

PMC-EF2a

(20102)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Columbia Gorge Community College**STATE:** OR

PROJECT TITLE : Columbia Gorge Community College Wind Energy Workforce Training Nacelle

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
NA - Congressionally Directed Project	DE-EE0000320	GFO-10-009-001	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:

This NEPA review is being completed for the Columbia Gorge Community College's (College) congressionally directed funding due to a change in the original project scope of their proposed project. This change involves the addition of an added task to the original SOPO. This task is titled, "Task 5.0 Vertical Axis Wind Turbine" in their revised SOPO. Tasks 1.0 – 4.0 of the current SOPO have been previously reviewed under NEPA and issued a categorical exclusion (GFO-10-009, dated 11-3-2009).

In Task 5.0, the College is proposing to purchase and install a 3 kW vertical axis wind turbine (VAWT) on their college campus. The turbine available is a used Skyron Alpha 2 VAWT that will be used for instructional purposes within the Renewable Energy Technology workforce training program at the College.

The turbine will be located on The Dalles, Oregon campus of Columbia Gorge Community College at 400 East Scenic Drive. Sighting of the turbine was determined based on previously acquired anemometer data. The proposed site is a vacant parcel of land located on the east side of campus; is semi-flat with no trees or grass; and is a previously disturbed area surrounded by roads and other paved areas. The turbine footprint, including required fencing would be 40'x40'. Total turbine height is 19'6" high and 6'3" in diameter and will be installed on a 10' pole.

Construction would involve pouring the foundation for the turbine, transportation and installation of the turbine, installation of guyed wires on the turbine, and installation of an electrical enclosure containing electrical components and various monitoring devices. The College would also install an 8-10 foot tall fence enclosing the turbine as a safety measure and acquire the applicable permits and approvals as necessary.

Informal consultation under the Endangered Species Act was conducted by DOE with the local US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) office for that region. The USFWS stated in an email to DOE, dated September 17, 2010 that, "The only two listed species in Wasco County are bull trout and the Northern spotted owl. Bull trout distribution is limited to streams and rivers in the area, but due to the type and location of the project no impacts are expected to this species. Northern spotted owls are known to occur in Wasco County with the nearest known habitat located 15 - 20 air miles southwest on the Mt. Hood National Forest. However, due to the limited size of the turbine (~30 ft. in height), location, and distance of the proposed turbine from known Northern spotted owl habitat, no impacts or conflicts are expected. In conclusion, no adverse impacts to any listed species are expected to occur as a result of construction or installation of this wind energy turbine located on the Columbia Gorge Community College campus (400 East Scenic Drive), The Dalles, OR."

Based on the existing pre-disturbed conditions of the proposed site, small turbine and footprint size, safety measures implemented, and a determination of no affect to endangered species by the USFWS, DOE determines that impacts

to the human and natural environment are negligible; therefore a CX B5.1 "small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects" applies to Task 5.0 activities.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

Completed by Laura Margason 9.21.2010

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/29/10

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: _____