

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT:STM SERF and S&TF Exterior Improvements; NREL Tracking No. 13-008

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE : NREL

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-13-008	GO28308

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:

B1.33 Stormwater runoff control	Design, construction, and operation of control practices to reduce stormwater runoff and maintain natural hydrology. Activities include, but are not limited to, those that reduce impervious surfaces (such as vegetative practices and use of porous pavements), best management practices (such as silt fences, straw wattles, and fiber rolls), and use of green infrastructure or other low impact development practices (such as cisterns and green roofs).
DOE/EA 1440 (NREL STM)	Final Site-Site Wide Environmental Assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) South Table Mountain Complex (February 2003)

Rational for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes improvements to the exterior features and grounds of the Solar Energy Research Facility (SERF) and the Science & Technology Facility (S&TF) at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) South Table Mountain (STM) campus located in Golden, Colorado.

PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the proposed project would be threefold:

- Enhance the exterior landscaping on the south side of the SERF and S&TF;
- Provide improved erosion control and drainage capabilities; and
- Provide an improved pedestrian connection between S&TF and the Research Support Facility (RSF)

Project plans are uploaded to PMC and the proposed project would consist of the following tasks:

- 1) Improve the pedestrian connection from the S&TF to the North Loop Road along the emergency access roadway and provide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant access to the S&TF from the emergency access roadway.
- 2) Re-grade and enhance the landscape quality of the pocket area south of the S&TF emergency access road. Fill may be needed to achieve compatible grades.
- 3) Develop landscape and amenities for the landscaped areas between SERF and S&TF buildings north of the North Loop Road. Landscaping would be compatible with NREL's South Table Mountain (STM) Campus Master Plan vision and newly constructed landscaping for the RSF building. Existing shuttle stops would remain in place. Bicycle parking/storage locations will be considered and drainage improvements would be provided as needed.
- 4) Revise sidewalk paths to improve pedestrian circulation and campus experience. Provide a more direct pedestrian connection including a sidewalk and stairway from the S&TF entry to the north loop roadway.

PREVIOUS NEPA DETERMINATIONS

The SERF and the S&TF are located in Campus Development Zone 4 – Central Campus. Development in Campus Development Zone 4 and infrastructure modifications and improvements, including roadways, sidewalks, site amenities, and landscaping were within the scope of the Proposed Action analyzed in the July 2003 NREL STM Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1440). DOE/EA-1440 and its Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are hereby incorporated by reference.

IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTION

Stormwater quality and erosion impacts would be minimal. The proposed project, including all phases of the project, would disturb approximately 2.2 acres of previously disturbed areas. Industry standard construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) for stormwater management would be utilized and maintained. As the area of disturbance is greater

than one acre, permit coverage under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2012 Construction General Permit would be obtained. Furthermore, the construction and subsequent restoration activity would abide by established NREL procedures, specifications, and processes, such as NREL Lab Level Procedure 6-2.15 Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Construction Activities: South Table Mountain Site, NREL SITE Operations Project Management Manual, NREL Design Guidelines, and NREL standard design specifications. New landscape features would incorporate sustainable design elements to minimize the amount of irrigation water required.

There are no floodplains, wetlands, or Waters of the United States in the vicinity of the proposed project area. NREL has received a Jurisdictional Determination from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the ephemeral drainages on the STM site.

Fugitive particulate air emissions from the construction would be controlled in accordance with the existing STM land disturbance air permit (APCD# 08JE0889L), including mitigation measures like dust suppression as necessary. The construction phases would require the utilization of mobile point emission sources, such as front-end loaders, pavers, excavators, dump trucks, etc., but these emissions would be negligible given the size and duration of the construction activity.

In the 2010-2011 site-wide wildlife survey, no threatened, endangered, or candidate wildlife species were observed at STM, nor was habitat for such species identified. Similarly, the vegetation survey during the same time period found no rare plants or habitat that may support federally protected plant species in the area proposed for this project. A migratory bird nesting survey would be conducted prior to any ground or vegetation disturbing activities if these activities are conducted after March 15th and before September 15th. If nests or eggs are found, the particular area would be cordoned off with a proper buffer until nestlings fledge. This would ensure that no migratory birds, nests or eggs are destroyed during construction.

Archeological and cultural resources on STM site were assessed in DOE/EA-1440 and its two subsequent Supplemental Environmental Assessments (DOE/EA-1440-S-I and DOE/EA-1440-S-II), including Section 106 consultations with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer. The proposed project would not impact known cultural resources at the STM site. Furthermore, construction contractors would be briefed on the possibility of resources being unearthed, and to stop work and contact NREL EHS should any features or structures be discovered during excavation or trenching activities.

There would be noise typical of construction equipment during construction. Work would be conducted only during daylight hours. Construction-related noise would consist of a short-term increase in ambient noise levels. Noise impacts would vary with the phase of construction and occur intermittently. Construction activities would comply with applicable noise ordinances. Traffic impacts would be minimal and coordinated with the proper agencies of jurisdiction.

NEPA DETERMINATION

DOE has determined based upon the information above, there are no extraordinary circumstances presented by this proposed action. DOE has determined modifications and improvements to the sidewalks, roadways, and landscaping south of the SERF and S&TF is bounded by the environmental impact analysis contained in DOE/EA-1440, and its Finding of No Significant Impact. Additionally, DOE has determined that the proposed stormwater drainage improvements for the SERF and S&TF are consistent with the actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion B1.33 "Stormwater Runoff Control," and therefore is 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:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

EF2a prepared by Rob Smith on 07/15/2013.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 Electronically Signed By: Lori Gray
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____

7/15/2013

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: _____