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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER
NEPA DETERMINATION

Chena Hot Springs Resort

STATE: AK

Activity: Integrated Geoscience Investigation and Geothermal Exploration

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-FC36-04GO14347

NEPA Control Number
GFO-04-236b

As a result of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

NEPA DETERMINATION AND NUMBER:

The proposed action includes on-site and off-site site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction (or modification), operation, and dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of monitoring devices and siting, construction, and associated operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include, but are not limited to:

NEPA DETERMINATION:

The final NEPA Determination (GFO-04-236 A: B3.1, B3.2, B3.7) applied to all tasks in Phase I and Tasks 1 and 2 in Phase II. This NEPA determination would apply to Tasks 3-6 in Phase II and all tasks within Phase III based on the 3/5/05 SOPO listed under the first NEPA determination for Chena Hot Springs Resort (CHSR). Chena Hot Springs Resort would use DOE and cost share funding to drill, test, and monitor a geothermal slim hole.

CHSR would drill and flow test a 3,000' geothermal slim hole to understand the temperature and flow potential of deeper reservoirs within the CHSR area. CHSR would drill using mud. CHSR would drill the well on private land and a drill permit is not required. CHSR would insert a temperature and flow logs into the hole to determine reservoirs. CHSR would pump water from the flow test into a temporary pond that would be created for absorption back into the ground. The retention pond would be approximately 5' deep and it would hold approximately 7000 gallons of water. This pond would be covered over by remedial landscaping after the drilling is completed.

Drilling does not need a permit from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Water Resources Section to drill a well to a total depth up to 3,000 feet" as stated by Pat Bettis of Alaska DNR. The CHSR geothermal slim hole would be less than 3,000'.

Phase II in Phase II and all tasks within Phase III comprises site characterization, drilling of wells for sampling, and installation and operation of field instruments therefore including Tasks 3-6 in Phase II and all tasks within Phase III as CX B3.1 (b)(c).

CONCLUSION:

Make a final NEPA determination for this award

Following language in the award:

Specialist:

in.

THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

Officer Signature:

Electronically
Signed By: **Steve P Blazek**
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

4/8/

MANAGER DETERMINATION

Manager review required

THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Manager's Signature:

Field Office Manager

Date: