

PMC-EF2a

(2014.02)

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



RECIPIENT: AWS Truepower

STATE: NY

PROJECT TITLE : Wind Forecasting Improvement Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000343	DE-EE0004420	GFO-0004420-002	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:

B3.1 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:

DOE is proposing to provide federal funding to AWS Truepower, LLC, in Texas, to purchase, operate and maintain a 13 to 14 month deployment of four SODARs (Sonic Detection and Ranging). DOE funding would also be used to provide partial support for AWS Truepower personnel and supporting subcontractors.

This NEPA review, a continuation of GFO-0004420-001, would lift conditions placed on Task 1.3 "deployment of remote sensing equipment."

The proposed project would be using a Model VT-1 ART SODAR. SODAR systems measure wind speed as a function of height. The acoustic waves reflect off of moving, turbulent layers of air in the atmosphere, thereby causing a portion of the signal to return to the SODAR. This SODAR emits a high frequency (typically ~4.5 KHz) acoustic signal that pings (chirps) between 2 and 60 minute intervals. The maximum altitude of the readings would be 300 meters and the effective sampling depth would be 10 to 40 meters.

The applicant has identified four locations for the deployment of the SODAR unit. The SODAR units would be hauled on a trailer using a pickup truck and placed on grassy or concrete surfaces. The trailer would be driven on paved and gravel roads. Three of the four SODAR units would be deployed at local (municipal) airports in Texas adjacent to the landing strips. The fourth SODAR unit would be deployed at the Air Force base in Lubbock, Texas in conjunction with Texas Tech's deployed wind profiler and 200 meter met tower. The profiler and tower were installed prior to the start of this project; therefore, federal funds would not be used for the installation of either the profiler or the tower.

Site 1: Cleburne, Texas (32.353096N, 97.435245W)

Site 2: Ozona, Texas (30.734219N, 101.202765W)

Site 3: Big Lake, Texas (31.1963N, 101.471404W)

Site 4: Lubbock, Texas (33.587N, 102.051W)

Biological Resources – According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), threatened and endangered species are known to occur in the area of all four sites. However, the proposed locations do not represent suitable habitat for any of the following species that are known to occur: black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*), golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*), whooping crane (*Grus americana*) and bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Habitat for these species requires brushy areas with scattered trees, ravines, canyons and/or water features. Because all four sites are located at airports in wide open areas devoid of trees, these species would not be adversely impacted by the proposed project. Additionally, bat species would not be adversely impacted by the SODAR. Bats typically utilize frequency ranges from ~20 to ~200 KHz to echolocate. The frequency of the SODAR is ~4.5kHz; therefore, DOE has determined that the proposed project would not adversely affect avian species.

Cultural Resources – All locations are on previously disturbed land and the proposed project would not result in any excavations; therefore, DOE has determined that the proposed project would not adversely affect historic properties or cultural resources.

Wetlands and Floodplains – All four locations are not located in either a USFWS mapped wetland or in a FEMA mapped floodplain; therefore, DOE has determined that the proposed project would not adversely impact wetlands or floodplains.

In view of the information provided by the recipient, DOE has determined that the impacts related to the proposed project are anticipated to have negligible effects on the human and natural environment. The proposed project is consistent with actions outlined in CX B3.1 (site characterization and environmental monitoring) and is, therefore, 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 :

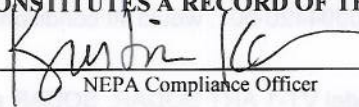
Cristina Tyler 6.14.2011

Total Project Cost: \$3,218,721.00
DOE Share: \$2,151,013.00
Cost Share: \$1,067,708.00

Task 1.3 Total Cost: \$281,000.00
DOE Share: \$71,000.00
Cost Share: \$210,000.00

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

6/15/2011

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: _____