

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: [Federal Center UAS Training Flight - Lakewood, CO](#)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-20-002	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:

B3.2 Aviation activities	Aviation activities for survey, monitoring, or security purposes that comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations.
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Rationale for determination:

[The U.S. Department of Energy's \(DOE\) National Renewable Energy Laboratory \(NREL\) is proposing to conduct personnel training exercises using an unmanned aircraft system \(UAS\). The purpose of the training is to familiarize UAS pilots with the operation of specific UAS equipment, meet current requirements for pilots and visual observers, and to train visual observers.](#)

[The proposed activities would take place at the Department of Interior's \(DOI\) U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\) training field located in the U.S Federal Center in Lakewood, Colorado. All flights would take place during daylight hours on October 9, 2019.](#)

[The Department of Interior's \(DOI\) U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\) has an established nation-wide UAS program. Flight activities would be conducted in accordance with USGS's site-specific requirements as well as the NREL Operating Program 650-7 "Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(July 9, 2019\)", FAA Part 107 regulations.](#)

[Flights would be conducted within Class G airspace, which requires no notifications, authorizations, or permits. The Federal Center is adjacent to a hospital, therefore prior to the first flight the hospital's Flight for Life Desk would be notified.](#)

[The Aviation Safety Plan for this project has been reviewed and approved by the Golden Field Office's Aviation Manager and Office Director. Per the aviation manager, "the identified flight risks for the subject mission have been adequately identified and are considered low risk per the DOE Risk Assessment".](#)

[Should additional training flights be proposed, an additional Aviation Safety Plan would be required. If flight conditions change or the documented mitigation factors are unable to be implemented the mission will need to be paused so a reevaluation of hazards can occur.](#)

NEPA PROVISION

[DOE has made a final NEPA determination.](#)

Notes:

[NEPA review completed by Laura Margason on October 8, 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:  _____ Date: 10/9/2019
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager