

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

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



RECIPIENT: Geysers Power Company, LLC

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : Northwest Geysers Enhanced Geothermal System

| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| DE-PS36-GO98008 | DE-FC36-08GO18201 | GFO-09-030-001 | GO18201 |

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:

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to demonstrate how the injection of water into deep, hot wells can create Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS). The proposed demonstration would be near an area of The Geysers, CA where there are existing steam production wells and electrical generating plants. A previous NEPA determination from December 11, 2008 (GFO-09-030) Categorically Excluded Phase 1 activities (Phase 1 Tasks 1.0 through 1.5 in the present SOPO). DOE/EA 1733 was completed and a FONSI was signed on June 21, 2010 for Phase 1 (Task 1.7), Phase 2, and Phase 3 activities. Subsequently, a new task with sub-tasks was added to Phase 1 of the project (Task 1.6.0 – Public Outreach and Enhanced Public Awareness of EGS Projects), therefore another NEPA review was needed. This review is specific to the newly added Task and sub-tasks.

Task 1.6.0 – Public Outreach and Enhanced Public Awareness of EGS Projects

Task 1.6.1 – Reopen Geysers Visitor Center to full time operations

Task 1.6.2 – Provide periodic public tours of an operating geothermal power plant

Task 1.6.3 – Community outreach/education of proposed EGS projects

Task 1.6.4 – Enhance/upgrade exhibits at the Visitor Center

Task 1.6.5 – Update and Enhance the Geysers.com web site for EGS Public Outreach

All Tasks added are comprised of information gathering, data analysis, document preparation, and dissemination; therefore the DOE has categorized this proposal into Categorical Exclusion A9.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

EF2a prepared by Casey Strickland

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Date:

7/6/10