

PMC-EF2a

(20102)

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



RECIPIENT: Casper College

STATE: WY

PROJECT TITLE : Casper College Renewable Energy Program

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
CDP	DE-FG36-08GO88172	GFO-09-003-001	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:

- 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:
- B3.6** Siting, construction (or modification), operation, and decommissioning of facilities for indoor bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations (for example, preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); small-scale research and development projects; and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than two years) conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions. Construction (or modification) will be within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible).

Rational for determination:

Casper College, WY has amended Phase 2 of their original SOPO.

Originally Casper College was going to use DOE and cost share funding to purchase a second wind turbine for their campus's wind maintenance training program. However they have now revised their SOPO to purchase a wind training tower instead of the wind turbine.

The tower would be 60ft. tall by 11ft. wide. The tower would be exactly 14ft below the nearest structure, the Casper College Career Studies Building. The wind training tower would be used to train students for maintenance purposes. The site in which the tower would be erected has no wetlands present nor is it located within a floodplain. The site chose would be on previously disturbed land directly south of the Career Studies Building. The tower would be sited far enough from the building that it would not cause a safety concerns due to a possible tower collapse.

The internal layout of the tower would be hollow and would consist of safety ropes, ladders, and hatch doors on top. This tower would not be used to house or shelter any materials at any time. Casper College plans to install monitoring devices such as, an anemometer, wind direction vane, temperature sensor, relative humidity sensor and a data-logger, all of which will be secured to the top of the tower.

The tower would be constructed for the purpose of this project and would not be a re-used or contaminated structure. The only construction activity with land disturbance will be an 18 foot x 18 foot (16 inches thick) concrete foundation. A Geotechnical Engineer is required within the engineering bid documents to verify that the soil is suitable for the proposed footings and the foundation can handle a uniform load of 1500 psf.

Casper College has not consulted with the FAA because the tower is only 14 feet less than their highest building on campus and the distance from the nearest airport is 3.9 miles. Per FAA regulations, "structures less than 200 feet and the installation of any object that would be shielded by existing structures of a permanent and substantial character or by natural terrain or topographic features of equal or greater height and where it is evident beyond all reasonable doubt that the structure so shielded will not adversely affect safety in air navigation" are not required to consult or notify the FAA. The proposed tower is 60ft high with a maximum installation height of 78 feet and can be considered a "shielded object" from existing structures on campus; therefore FAA notification would not be required and affects to navigable airspace are deemed less than significant.

DOE has determined that this project has no significant impact to human health and/or environment. The installation of the meteorological equipment is hereby Categorically Excluded from further NEPA review under B3.1 "Site Characterization/Environmental Monitoring". The installation of the wind training tower is hereby Categorically

Excluded from further NEPA review under B3.6 "Siting/construction/operation/decommissioning of facilities for bench-scale research, conventional laboratory operations, small-scale research and development and pilot projects."

*- A structural integrity clause has been applied to this project.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

Recipient shall ensure the safety and structural integrity of any repair, replacement, construction and/or alteration performed under this project.

Note to Specialist :

NEPA review conducted by John Jediny

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

5/17/10

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:
