



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form



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Program or Field Office: TRIBAL ENERGY PROGRAM
Project Title MI-TEP-KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY
Location: Tribal KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY

Proposed Action or Project Description: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) proposes to study the feasibility of wind power at two locations for the purpose of reducing the Tribe's reliance upon fossil fuels, and this proposed project would also create business opportunities, jobs, and revenue for the community. A consulting firm would be hired to monitor wind capacity and determine the optimal size and design of wind turbines. Another firm would analyze the amount of energy being consumed, how best to convert to renewable energy, and project the cost savings and reductions in emissions and fossil fuel consumption. One wind monitoring tower would be located at the KBIC Industrial Park, and this tower would assess wind for a cluster of buildings. The Baraga Maximum Security Prison, a facility owned by the state of Michigan, and they may wish to pursue a purchase power agreement with Keweenaw Bay. The second wind monitoring tower (located at the Zeba Buffalo Fields site) would be used to assess wind for the fish hatchery and Natural Resources Department offices. This feasibility study would include preliminary engineering, cost evaluations, financing options, and necessary agreement procedures in a comprehensive project plan allowing the tribe to move to the next phase of the project after completion of the study. Training would be provided to tribal members for developing long-term operation and maintenance of the turbines. Met towers (approximately 60 meters) would be purchased and installed at the identified locations. The project has been determined by the Tribal Historic Preservation Office to have a very low potential for the presence of cultural resources. Consultation was initiated with the Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist on endangered species in the area, and it was determined that the project would not jeopardize "protected resources." Prior to erecting the met towers, the applicant would prepare a bird impact monitoring plan, as recommended by the Natural Resources Department.

Conditions: None

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied: A9, A11, B3.1

*-For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, see Subpart D of 10 CFR10 21

This action would not: threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders; require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities; disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B.(4)) of Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021). Furthermore, there are no extraordinary circumstances related to this action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the action; this action is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

ORO NEPA Compliance Officer

Gary S. Hartman

Date Determined:

4/4/2011

Comments:

Webmaster: