

PMC-EF2a

(20102)

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



RECIPIENT: Blaine County School District #61

STATE: ID

PROJECT  
TITLE : Ground Source Heat Pump Retrofit

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000116	EE0002967	GFO-0002967-003	2967

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:

DOE and recipient cost share funding will be used to install 4 Open-Looped Ground Source Heat Pump Systems at 4 project locations. The Blaine County School District has received prior NEPA determinations on Phase 1 activities for all project locations (GFO-10-303), and for Phase 2 and 3 activities at 3 of the 4 project locations (Carey Elementary School and High School, Bellevue Elementary School, and Hailey Elementary School) (GFO-10-303-001). Phase 2 and 3 activities (as described in the attached SOPO) remain restricted at the fourth project location, Fox Acres Campus, and are the subject of this NEPA determination.

Wood River High School, Fox Acres Campus – 1050 Fox Acres Road, Hailey, ID 83333

- Total tonnage of system: 848
- The building condenser loop will use potable water/30% propylene glycol mixture. The system will be routed between the plate and frame heat exchanger and the distributed heat pump units, no exchange of fluids will occur between the condenser loop and the ground loop.
- Wells required: 7 (4 production wells and 3 injection wells)
- Will follow IDWR Regulations for well construction
- No Wetlands or Floodplains present
- All well drilling (production and re-injection water wells) will be performed by a state licensed or certified driller.
- Area of Installation: Previously disturbed; Production Wells: Landscaped grass areas adjacent to serviced buildings.
- Injection Well: Landscaped grass areas adjacent to serviced buildings.
- This project will comply with all applicable state and local regulations regarding geothermal installations.
- Waste materials will be standard well drill cuttings and fluids that will be disposed as standard waste in a local certified landfill.

The Blaine County School District has obtained the Water Rights permits from the Idaho Department of Water Resources for the associated production wells (Documentation attached). The Underground Injection Control (UIC) program was delegated by EPA to the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) in 1985. The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) regulates the construction, operation, and abandonment of all injection wells through the Idaho Underground Injection Control Program. The Blaine County School District has also obtained the Injection Well permits from the Idaho Department of Water Resources for the associated injection wells (Documentation attached). DOE concurs with the IDWR determination that extraction and injection of groundwater for use in the proposed project at the maximum rate of flow of 9.4cfs will not have adverse impacts to groundwater resources in the area.

No local or state permitting for stormwater is required. The projects will use a combination of buffer areas, with silt fences and straw wattles as needed when acceptable buffer areas are not present. Storm drains and catch basins

will be protected with silt sacks as needed. The site conditions will be returned to a state equal to the conditions prior to installation of the GSHP systems. No special permits are required for the proposed projects other than those required for the installation of the injection and production wells.

Phase 2 and 3 of the proposed project are consistent with activities outlined in B5.1; therefore, they are categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

Note to Specialist :

EF2a completed by Logan Sholar

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5/31/11

**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: \_\_\_\_\_