

PMC-ND  
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Youngstown State University

STATE: OH

PROJECT TITLE : Center for Efficiency in Sustainable Energy Systems

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
CDP	DE-EE0000366	GFO-0000366-002	GO366

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:

**A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination** Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

**B5.18 Wind turbines** The installation, modification, operation, and removal of a small number (generally not more than 2) of commercially available wind turbines, with a total height generally less than 200 feet (measured from the ground to the maximum height of blade rotation) that (1) are located within a previously disturbed or developed area; (2) are located more than 10 nautical miles (about 11.5 miles) from an airport or aviation navigation aid; (3) are located more than 1.5 nautical miles (about 1.7 miles) from National Weather Service or Federal Aviation Administration Doppler weather radar; (4) would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on bird or bat populations; and (5) are sited or designed such that the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts to persons (such as from shadow flicker and other visual effects, and noise). Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices. Covered actions include only those related to wind turbines to be installed on land.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Youngstown State University (YSU) for the Center for Efficiency in Sustainable Energy Systems to produce a methodology that evaluates a variety of energy systems. A previous NEPA Determination (GFO-10-143; 04/28/2010) was completed for all of the project activities but subsequent to that Determination, YSU chose to change the originally planned location for the installation of the wind turbine in Task III. This NEPA Determination analyzes that new location for the installation of the two proposed wind turbines from Task 3. All other activities remain covered by the previous NEPA Determination.

Three wind turbines would be installed by YSU as part of two separate projects. One of the turbines would be funded through a separate DOE managed award (DE-EE0003778). The two 2.5 kw turbines funded through this award would have tower heights of 18 ft. with blade diameters of 4 ft. Total height of each turbine is expected to be 22 ft. In consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, DOE determined that the turbine installations are not likely to adversely affect any species of concern (see uploaded document 03E15000-2014-I-0245\_USFWS.pdf). No other resources of concern, other than historic properties (discussed below), were found during the review of the turbine installations.

All three turbines would be installed on the north end of YSU property along the east side of Wick Avenue between Melnick Hall and the Madison Avenue Expressway service road. This location is within the Wick Avenue Historic District. DOE found that installation of the wind turbines would constitute an adverse effect to the historic district and the Ohio State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with the finding. DOE has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the SHPO and YSU has agreed to mitigations to compensate for the wind turbine installation's adverse effect to the historic district (see uploaded document DOE\_Ohio SHPO\_MOA-YSU Final fully signed). These mitigations/stipulations will be incorporated into the award as part of the Terms and Conditions.

Based on review of the project information and required mitigations/stipulations, DOE has determined that the remaining project activities for the installation and testing of the wind turbines would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that these activities are consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," and B5.18

“Wind turbines,” and 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:

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 :

This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

Casey Strickland 06/25/14

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:   
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/27/2014

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