

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Biodiversity Research Institute

STATE: ME

PROJECT TITLE : Stereo-optic high definition imaging: a new technology to understand bird and bat avoidance of wind turbines

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000978	DE-EE0006803	GFO-0006803-001	

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:

B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects	Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.
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.)

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) to test, and analyze results from testing, a high definition camera and near infrared illumination (nIR) lighting system for use in helping to understand the risk that wind turbines present to birds and bats.

BRI would perform seven tasks for this project. These include:

- Task 1 – Take delivery of and test the camera system in a laboratory setting.
- Task 2 – Test the camera system in an outdoor field setting.
- Task 3 – Test the camera system at a terrestrial wind farm.
- Task 4-6 – Analyze data gained in tasks 2 and 3.
- Task 7 - Reporting

Task 1 would include taking delivery of the camera system and testing the system in a laboratory setting at BRI's office in Portland, Maine. (The cameras will be tested and calibrated by the manufacturer (HiDef) in the UK prior to shipment to BRI in Maine.) After any necessary modifications to the system based on the laboratory tests conducted by BRI in task one, the camera system would be tested in a field setting (Task 2) and at a terrestrial wind farm (Task 3). Field tests sites for tasks 2 and 3 have not yet been identified and therefore cannot be included in this NEPA review. Additional NEPA review is required prior to initiating field testing.

Task 4-6 would involve the analyzing of data gathered during the field tests.

Task 7 would involve reporting to the DOE the information gained during the research.

This NEPA determination applies to the purchase and laboratory testing of the camera systems (Task 1), and project reporting (Task 7).

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the laboratory testing and reporting tasks (1 and 7) would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined tasks 1 and 7 are consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion B3.6 "small scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects," A9 "information gathering, data analysis and computer modeling," 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:

Task 2 – Testing the camera system in an outdoor field setting.

Task 3 – Testing the camera system at a terrestrial wind farm.

Task 4-6 – Analyzing data gained in tasks 2 and 3.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Task 1 – all laboratory testing activities; no field testing activities by BRI included in task 1.

Task 7 – all activities

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 :

Wind Program

This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

NEPA review completed by Roak Parker: 11/25/2014

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____  Date: 12/1/2014
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager