

PMC-EF2a

(2010)

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



RECIPIENT:Luther College

STATE: IA

PROJECT TITLE : Integrated Renewable Energy and Campus Sustainability Initiative

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
2010 CDP	DE-EE0003271	GFO-10-351	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.
- 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:

Luther College is proposing to use Congressionally Directed federal funding from the Department of Energy (DOE) for the installation of one 1.5 to 1.65 MW wind turbine, including the turbine foundation, access road and interconnect electrical lines, at a privately owned site approximately one half mile west of the Luther College campus in Decorah, Iowa.

Tasks include:

- Task 1.0 Execution of Wind Turbine Supply Agreement
- Task 2.0 Project Management and Reporting

The power would be transmitted from the wind turbine to campus via underground supply lines for consumption on campus. The electrical supply lines from the turbine would involve approximately 1.1 miles of trenching. The turbine would generate approximately one third of the electricity Luther College currently consumes each year and would reduce the campus carbon footprint by approximately 15 percent.

Luther College has received an official "Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation" letter from the Federal Aviation Administration for the wind turbine site in January 2010. A 25-year Conditional Use Permit for the project was issued by Winneshiek County in September 2009.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the proposed project, with a revised publication date of January 28, 2009. The EA resulted in a USDA Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

DOE completed a thorough review of this USDA EA and has determined that the document does not meet DOE guidelines, regulations or provide adequate impact analysis for, but not inclusive of: avian resources, bat resources, aesthetics (flicker, sound, visual), electromagnetic interference, land use, and water quality.

The USDA EA does not meet DOE's NEPA responsibilities and guidelines for in addressing and complying with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the National Historical Preservation Act. Additional consultations with the State Historical Preservation Office and the US Department of Fish and Wildlife must be completed by DOE to determine potential impacts from the proposed construction of the wind turbine.

DOE has determined that a DOE Environmental Assessment (C12) must be completed in order to understand the environmental impacts associated with this project prior to making a funding decision.

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 1

DOE funds are not authorized for final design, capitol equipment purchase, land/site leasing, project site preparations, and final interconnection agreements prior to the outcome of the Environmental Assessment.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Task 2 Project Management and activities related to the preparation of the DOE Environmental Assessment.

Luther College is authorized to initiate the preparation of an EA by a third-party contractor, consistent with DOE NEPA implementing regulations. DOE, Luther College 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.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

Per the DOE NEPA implementing regulations (Appendix C to Subpart D to 10 CFR Part 1021 - C12, as noted above), a preparation of an Environmental Assessment is required prior to allowing federal funds for this task of the proposed project.

Note to Specialist :

L.Margason 7/20/2010

This project will require the preparation of an environmental assessment. NEPA recommends the recipient's grant be placed on ASAP approval

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Date: 8/12/10
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager