

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT:Kongiganak Traditional Council

STATE: AK

**PROJECT TITLE :** Kongiganak Wind Turbine Replacement & System Upgrades

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-EE0006481	GFO-0006481-001	

**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:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b>       | 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.)  |
| <b>B1.31 Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment</b> | Installation or relocation and operation of machinery and equipment (including, but not limited to, laboratory equipment, electronic hardware, manufacturing machinery, maintenance equipment, and health and safety equipment), provided that uses of the installed or relocated items are consistent with the general missions of the receiving structure. Covered actions include modifications to an existing building, within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area, that are necessary for equipment installation and relocation. Such modifications would not appreciably increase the footprint or height of the existing building or have the potential to cause significant changes to the type and magnitude of environmental impacts. |

## Rationale for determination:

The Native Village of Kongiganak (NVK), governed by the Kongiganak Traditional Council, would utilize funding to replace a single wind turbine nacelle on an existing turbine, upgrade the braking systems on five existing wind turbines, and upgrade the monitoring and data collection unit at the existing powerhouse in the community of Kongiganak, Alaska. Located on the west shore of Kuskokwim Bay, just west of the mouth of the Kuskokwim River, NVK is 70 miles southwest of Bethel and 451 miles west of Anchorage and is a member of the Chaninik Wind Group, a four village consortium working on developing solutions for harnessing their local wind energy.

No new permits, licenses or authorizations are required for completion of the proposed activities. All permitting, licensing and authorizations are already in place as part of the previous installation of the wind system/turbines. Due to the installations close proximity to the Kongiganak Airport, the Federal Aviation Administration conducted an aeronautical study for each of the proposed wind turbines prior to construction, and issued Determinations of No Hazard to Air Navigation in August, 2009 (2009-WTW-4237-OE through 2009-WTW-4241-OE). None of the proposed project activities would increase the height above ground level (AGL) or above mean sea level (AMSL) of the wind turbines. Nacelle installation and brake system replacement would be completed by crew members with appropriate training and experience with heavy equipment, wind turbines, climbing and diesel power plant operations. Heavy equipment would only be mobilized during the winter when the ground is frozen to reduce ground disturbance.

Based on review of the project information, DOE has determined that the project activities 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 B1.31 "Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment," 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.

Note to Specialist :

This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Casey Strickland 05/13/2014

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:   
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 5/14/2014

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