

PMC-EF2a

(204.02)

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



RECIPIENT: University of Washington

STATE: WA

PROJECT TITLE : Tidal Energy Research

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
CDP	DE-EE0003283	GFO-10-562	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.
- 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:

Rational for determination:

The University of Washington is proposing to use DOE funds to develop numerical models, characterize potential turbine deployment sights, and for project coordination and management for research of tidal energy capture.

The proposed project consists of four tasks:

Task 1.0 tidal turbine device and array optimization

Task 2.0 instrumentation methodologies for field studies on environmental characteristics and impacts of TISEC

Task 3.0 numerical modeling on environment characteristics and impacts of TISEC

Task 4.0 coordination, administration, reporting, and dissemination of data

Tasks 1, 3 and 4 consist of modeling, data analysis, and program administration.

Task 2 consists of field research involving the placement of equipment on the seabed at multiple locations. University of Washington has a standing "Section 10" permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers to conduct field research at locations in Puget Sound, including the temporary emplacement of instruments on the seabed. Under a Section 10 Permit, the University of Washington is permitted to perform work in, over, and under navigable waters of the U.S. Prior to receiving concurrence from the USACE for a Section 10 permit, all proposed planned and future project activities are submitted by the applicant in the form of detailed drawings and design specifications which clearly show the scope, size, and location of proposed project activities, and then reviewed by a USACE representative. Therefore; all proposed actions under Task 2 are covered under the existing Section 10 permit.

A hard copy of the permit is on file at the Applied Physics Laboratory, Henderson Hall, 1013 NE 40th Street, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 98195.

The proposed project is comprised of field research and modeling. It is categorically excluded under B3.1 "site characterization and environmental monitoring" and A9 "information gathering" from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 8/23/10

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: _____