

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

STATE: AK

PROJECT TITLE: The Vacuum Sanitation Energy Efficiency Retrofits Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001390	DE-IE0000031	GFO-0000031-001	

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:

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

B5.2 Modifications to pumps and piping Modifications to existing pump and piping configurations (including, but not limited to, manifolds, metering systems, and other instrumentation on such configurations conveying materials such as air, brine, carbon dioxide, geothermal system fluids, hydrogen gas, natural gas, nitrogen gas, oil, produced water, steam, and water). Covered modifications would not have the potential to cause significant changes to design process flow rates or permitted air emissions.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) to reduce energy costs and consumption in the sanitation systems in three Alaskan communities through the implementation of deep energy retrofits. These retrofits would also reduce fire danger significantly and provide an opportunity to improve local training and technical capacity through on-site training.

Activities associated with the proposed project would include energy-efficiency improvements such as replacement of vacuum sewer pumps, installation of LED lighting, replacement of heating system controls, insulation of heating pipes, and minor weatherization including weather stripping and caulking of air leakage of water treatment facilities in Noorvik, Kotlik, and Alakanuk, AK. Physical modification at each facility would be limited to replacement of existing equipment and re-piping of the facilities' heating systems. The only equipment to be installed outdoors would be LED lighting replacements of existing fixtures. There would be no ground disturbing activities and no change in the use,

mission or operation of existing facilities would arise out of this effort. The facilities have all applicable permits in place, and would not need additional permits for the proposed activities.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Program website (IPaC) identifies several threatened/endangered and migratory bird species that are known to, or are believed to occur at each of these proposed project sites. Additionally, Noorvik is in the vicinity of the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge and Alakanuk and Kotlik are in the vicinity of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. However, due to the previously disturbed, urban nature of the chosen locations, their distance from wildlife refuges, and the indoor nature of the proposed retrofits, the DOE has determined that no adverse impacts to sensitive natural resources such as threatened/endangered species, migratory birds, or wildlife refuges are expected as a result of the proposed project.

None of these properties are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and there are no historic properties or districts within a 2km radius of any of the proposed project locations. Therefore, DOE expects that there will be no impact to sensitive cultural and historic resources.

Potential health and safety hazards associated with the proposed project would include exposure to sewage while working on improvements to the sewage discharge and collection system in the facility, electrical safety hazards, and exposure to hazardous materials such as lead-based paint, asbestos, mercury, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). ANTHC would use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), qualified electricians and would take measures to limit and isolate workers' exposure to sewage. Hazardous waste would be handled, stored, and disposed of/recycled in accordance with state and federal laws, as described in the AK Department of Environmental Conservation's Handling and Disposal of Construction and Demolition Waste 2015 Fact Sheet.

Non-hazardous wastes would include old copper, iron, and steel pipes and heat exchangers, damaged pipe insulation (non-asbestos containing), old pumps, windows, and doors. ANTHC would work with the each community to maintain old equipment as replacement parts as applicable and would dispose of other materials in an Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation-permitted landfill authorized to accept ash, construction and demolition, inert, and municipal wastes.

Based on a review of the project information, DOE has determined that the proposed activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that this project is consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusions B5.1 "Actions to conserve energy or water" and B5.2 "Modifications to pumps and piping" and is therefore 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 the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved. If the Recipient moves forward with activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of a final NEPA decision, the Recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving Federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Office of Indian Energy

This determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Rebecca McCord, 05/03/2015

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: _____ 5/11/2016

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: _____

