

PMC-EF2a

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



(20102)

RECIPIENT: University of New Hampshire

STATE: NH

PROJECT TITLE : University of New Hampshire CORE Infrastructure

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
FY10 CDP	DE-EE0003263	GFO-0003263-001	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:

- 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).
- 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 New Hampshire proposes to use federal funds to enhance three principle components of the University's Center for Ocean Renewable Energy research & development and evaluation infrastructure. These funds will allow the equipment used to be more adaptable to better serve the needs of the ocean renewable energy center. This project will look at in situ loads on the mooring system, fluid flow measurements, and mechanical & electrical outputs. Other aspects of this project will upgrade laboratory equipment and replace a buoy with an enhanced buoy for measurements.

This project will include:

- Task 1.0 Tidal site testing platform
- Task 1.1 Test platform design and fabrication
- Task 1.2 Test platform mooring system design and acquisition
- Task 1.3 Test platform measurements
- Task 1.4 Test platform turbine deployment structure
- Task 2.0 Chase Lab Upgrades
- Task 2.1 Wave/tow tank instrumentation
- Task 2.2 Tow carriage upgrade
- Task 2.3 Water quality, clarity system (35k)
- Task 2.4 High speed water tunnel
- Task 3.0 Wave/wind site environmental buoy (65k)
- Task 3.1 Environmental buoy water column sensors
- Task 3.2 Environmental buoy mooring components

The Chase Lab upgrades include actions to upgrade existing equipment within the laboratory. Upgrades will include upgrading the tow take instrumentation and carriage system, as well as, the water clarity system as to provide accurate measurements. The high speed water tunnel was recently transferred from the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory from the University of Minnesota and will be upgraded in increase tunnel speed.

The environmental monitoring buoy deployment will be a replacement of an existing buoy. The United States Coast Guard approved the original buoy placement in May 1999. UNH is required to abide by all Coast Guard requirements in the replacement of the buoy.

Task 1.0 Tidal site testing platform (and all subtasks) are prohibited at this time pending the completion of consultation with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Tasks 2 and 3 are comprised of information gathering, lab upgrades, and environmental monitoring utilizing a buoy; therefore a CX B3.1, B3.6, and A9 apply.

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 1 Tidal site testing platform

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Task 2 Chase Lab Upgrades

Task 3 Wave/wind site environmental buoy

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 :

Task 1 \$435,000.00 - conditioned on further NEPA review

Task 2 \$250,000.00 - covered by this NEPA determination

Task 3 \$65,000.00 - covered by this NEPA determination

Eugene Brown 6/22/2011

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/28/2011

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: _____