

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:**NREL**STATE:** CO**PROJECT****TITLE:**

NREL-19-014 Solar Monitoring Station Operated at University of Oregon

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-19-014	GO28308

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

DOE/EA-1968 (NREL STM) SITEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, U.S. DOE NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY, SOUTH TABLE MOUNTAIN CAMPUS, GOLDEN, COLORADO

B3.11 Outdoor tests and experiments on materials and equipment components Outdoor tests and experiments for the development, quality assurance, or reliability of materials and equipment (including, but not limited to, weapon system components) under controlled conditions. Covered actions include, but are not limited to, burn tests (such as tests of electric cable fire resistance or the combustion characteristics of fuels), impact tests (such as pneumatic ejector tests using earthen embankments or concrete slabs designated and routinely used for that purpose), or drop, puncture, water-immersion, or thermal tests. Covered actions would not involve source, special nuclear, or byproduct materials, except encapsulated sources manufactured to applicable standards that contain source, special nuclear, or byproduct materials may be used for nondestructive actions such as detector/sensor development and testing and first responder field training.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) proposes to loan solar monitoring equipment to the University of Oregon (UO) located in Eugene, Oregon.

NREL previously provided solar monitoring equipment to UO as part of ongoing research agreements between NREL and UO. The equipment is currently installed on the Solar Radiation Measurement Laboratory building at UO and includes: two pyranometer/reference cell radiometers, a one-axis tracking system with spectroradiometer, and supporting equipment (enclosure, PV, battery, etc.). UO would be responsible for maintaining the equipment and would calibrate the NREL-supplied radiometers annually onsite. The equipment would remain onsite at UO until the end of FY2021.

As part of the arrangement, NREL would calibrate two spectroradiometers (one provided by NREL, one provided by UO) once per year at the NREL South Table Mountain site located in Golden, Colorado. All calibration work would occur in existing laboratory space that currently performs such work. At the end of the agreement, NREL would remove the equipment. No ground disturbance would be required during decommissioning, as the equipment is installed on an existing support structure which would remain in place at UO.

Project activities would not affect cultural resources, threatened or endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands and no permits would be required. A migratory bird nesting survey would be completed if project activities involving ground disturbing activities occur between March 15 and September 15. If nests or eggs are found, the area would be cordoned off with a proper buffer until nestlings fledge.

The project does not involve ground disturbance or facility modifications, and no direct or indirect impacts resulting from the proposed project would be anticipated. Individuals working on this project could be exposed to physical hazards; existing corporate health and safety policies and procedures would be followed.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the proposed project would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or the environment. DOE has determined the proposed action is consistent with and bounded by the activities that are analyzed in the Department of Energy's

STM Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1968) and FONSI.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

A migratory bird nesting survey will be completed if project activities involving ground disturbance occur between March 15 and September 15.

Notes:

**NREL
Nicole Serio 1/28/2019**

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 **Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin**
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/6/2019

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- Field Office Manager review not required
- Field Office Manager review required

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____