PMC-EF2a
(2.06.02)

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

RECIPIENT: NREL **STATE:** CO

PROJECT TITLE : ESIF Excavation Soil Stockpile; NREL Tracking No. 11-013

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
		NREL-11-013	GO0

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:

DOE/EA-1440-S-II	Final Supplement-II to Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (November 2009)
DOE/EA-1440	Final Site-Site Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (February 2003)
B1.15	Siting, construction (or modification), and operation of support buildings and support structures (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated buildings) within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Covered support buildings and structures include those for office purposes; parking; cafeteria services; education and training; visitor reception; computer and data processing services; employee health services or recreation activities; routine maintenance activities; storage of supplies and equipment for administrative services and routine maintenance activities; security (including security posts); fire protection; and similar support purposes, but excluding facilities for waste storage activities, except as provided in other parts of this appendix.

Rational for determination:

This proposed project is for the onsite deposition of excavated soil generated by the build-out of the Energy Systems Integration Facility (ESIF) building at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain (STM) Complex located in Golden, Colorado (Jefferson County). The proposed project includes transporting 42,000 cubic yards (CY) of excavated soil from Site Development Zone 4 (Central Campus) to a stockpile located within two zones: Site Development Zone 4 (Central Campus) and Site Development Zone 5 (Eastern Campus). The material would be spread over approximately five acres along the north side of the existing RSF II stockpile area and over 75 feet east of the centerline of the arroyo, as identified on the attached plan (2011-02-05, Storm Water Pollution Protection Plan (SWPPP) Stockpile Narrative). The material would be placed similar to the existing grades and will be blended into the surrounded topography at the edges. Edges of the stockpile area would have at a minimum five to one slope but may vary to match topography.

Using the existing haul road arroyo crossing installed during the RSF II project, the stockpiling operations would begin along the east side of the eastern drainage (arroyo) to prepare the area intended for lay down, staging, and construction parking. Stockpiling would continue easterly. The existing topsoil would be stripped and stockpiled separately to be reuse after the stockpiling operations would be completed. The anticipated export volume would result in an average stockpile height of approximately five feet above existing grade. Individual lifts would be placed in loose thicknesses no greater than eight inches. Compaction would result from the normal traffic of stockpiling operations. A minimum compaction percentage or testing would not be provided.

Erosion and sediment control measures would be provided in compliance with NREL Storm Water Procedure (Procedure 6-2.15) and the site specific SWPPP prepared for the ESIF project. Perimeter controls will include S-fence and a diversion ditch to prevent sediment from being transported beyond the stockpile area. A sediment trap will be provided to collect sediment laden storm water conveyed to the trap by the diversion ditches. Surface roughening will be completed over the stockpile area to slow down runoff and topsoil will be reused over the disturbed area. The area would then be vegetated and temporarily irrigated to reestablish native grass species. The vegetation in the proposed stockpile area is dominated by non-native grass species including cheat grass, Japanese brome, and annual herbaceous species (low quality). Reseeding with native (high quality) vegetation, silt fencing, and other erosion controls would be implemented in accordance with NREL Procedure 6-2.15. Weed maintenance would be done in accordance with NREL Procedure, 6-2.12 Weed Management.

The proposed affected areas of this project would be within the portions of the STM complex identified in the NREL Master Plan as developable. The development of Site Development Zones 4 and 5 was included and assessed in the Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (SWEA) of NREL's STM Complex (DOE/EA-1440) with a Finding of No

Significant Impact (FONSI) issued July 2003. The development of ESIF building and infrastructure assessed in the November 2009 Final Supplement II to Final SWEA of NREL's STM Complex (DOE/EA-1440-S-II), included a construction lay down area (approximately five acres) east of the eastern arroyo in the approximate location of the proposed stockpile. That action is similar in scope and impacts to the proposed onsite soil stockpile.

Fugitive particulate emissions from the construction would be controlled in accordance with the existing STM land disturbance air permit (APCD# 08JE0889L), including mitigation measures such as dust suppression. The hauling of the soils and stockpiling of the spoils would require using mobile point emission sources, such as front-end loaders, scrapers, dump trucks, etc. but these emissions would be negligible given the size and duration of the construction activity. Furthermore, onsite stockpiling of the soils versus offsite disposal at the designated disposal facility would generate less air emissions. It is estimated that would take over 2,500 truckloads to transport the soil to the offsite disposal facility with a 60-mile roundtrip. There are no historic properties affected by this proposed action. The development of this area, within Site Development Zones 4 and 5, was scoped within the 2003 SWEA and the 2009 Supplement II to SWEA, which included formal consultations with SHPO. Additionally, there are no impacts to offsite traffic anticipated by this proposed project.

Based on the information above and the assessments and FONSI determinations for EA-1440, EA-1440-S-II, and categorical exclusion B1.15, this project's impacts to the human and natural environment can be deemed less than significant.

NEPA PROVISION

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:
If any construction or construction-related activities (i.e., surveying, off road vehicle traffic, trenching, etc.) occurs between March 15th and September 1st, a survey for ground-nesting birds shall be completed by NREL's ESH&Q Office before these activities are initiated per NREL policy.

Stockpile soils a minimum of 75 feet from the centerline of the arroyo, eastern drainage feature.

Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: Lori Plummer /Lori Plummer/ Date: 4/12/2011
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: _____
Field Office Manager