

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

STATE: TX

PROJECT
TITLE :

ARRA SEP STATE OF TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE - PV-WIND HYBRID SYSTEM

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052	EE0000116		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 State of Texas will provide \$1,526,474 in Recovery Act funds to the University of Texas at Brownsville (Texas Southmost College) to install a 106kW solar system and a 100kW wind turbine for the dual purpose of supporting the university's academic curriculum and supplying electricity needs to the campus via the grid. The work will be performed at the International Technology Education and Commerce Center (ITECC) located at 301 Mexico Boulevard, Brownsville, TX.

The 106kW solar system will occupy 40,000sqft of the ITECC roof. Engineering design and analysis has confirmed structural integrity for the solar system. The design calls for installation of the solar array on the flat-roof portion of the building, which is likely to be out of public view.

The 100kW turbine will be located on campus in a parking lot adjacent to the ITECC building bound by Palm Boulevard, Mexico Boulevard, and 6th Street. The turbine will occupy a 10'x10' area of the lot and reach a height of 120ft. Nearest the site is the ITECC building (approximately 200 yards) and several open fields. The nearest residential/commercial area is across one of the fields and approximately 0.20 miles from the site. A second residential/commercial area is across another field and approximately 0.33 miles from the site.

FAA has reviewed the proposed installation site and provided a "Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation." The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has also reviewed the proposed site and plans. In their response, FWS stated "for a single turbine we would normally not expect a significant impact to avian resources." FWS did identify two resacas in the vicinity of the turbine site that may be used by the birds and noted the migratory significance of the Rio Grande Valley. The FWS advised that the University might perform studies concerning the impact of the turbine operation in regard to the resacas and of avian response to the turbine and requested that the University provide their findings to FWS should the studies be pursued.

In view of the information provided by the State, University, FAA, and FWS, DOE has determined that the installation of the solar array atop the ITECC building and that the siting of a low-structured wind turbine away from populated areas of the campus and local community are unlikely to have an adverse affect to human health, wildlife, or the environment. The work outlined is consistent with activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B5.1.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

According to the project officer, funding for this project is \$1,526,474. Absent a significant change in the scope of this effort, a change in funding will not affect my determination.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 8/11/10

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: _____