

PMC-EF2a

200402

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



RECIPIENT: University of Maine

STATE: ME

PROJECT TITLE : Validation of Coupled Models and Optimization of Materials for Offshore Wind Structures

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
FY 2010 CDP	DE-EE0003278	GFO-10-334-001	EE3278

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:
- C12** Siting, construction, and operation of energy system prototypes including, but not limited to, wind resource, hydropower, geothermal, fossil fuel, biomass, and solar energy pilot projects.
- B3.6** Siting, construction (or modification), operation, and decommissioning of facilities for indoor bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations (for example, preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); small-scale research and development projects; and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than two years) conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions. Construction (or modification) will be within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible).

Rational for determination:

This NEPA determination is being revised due to the reorganization of the SOPO. All tasks requiring an Environmental Assessment have been combined under this 2010 CDP. The GFO-10-334 NEPA determination (5/13/2010) required an Environmental Assessment (C12) for the same scope of work as this determination.

The University of Maine proposes to use federal funding to validate and test offshore wind platforms. Tasks 1 and 2 would consist of studies of environmental impacts and regulatory compliance activities, a laboratory-based feasibility study of steps necessary for deepwater offshore wind development and modeling and preliminary design of floating turbine platforms. Task 3, would consist of final design, fabrication, installation, monitoring the performance of the platforms, and decommissioning of 1/3 scale floating wind turbine into the Gulf of Maine. Task 4 will consist of all project management and reporting requirements.

A CX A9, B3.1, & B3.6 apply to environmental impact analysis, laboratory based studies and modeling, preliminary design of the wind turbine platforms and project management/reporting.

An Environmental Assessment is required (C12) prior to DOE committing funds for final design, fabrication, deployment and monitoring of the wind turbine platforms.

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:

Task 3.0 Fabrication and Deployment

This restriction does not preclude you from:

- Task 1.0 Study of Environmental/Ecological Impacts and Permitting
- Task 2.0 Floating Turbines Design and Lab Testing – but not including final design.
- Task 4.0 Program Management and Reporting

The recipient is authorized to initiate the preparation of an EA by a third-party contractor, consistent with DOE NEPA implementing regulations. DOE, the University of Maine, and third-party contractor shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) defining the scope of services to be completed by the third-party contractor on behalf of DOE.

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 :

Eugene Brown 9/15/2010

Manager signed C-12 determination on 5/13/10

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Steve Blazek Date: 11/1/2010
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: 5/13/2010
Field Office Manager