

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: Oregon Department of Energy

STATE: OR

PROJECT TITLE : Oregon EECBG formula – City of Cove

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
| DE-FOA-0000013 | DE-EE0000926 | | EE0 |

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:

Rational for determination:

CX Numbers:

- B5.4 - Repair/replacement of sections of pipeline within maintenance provisions
- B5.5 - Construction/operation of pipeline segments

The City of Cove, Oregon proposes to use \$385,000 of EECBG funds through a sub-grant from the State of Oregon for a 7,800 foot water pipeline replacement project. The primary purpose of the project will consist of excavating and replacing approximately 7,800 of old pipeline feeding into a run-of-river hydroelectric unit, with a nameplate capacity of 800kW, with an updated, bigger pipeline that will allow for increased water conveyance to the City of Cove hydroelectric generation facility. The existing pipeline is located beneath a logging road and has been in service for 25 year, contains large expanses of corrosion, multiple leaks, and is reducing energy efficiency for the generation facility. Currently the facility is only operating under 635kW during peak flows instead of its designed 800kW capacity. Left unattended, the existing pipe is anticipated to form additional leaks and further degrade resulting in further energy inefficiency.

The replacement pipe will have an increased inside diameter from 24" to 27", be comprised of HDPE material, and will be buried deeper beneath the road surface as a buffer from overhead traffic compaction. The 7,800 foot long section being replaced follows the contour of the mountain above the hydroelectric facility and will not have any impact on vegetation or wildlife resources as it is currently located beneath an existing dirt road. At no point does the road cross any streams, creeks, or ditches.

Approximately 1,800 feet of the proposed pipeline replacement is located within the Whitman National Forest Service. A NEPA review was conducted in December 2009 by the Forest Service where it was decided the proposed pipeline replacement does not pose any significant environmental impacts and the Service has prepared a decision memo to grant a CX for the pipeline replacement for the areas within forest boundaries. Additionally, the Forest Service has also granted the recipient a Temporary Permit to allow construction activities within forest limits.

Once portions of the pipeline replacement are completed excavated materials will be replaced and flattened, effectively covering/protecting the new pipeline and returning the roadway to a useable state. No wetlands, streams, or water bodies are located adjacent to the existing pipeline, so no erosion issues or runoff issues are anticipated.

The replacement of existing pipe with a larger, more efficient water pipeline will increase the hydroelectric generation facility operating capacity back up to 800kW resulting in increased energy efficiency. Based on the above information this project is categorically excluded from further NEPA review under CX number B5.4, Repair/replacement of sections of pipeline withing maintenance provisions, and 5.5, Construction/operation of pipeline segments.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/1/10

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: _____