

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Bat Conservation International

STATE: OH

PROJECT TITLE: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Ultrasonic Acoustic Deterrents in Reducing Bat Fatalities @ Wind Energy Facilities

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001181	DE-EE00007036	GFO-0007036-001	

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:

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 Bat Conservation International (BCI) to determine the best placement and orientation of Ultrasonic Acoustic Deterrents (UADs) on wind turbines to ensure safety, compatibility and functionality, assess the functionality of a newly redesigned UAD, investigate the effectiveness of the UAD in reducing bat fatality, and directly compare the costs and benefits of UADs to operational minimization.

The proposed project would include eight tasks. These would be:

- Task 1.0: Initial Installation Plan
- Task 2.0: Initial Manufacturing of UADs
- Task 3.0: Initial Installation and Monitoring of UADs
- Task 4.0: Analysis and Reporting of Preliminary Functionality Test of UADs
- Task 5.0: Final Manufacturing and Installation of UADs
- Task 6.0: Comparative Study
- Task 7.0: Final Analysis of Comparative Study
- Task 8.0: Final Report, Review, and Dissemination

This NEPA review applies to Task 1 "Initial Installation Plan" only. Proposed activities for Task 1 would include information gathering regarding the placement and orientation of UADs on the nacelle, and completing a guidance document for UAD installation. This task would occur at the BCI office in Forest Grove, Or.

A specific wind farm and specific turbines at that wind farm upon which UADs would be placed have not been identified at this time. Due to the lack of information regarding the site location for installing and testing the UADs, there is not enough information to conduct a meaningful analysis of Tasks 2-8. Those tasks are prohibited and will require additional NEPA review prior to beginning any work on activities described in those tasks.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that Task 1 would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that the proposed project is consistent with actions outlined in DOE categorical exclusion A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination" and is therefore 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 2.0: Initial Manufacturing of UADs
- Task 3.0: Initial Installation and Monitoring of UADs
- Task 4.0: Analysis and Reporting of Preliminary Functionality Test of UADs
- Task 5.0: Final Manufacturing and Installation of UADs
- Task 6.0: Comparative Study
- Task 7.0: Final Analysis of Comparative Study
- Task 8.0: Final Report, Review, and Dissemination

This restriction does not preclude you from:

- Task 1.0: Initial Installation Plan

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.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

The recipient is required to submit an EQ-1 for Tasks 2-8 which will require additional NEPA review prior to beginning work on activities described in those tasks.

Note to Specialist :

Wind Energy Technologies Office

This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Logan Sholar on 9/01/2015

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/8/2015

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 :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____