

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT:City of Akutan

STATE: AK

PROJECT TITLE : Akutan Geothermal Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0000329	GFO-0000329-001	GO329

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.)
- 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.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the City of Akutan for a project working toward identifying a geothermal resource capable of generating electricity for the City of Akutan, Alaska. This award (DE-EE0000329) was transferred from the City of Unalaska to the City of Akutan as an award novation. A previous NEPA Determination (GFO-09-160) was completed in 2009 for project activities completed when the award was with the City of Unalaska (these activities are now listed in the uploaded SOPO as Phase 1A). This NEPA Determination is specific to Phase 1B activities only. There is a Go/No Go/Redirect decision point after Phase 1B to determine if further activities would be justified based on data collected during Phase 1B. Further NEPA review will be required for the remainder of the project once specific well targets have been selected.

Activities in Phase 1B include non-disturbing data gathering for permitting and well site targeting, review of existing data sets, reports and computer models from previous field investigations and testing. The environmental review and permitting team would be deployed to the proposed project area to evaluate the area and collect data on biological, hydrological, habitat, archaeological/historic and wetlands conditions, as necessary for the development of environmental reports and permit applications. Documentation developed as part of Phase 1B would include a well targeting report, drilling plan and procedures, equipment and material lists, and permitting package.

Based on review of the project information, DOE has determined that Phase 1B would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that Phase 1B activities are

consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination," and B3.1 "Site characterization and environmental monitoring," and are 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:

Phase 2: Drill Site Preparation, Drilling, and Reservoir Testing (all tasks)

Phase 3: (all tasks)

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Phase 1B: Data Collection, Well Targeting, Well Design, and Permitting (all tasks)

Reporting activities needed to complete Phase 1B

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 :


Geothermal Technologies Office

This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

NEPA review completed by Casey Strickland on 11/7/2014

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 Electronically Signed By: **Kristin Kerwin**
NEPA Compliance Officer



Date: 11/13/2014

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: _____