

PMC-EF2a

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



(20402)

RECIPIENT: Grand Valley State University (GVSU)

STATE: MI

PROJECT TITLE : Offshore Wind Technology Data Collection Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
Congressionally Directed	DE-EE0000294	GFO-10-316	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.

Rational for determination:

Grand Valley State University is proposing to use federal funds to site, design, engineer, and construct an offshore research platform equipped with a meteorological tower, and anemometer that will be located in Lake Michigan. Tasks 1 -13.2 involve pre-construction activities that would generate the information necessary for DOE to make a NEPA determination on the Construction and Operation phases of this project.

Task 1.0 Issue Request for Proposals (RFP)

Task 2.0 Proposal Acceptance and Design/Build Partner Selection

Task 3.0 Assemble project implementation team

Task 4.0 Assemble project advisory team

Task 5.0 Preliminary (desktop) Studies

Task 6.0 Pre-permitting Studies

Task 7.0 Platform Site Assessment (desktop studies)

Task 8.0 Site Analysis – Preliminary (desktop) Field Work

Task 9.0 Develop Research Outline and Research Agenda

Task 10.0 Outreach and Education

Task 11.0 Contracting for Data Acquisition

Task 12.0 Leasing and Permitting

Task 13.0 Platform Development, Design, Engineering (Conceptual Design)

*Subtask 13.1 GVSU contracts with selected research platform design/build partner

*Subtask 13.2 Design and engineer platform and prepare all necessary construction permits /documents.

*Subtask 13.3 Procure platform materials and installation support materials

*Subtask 13.4 Construct the platform and install research instrumentation,

*Subtask 13.5 Investigate and analyze effects of first winter on installation. Make design and installation adjustments as necessary

Task 14.0 Start up/Commissioning

Task 15.0 Maintenance and Recordkeeping

Task 16.0 Conduct Research and Development of Findings

Task 17.0 Disposition

Task 18.0 Decommissioning

Task 19.0 Project Management and Reporting

Tasks 1.0 -11.0 and 19.0 involve information gathering, desktop analyses, and project management and are hereby Categorically Excluded under DOE CXA9 "Information Gathering".

Tasks 12.0 – 18.0 involve the design, construction, deployment, demolition, land/water acquisitions, procurement activities and/or equipment purchases for the construction/operation of a proposed off-shore research platform. These tasks involve activities where additional information will need to be procured and submitted to DOE NEPA in order to make a final determination. These tasks therefore are unallowable per this determination.

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:

Task 12.0 – 18.0

The applicant cannot purchase or lease land or water rights with neither DOE or cost-share funds, nor can the applicant use these funds to move forward with final design until further NEPA review is conducted.

Any construction, deployment, demolition, land/water acquisitions, procurement activities and/or equipment purchases, specifically for the construction/operation of the platform.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Task 1.0 - 11.0 (all activities)

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.

Insert the following language in the award:

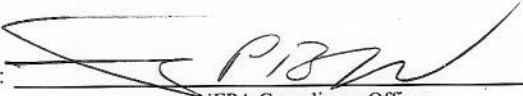
You are required to:

Submit an additional EF1 with specific information pertaining to the planned construction, deployment and operation of their proposed offshore research platform.

Note to Specialist :

This project involves tasks that are currently unallowable under NEPA and require submission of additional information (tasks 12.0 - 18.0). NEPA recommends this recipient's grant be placed on ASAP approval.

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: _____