

PMC-ND  
(1.08.09.13)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
NEPA DETERMINATION**



**RECIPIENT:**City of Ann Arbor

**STATE:** MI

**PROJECT TITLE :** Wind Generator Project

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-EE0000447	GFO-0000447-003	GO447

**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 Site characterization and environmental monitoring**

Site characterization and environmental monitoring (including, but not limited to, siting, construction, modification, operation, and dismantlement and removal or otherwise proper closure (such as of a well) 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). Such activities would be designed in conformance with applicable requirements and use best management practices to limit the potential effects of any resultant ground disturbance. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. (This class of actions excludes activities in aquatic environments. See B3.16 of this appendix for such activities.) Specific activities include, but are not limited to: (a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, radar, and temperature gradient), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, and the establishment of survey marks. Seismic techniques would not include large-scale reflection or refraction testing; (b) Installation and operation of field instruments (such as stream-gauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools); (c) Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells; (d) Aquifer and underground reservoir response testing; (e) Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment; (f) Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants (such as drilling using truck- or mobile-scale equipment, and modification, use, and plugging of boreholes); (g) Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams; (h) Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities (such as assessment of potential wind energy resources); (i) Sampling of flora or fauna; and (j) Archeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 800 and 43 CFR part 7.

**B3.3 Research related to conservation of fish, wildlife, and cultural resources**

Field and laboratory research, inventory, and information collection activities that are directly related to the conservation of fish and wildlife resources or to the protection of cultural resources, provided that such activities would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on fish and wildlife habitat or populations or to cultural resources.

**Rationale for determination:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan to select, purchase and construct one wind turbine. DOE funding would be used for wind turbine selection and purchase, micro-siting, site design and construction of one wind turbine, as well as easements, conduits, cabling, transformers and other equipment necessary for interconnecting the turbine.

DOE made two previous NEPA determinations (GFO-0000447-001 CXA9 4/13/2011; GFO-0000447-002 CX A9) which included siting analysis and the selection of a project developer, fatal flaw analysis of primary site and additional sites, outreach and education and project reporting. This NEPA determination applies to two subtasks: micro-siting site-level wind analysis and environmental impact studies.

This NEPA determination does not apply to the development of a property lease agreement, execution of a power purchase agreement, or the installation of the wind turbine. These activities are not defined to the extent that DOE can make a NEPA determination.

Ann Arbor would evaluate the available wind resources and environmental conditions at several locations on the Pioneer High School campus, located at 601 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor, Michigan. Environmental impact studies such as noise impacts, shadow flicker, visual disturbance, and bird and bat assessments would be completed.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the micro-siting and

environmental impact studies activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with the actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions B3.1 "site characterization and environmental monitoring," and B3.3 "research related to conservation of fish, wildlife and cultural resources," and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**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:

- Development of a property lease agreement
- Execution of a power purchase agreement
- Installation of the wind turbine

This restriction does not preclude you from:

- Micro-siting site-level wind analysis
- Environmental impact studies
- Activities previously reviewed and categorically excluded

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 :

Kelly Daigle 8/12/2013

This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

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

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

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
NEPA Compliance Officer

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

8/15/2013

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