

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: Hydro Research Foundation

STATE: MA

PROJECT TITLE : Hydro Research Foundation University Research Awards - Tufts

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|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
| DE-FOA-0000832 | DE-EE0006506 | GFO-0006506-005 | GO6506 |

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:

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| A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination | Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.) |
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Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the Hydro Research Foundation (HRF) to provide grants via pass through awards to individual research projects through its University Research Awards Program. The purpose of the grants is to support innovative research related to conventional or pumped-storage hydropower, stimulate interest among students and universities in the hydropower research arena, and provide students with a foundation for productive careers related to the hydropower industry.

DOE completed a previous NEPA review (GFO-0006506-001 CX A9 2/7/2014) that included administrative planning and development of a Hydro Fellowship Program that would competitively award hydro-power related, graduate-level research projects for one-to-two year periods of study. This NEPA determination applies to activities associated with one of the projects which has been selected to receive a grant award from the HRF.

The awardee at Tufts University would use grant funding to develop and analyze statistical methods for evaluating long-term hydrologic change as it applies to dam safety and environmental flow preservation using currently available data. The proposed project would develop statistical tools that enable hydropower operators to evaluate dam safety hazards, introduce new methods for determining probable maximum flood estimates, and differentiate hydrologic alteration to the environment by hydropower from other hydrologic alteration processes. All activities included in the proposed project would consist of research and computer-based analysis.

Based on a review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that activities associated with the Tufts University proposed project would not have significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined that the work outlined is consistent with the actions identified in categorical exclusion A9 "information gathering and dissemination, and data analysis," and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

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 :

Review completed by Logan Sholar on 5/21/14

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____
 Electronically Signed By: Lori Gray *Lori Gray* Date: 5/21/2014
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