

PMC-EF2a

(200902)

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



RECIPIENT: Ohio Department of Development

STATE: OH

PROJECT TITLE : Ohio State ARRA-EECBG - Act 3 (Competitive Grants) - ODOT: Belmont, Wood, Ashtabula

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000013	DE-EE0000714		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:

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

Rational for determination:

The Ohio Department of Development is proposing to use \$1,632,500 in EECBG ARRA funding to install wind turbines, ground mounted solar PV systems, truck electrification systems, an electric vehicle charging station and LED lighting to increase the use of renewable energy and energy efficient equipment and reduce emissions at three (3) Ohio rest stops. The majority of the grant funds will be utilized for capital purchases and equipment installation of the renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. This NEPA determination will focus on the wind and solar energy installations as the truck electrification systems and electric vehicle charging stations will be installed on existing, paved parking areas and the LED lighting upgrades will not require new construction.

FHWA NEPA approval is required and has been obtained. The Ohio DOT has conducted a NEPA review of the proposed projects and all materials have been independently evaluated by the Ohio Office of Environmental Services. The review concluded that the proposed projects meets the Level 1 Programmatic Categorical Exclusion and that no further environmental documentation is required. The ODOT NEPA analysis was reviewed as part of this determination.

The Ashtabula/I-90 Rest Area will receive one 100kW wind turbine and a 15kW ground mounted solar PV array. The wind turbine will have a total height of 180ft. The wind turbine location is 300ft from the tourist center. The wind turbine will be surrounded by fencing to restrict access. The wind turbine location is in a rural area with scattered residential and farming operations within 1 mile of the proposed turbine location. A school located within .5 miles of the site constructed a 600kW wind turbine in 2009 which is easily visible from the rest area. Utility grid interconnection will be completed as the project development and design continue. The interconnection is designed to be underground and will occur within the boundary of the rest area. All actions involved with the proposed project will occur on previously disturbed land within the defined boundaries of the existing rest area facility.

Potential environmental impacts of the Ashtabula/I-90 portion of the project and associated actions include:

- Relocation of Utilities-The action could require utility lines serving the tourist information center to be relocated. The existing utility lines servicing the rest area are located within the rest area/right-of-way. No impacts beyond the existing right-of-way are anticipated.
- Removal of Trees and Vegetation-The proposed action is not anticipated to result in the removal of any trees or vegetation. The placement of emission reduction and renewable energy technology will occur in areas previously disturbed by construction of the rest area.
- Rivers, Streams and Watercourses-Two intermittent drainages run through the rest area; the closest perennial waterway is approximately 2,000ft west of the project area. No State or National Scenic Rivers are located in the project area.

- Wetlands-A small wetland is located on the northern portion of the property; however, this site will not be impacted by the project.
- Threatened and Endangered Species-A finding of No Effect from the project was determined for Bald Eagle, Piping Plover, Eastern Massasauga, and Snuffbox and Clubshell Mussels. A finding of May Affect, but Not Likely to Adversely Affect was determined for the Indiana Bat. On May 24th, 2010, ODNR provided a letter certifying that ODNR had no objections with the proposed project. On May 26th, 2010, USFWS responded, concurring with ODOT's affects findings for the listed species.
- High Quality Habitat-There is a high quality hemlock hardwood forest community located within .5 miles of the project. No impacts are anticipated to the resource as result of the project.
- Cultural Resources-The Office of Environmental Services completed a Section 106 review and determined that the proposed project has "no potential to cause effects" to historic properties.
- Air Quality-Ashtabula County is a partial non-attainment area. The wind turbine and solar array will provide electricity to keep trucks from idling reducing emissions. Impacts to air quality should be positive.
- Permits-An NPDES permit will not be required as there will be less than 1 acre of ground disturbance in the project area. The project will not impact any waterway; no waterway permits are required. Pending final turbine analysis FAA will be consulted to obtain the necessary permits if required. With regards to the Ashtabula I-90 three airports are located in the vicinity; the nearest of which is 7 miles from the proposed project location.
- Noise - The turbine produces approximately 55 dBA at 131 feet. Normal highway traffic is approximately 60 dBA at 300 feet while diesel truck engines idle at 90 dBA at 50 foot distance. Based upon past experience and noise analysis modeling, the highway noise is anticipated drown out/overshadow noise turbine noise generated.
- Visual Resources - Adverse visual impacts are not anticipated as the proposed project is located .25 miles from the nearest residence with wooded areas interspersed around the site and viewing time while on the highway is negligible.
- Safety – The turbine will be surrounded by fencing to restrict access to the equipment.

