

EPMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. (via the AVEC/Pitka's Point Native Corporation Renewable Energy Joint Venture)

STATE: AK

PROJECT TITLE
: Pitka's Point/Saint Mary's Wind Energy Construction Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001390	DE-IE0000035	GFO-0000035-001	

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 funding to the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AVEC) for the installation of a 900 kilowatt capacity direct-drive wind turbine with associated access road and wind turbine pad near Pitka's Point, Alaska. The wind turbine would be located approximately 2.5 miles from St. Mary's and one mile east of Pitka's Point on Pitka's Point Native Corporation lands. The turbine would connect to the existing diesel power generation system serving the communities of Pitka's Point, St. Mary's, and Mountain Village in Alaska. Connection to the existing power generation system would be by a future planned intertie that is being completed regardless of whether the wind turbine is installed. This NEPA Determination is only for Task 1 of the approved Statement of Project Objectives because this task is foreseeably necessary to define the remainder of the project.

Due to the height of the proposed turbine and the proximity to the St. Mary's airport, AVEC submitted project information to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for an Obstruction Evaluation/Airport Airspace Analysis. The FAA completed an initial aeronautical study finding that the turbine is a presumed hazard until further study is completed. At this time, there is not enough information to complete a thorough review of the construction and surface disturbing activities associated with the installation of the wind turbine at the proposed location. Once the FAA has completed further aeronautical study and additional details of project design and siting are completed, another NEPA review will be required to assess potential impacts associated with the construction and surface disturbing activities of the wind turbine (Tasks 2 through 5).

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined that Task 1 of the proposal fits within the class of action(s) selected above. DOE has also determined that: (1) there are no extraordinary circumstances (as defined by 10 CFR 1021.410(2)) related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; (2) the proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and (3) the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, related to other proposals with cumulatively significant actions, or an improper interim action. Task 1 of this proposal 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:

Tasks 2- 5

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Task 1: "Grant administration"

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 :

Office of Indian Energy

This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

Casey Strickland 07/14/16

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



Electronically Signed By:

Kristin Kerwin

Date:

7/14/2016

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:

Field Office Manager

Date: