

PMC-EF2a

(204.02)

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



RECIPIENT: Nevada Geothermal Power Company

STATE: NV

PROJECT TITLE : Recovery Act: Detailed Structural Exploration - Crump Geyser, Oregon

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0002835		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:

- B3.1** Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities covered include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include, but are not limited to:
- 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:

Nevada Geothermal Power Company (NGP) would demonstrate the potential Crump Geyser geothermal resources in Southern Oregon by gathering data on the geothermal system. In Phase 1 (exploration geophysics), NGP would collect and interpret multiple levels of magnetic field measurements, precision Bouguer gravity, detailed geologic mapping, and shallow seismic reflection and refraction data to help define the pattern of fault offsets in the shallow basalt formation found at Crump Geyser. These data would be used by NGP to target the temperature gradient holes and slim-holes to be drilled in Phase 2 and tested in Phase 3. Phase 1 (Tasks 1.0, 2.0, and 4.0) of this project was previously approved by GFO-10-164 on February 8, 2010 with a CX A9 and B3.1. Additional information was submitted in regards to Phase 1 (Task 3.0), therefore another NEPA review was needed. This NEPA determination is specific to Phase 1 (Task 3.0) and Phase 3 (Task 14.0).

The project is divided into three phases with multiple tasks and sub-tasks.

Phase 1 – Exploration Geophysics

1.0 Magnetic Surveys

2.0 Precision Gravity Survey

3.0 Gas Piston Source Shallow Seismic Reflection Survey – the seismic lines have been identified and based upon the seismic source and method of exploration utilized for the survey no significant environmental impacts are expected.

4.0 Data interpretation and temperature gradient well targeting

Since the locations of the temperature gradient wells and the slim-holes have not been determined and/or required permits/surveys have not been completed, Phase 2 (all tasks) and Phase 3 (Tasks 8.0 through 13.0) cannot be analyzed at this time. A NEPA determination for these tasks in Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the project would be too early to determine but would need to be made prior to NGP beginning any drilling or testing activities.

Phase 2 – Drilling

Eight temperature gradient holes and two intermediate depth slim-holes would be drilled once targeted based upon work completed from Phase 1.

Phase 3 – Testing

Task 14.0 Project Management and Reporting – Reports and other deliverables will be provided in accordance with the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist following the instructions included therein.

Condition of Approval: Allowable – Phase 1 (all tasks) and Phase 3 (Task 14.0); Prohibited – Phase 2 (all tasks) and Phase 3 (Tasks 8.0 through 13.0).

Based upon the information provided, Phase 1 (all tasks) and Phase 3 (Task 14.0) are categorically excluded under CX A9 "Information gathering/data analysis/document preparation/dissemination" and CX B3.1 "Site characterization/environmental monitoring."

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:

Phase 2 (all tasks) and Phase 3 (Tasks 8.0 through 13.0)

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Phase 1 (all tasks) and Phase 3 (Task 14.0)

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.

Note to Specialist :

This project involves tasks which are unallowable under NEPA prior to further environmental analysis of Phase 2 (all tasks) and Phase 3 (Tasks 8.0 through 13.0). NEPA requests that this project be placed on ASAP Approval.

EF2a prepared by Casey Strickland

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 8/27/10

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: _____