

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: State of Florida

STATE: FL

PROJECT
TITLE : FAU

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-SEP-0002014		GFO-SEP2014-001	

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:

B3.1 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 Department of Energy is proposing to provide funding to the State of Florida to replace equipment at two existing radar transmission sites that were damaged in Hurricane Sandy. The proposed project would replace a variety of equipment including antenna, electronics, cables, and a foundation at one of the two sites. The two sites would have different components which would require repair and/or replacement. However, both of the antennas would utilize radio frequency transmitters to measure the motion of the ocean surface in the Florida Straits from an existing Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center project offshore.

The proposed site at the Hillsboro Beach Club is a private commercial property. Activities at this site would include a new base which would require the excavation of a hole approximately 3 ft wide by 3 ft long by 3 ft deep in previously disturbed soil. The previous system required two antennas, but the new system would require only one antenna, which would be located further inland behind a protective seawall. The location is within a managed landscape area which is routinely mowed and maintained. There would be minor, temporary lawn disturbance adjacent to the base for digging and the placement of concrete as a footer. Existing roads and sidewalks would be used to access the project location. The conduit from the new base would utilize existing conduit to connect cables to the data collection system which is located in a parking garage 20 feet from the antenna. The proposed antenna (including the whip antenna) and base would not exceed 17 feet in total height.

The other proposed site is Haulover Beach which is a public beach. Activities at this site would include only the replacement of electronic components on the existing masts. No ground disturbing activities would occur. However, a new streamlined antenna would replace the old antenna.

Planning and coordination activities would occur at Florida Atlantic University, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, Florida 33431-0991. Assembly of components including the antenna mount, mast, and instrument support would occur at the Florida Atlantic Harbor Branch, 5600 U.S. 1 North, Fort Pierce, Florida 34946.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Program website identifies 27 candidate, threatened, proposed, or endangered species that are known to, or are believed to occur near the project site in Broward County, Florida. However, due to the lack of potential habitat for any the species at the project site, lack of critical habitat in the vicinity of the site and the previously disturbed and developed condition of the site; DOE has determined the proposed project may affect, but not likely to adversely affect threatened and endangered species in the area.

Based on a review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that the purchase, assembly, and installation of equipment for two radar transmission sites would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion B3.1 "Site characterization and environmental monitoring" and 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.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

The Florida State Historic Preservation Office reviewed the proposed project and determined that the proposed undertakings are not likely to have an effect on historic properties, provided that the applicant makes contingency plans in the case of fortuitous finds or unexpected discoveries during ground disturbing activities within the project areas:

If prehistoric or historic artifacts are encountered at any time within the project site area, the proposed project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the immediate vicinity of the discovery. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance and Review Section at (850)-245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes.

Note to Specialist :

Weatherization & Intergovernmental Programs Office
This NEPA Determination does require a tailored NEPA provision.
NEPA review completed by Diana Heyder 4/3/15

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 4/6/2015

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 :