

PMC-EF2a

(2.04.02)

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



RECIPIENT: Plug Power

STATE: GA

**PROJECT TITLE :** Topic 7A, Emergency Backup Power Systems

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
	DE-EE0000488	GFO-0000488-001	EE488

**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:

- A9** Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, audits), data analysis (including computer modeling), document preparation (such as conceptual design or feasibility studies, analytical energy supply and demand studies), and dissemination (including, but not limited to, document mailings, publication, and distribution; and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring.
- B5.1** Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

**Rational for determination:**

The objective for this Plug Power Project is to deploy and test hybrid hydrogen / LPG or natural gas Emergency Backup Power Systems. Twenty units would be installed at two different federal facilities (10 per facility) with each facility responsible for completing a NEPA evaluation factoring in site specific plans and detailed information prior to installation activities. Tasks 1 through 4 and Task 8 for all sites were previously approved by GFO-09-262 on August 31, 2009 with CX A9 and B3.6.

The prior NEPA determination (GFO-09-262) required that no fuel cell power plants would be deployed until site specific plans, detailed information, and a site specific NEPA evaluation were completed for installation at each of the federal facilities. All of the required information was submitted for the 10 units to be installed at Warner Robins Air Force Base (WRAFB) in Georgia and a site specific NEPA evaluation was completed by the Department of Defense with a resulting Categorical Exclusion for the installation of the units.

This Department of Energy NEPA determination is specific to the proposed funding of Tasks 5 through 7 for only the 10 units to be installed at WRAFB. The remaining 10 units that would be installed at a different federal facility will require another NEPA determination specific to those units at that location.

Tasks under this project include:

- Task 1: Cost Analysis and Commercialization Study
- Task 2: Planning Site Applications Engineering
- Task 3: Engineering Development
- Task 4: System Builds and Factory Testing
- Task 5: Site Preparations, Installation and Commissioning (\$445,936)
- Task 6: Fleet Operations, Managed Services (\$141,889)
- Task 7: Project Closeout (\$141,889)
- Task 8: Project Management

Total DOE funds for the entire project – \$2,702,645

Total monies associated with tasks 5, 6, and 7 – \$729,714

The amount associated with the 10 units to be installed at WRAFB sites is approximately \$364,857 (half of \$729,714).

\*Hydrogen and LPG or Natural Gas will be used as a fuel in this project. Fuels used will be used, stored and handled in accordance with the Company's Environmental Health and Safety policy and with Federal, State and local

regulations. Any non-used fuel will be collected, stored and disposed of in accordance with the Company's Environmental Health and Safety policy and with Federal, State and local regulations.

\*Any liquid effluent is water byproduct generated from the fuel cell system operation and is contained in the system and consumed by the system.

\*A desulphurization material will be used in this project. Any waste generated from the project will be collected, stored and disposed of in accordance with Plug Power's Environmental Health and Safety policy and with Federal, State and local regulations.

This project is comprised of information gathering, data analysis, document preparation, and actions to conserve energy through small-scale renewable energy research and development; therefore the DOE has categorized this proposal into Categorical Exclusions A9 and B5.1.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Tasks 5 through 7 for the remaining 10 units to be installed at a currently unidentified federal facility

This restriction does not preclude you from:

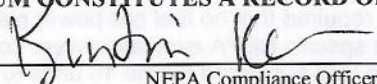
Tasks 5 through 7 for the 10 units to be installed at Warner Robins Air Force Base

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

EF2a prepared by Casey Strickland

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Date: 6/15/2011  
NEPA Compliance Officer

**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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager