
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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.
- 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:
- C12** Siting, construction, and operation of energy system prototypes including, but not limited to, wind resource, hydropower, geothermal, fossil fuel, biomass, and solar energy pilot projects.

Rational for determination:

DOE is providing federal funding to the University of Maine to validate and test offshore wind platforms. The initial phases of this study (Tasks 1 through 3) will consist of studies of environmental impacts and regulatory compliance activities, a laboratory-based feasibility study of steps necessary for deepwater offshore wind development, and modeling and preliminary design of floating turbine platforms. During later phases (Tasks 4 and 5), one-third scale floating wind turbines will be designed, fabricated, and installed in the Gulf of Maine and the performance of those platforms will be monitored.

CX Categories A9 and B3.1 apply to environmental impact evaluations and regulatory compliance; laboratory-based modeling, feasibility studies, and preliminary design work; and project management activities (Tasks 1, 2, 3).

An Environmental Assessment EA (C12) is required prior to DOE committing funds to final design, fabrication, deployment, and monitoring of wind turbine platforms (Tasks 4 and 5).

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:

Final design, fabrication, deployment, and monitoring of wind turbine platforms (Tasks 4 and 5)

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Environmental impact evaluations and regulatory compliance activities; laboratory-based modeling, feasibility studies, and preliminary design work; and project management activities (Tasks 1, 2, and 3).

The recipient is authorized to initiate the preparation of an EA by a third-party contractor, consistent with DOE NEPA implementing regulations. DOE, the University of Maine, and third-party contractor shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) defining the scope of services to be completed by the third-party contractor on behalf of DOE.

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: _____

5/13/10

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: _____

5-13-10