

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: NWTC Site 3.1 Sonic Outdoor Test Stand; NREL Tracking No. 15-023

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-AC36-08GO28308	NREL-15-023	GO28308

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:

<b>DOE/EA 1914 (NREL NWTC)</b>	Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of the Department of Energy's National Wind Technology Center at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory
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## Rationale for determination:

The Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is proposing to install a short meteorological (met) tower at site 3.1 at the National Wind Technology Center (NWTC). The purpose of the installation would be to test an array of new anemometers that would then replace the current ones located on the existing met towers that have shown to be less reliable. The proposed met tower would have two vertical segments (40 feet) and one horizontal segment (34 feet from ground level) forming the shape of an "H". NWTC Site 3.1 has two existing foundations which would be used for the vertical towers. Four holes for concrete anchor foundations would be excavated for the supporting guywires.

The met tower would be installed by NWTC research operations technicians who would follow the installation sequence being provided by Structural Components Inc., the company that designed the met tower. Once it is installed, different makes and models of anemometers would be installed to allow for side by side comparison of operational characteristics to those currently installed on the existing met towers. Testing of anemometers would be short term to assess the best equipment to replace the current units. The tower is expected to be up for about one year.

Construction-related noise would consist of a short-term increase in ambient noise levels. Per agency consultations conducted during the Site-Wide Environmental Assessment for the NWTC (DOE/EA-1914), no cultural resources, threatened or endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands would be impacted by this proposed project. An FAA permit application is not required for this project, due to the height of the tower. NREL and all contractors would follow all federal, state, local safety and security regulations, as applicable.

Once work has been completed the four small excavation areas would be backfilled with excavated soil and reseeded per NREL's Lab Level Procedures. A Notice of Intent for stormwater impacts associated with construction activities is not required due to the total site disturbance of less than one acre. NREL employees would follow lab level procedures outlined in "Stormwater Pollution Prevention for Construction Activities: NWTC." If construction-related activities occur before mid-September, a survey for ground-nesting birds would be completed by NREL's EHS Office before activities are initiated.

DOE has determined based upon the information above, there are no extraordinary circumstances presented by this proposed action. The proposed action to add additional meteorological towers at the NWTC was analyzed as part of the proposed action in the 2014 Final Site-Wide Environmental Assessment of NREL's NWTC (DOE/EA-1914). A Finding of No Significant Impact determination for this EA was issued in May 2014. DOE has determined that this project is consistent with actions analyzed in DOE/EA-1914, that the FONSI for the EA applies, and no further NEPA analysis is needed.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

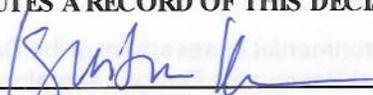
If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

Laura Margason - 7/23/2015

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 7/28/2015

**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: \_\_\_\_\_