The Woods/I-75 rest area will receive one 100kW wind turbine and a 15kW ground mounted solar PV array. The total height would be 180ft. The wind turbine location is 300ft from the tourist center. The wind turbine will be surrounded by fencing to restrict access. The wind turbine location is in a rural area with scattered residential and farming operations within 1 mile of the proposed turbine location. Visual impacts are not anticipated as there are four existing, 1.2MW wind turbines visible and approximately 6 miles from the proposed wind turbine. Adverse visual impacts are not anticipated as the proposed project is located .25 miles from the nearest residence with wooded areas interspersed around the site and viewing time while on the highway is negligible. Utility grid interconnection will be completed as the project development and design continue. The interconnection is designed to be underground and will occur within the boundary of the rest area. All actions involved with the proposed project will occur on previously disturbed land within the defined boundaries of the existing rest area facility.

Potential environmental impacts of the Woods/I-75 portion of the project and associated actions include:

- Relocation of Utilities-The action could require utility lines serving the tourist information center to be relocated. The existing utility lines servicing the rest area are located within the rest area/right-of-way. No impacts beyond the existing right-of-way are anticipated.
- Removal of Trees and Vegetation-The proposed action is not anticipated to result in the removal of any trees or vegetation. The placement of emission reduction and renewable energy technology will occur in areas previously disturbed by construction of the rest area.
- Rivers, Streams and Watercourses-Two intermittent drainages run through the rest area; the closest perennial waterway is approximately 2,000ft west of the project area. No State or National Scenic Rivers are located in the project area.
- Wetlands-A small wetland is located on the northwest portion of the property; however, this site will not be impacted by the project.
- Threatened and Endangered Species-A finding of No Effect from the project was determined for Bald Eagle, Piping Plover, Eastern Massasauga, and Snuffbox and Clubshell Mussels. A finding of May Affect, but Not Likely to Adversely Affect was determined for the Indiana Bat. On May 24th, 2010, ODNR provided a letter certifying that ODNR had no objections with the proposed project. On May 26th, 2010, USFWS responded, concurring with ODOT's affects findings for the listed species.
- Cultural Resources-The Office of Environmental Services completed a Section 106 review and determined that the proposed project has "no potential to cause effects" to historic properties.
- Air Quality- The wind turbine and solar array will provide electricity to keep trucks from idling reducing emissions. Impacts to air quality should be positive.
- Permits-An NPDES permit will not be required as there will be less than 1 acre of ground disturbance in the project area. The project will not impact any waterway; no waterway permits are required. Pending final turbine analysis FAA will be consulted to obtain the necessary permits if required. One airport is located within 4 miles of the Wood I-75 location.
- Noise - The turbine produces approximately 55 dBA at 131 feet. Normal highway traffic is approximately 60 dBA at 300 feet while diesel truck engines idle at 90 dBA at 50 foot distance. Based upon past experience and noise analysis modeling, the highway noise is anticipated drown out/overshadow noise turbine noise generated.
- Visual Resources - Adverse visual impacts are not anticipated as the proposed project is located .25 miles from the

nearest residence with wooded areas interspersed around the site and viewing time while on the highway is negligible.

- Safety – The turbine will be surrounded by fencing to restrict access to the equipment.

The Belmont/I-70 rest area will receive a 30kW ground mounted solar PV array and an electric vehicle fueling station which will be powered by the solar PV array. All actions involved with the proposed project will occur on previously disturbed land within the defined boundaries of the existing rest area facility. This aspect of the project is well within the bounds of the signed SOW. Adverse effects to the surrounding environment will not occur as a result of the proposed action at the Belmont/I-70 rest area.

The proposed project will reduce consumption of conventional fossil fuels; therefore it is categorically excluded under CX B5.1 "Actions to conserve energy" from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

The recipient is required to obtain the necessary permits regarding all actions involved with the proposed project.

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 8/13/10

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: _____