

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: OR

**PROJECT TITLE :** Hydro Research Foundation University Research Awards - OSU

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000832	DE-EE0006506	GFO-0006506-012	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:

<b>A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination</b>	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.)
--	--

## 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 the Oregon State University would use grant funding to develop a systematic framework for feasible evaluation of water governance processes. The evaluation framework would then be used to investigate which characteristics of water governance processes contribute to good water governance outcomes as well as provide water managers with a practical tool for evaluating and improving water governance processes. The proposed project would consist of research via interviews and survey questions and data analysis using applicable software. All interview and survey material would be reviewed and approved by the Oregon State University Institutional Review Board (IRB), Native American Tribes and Canadian First Nations prior to conducting interviews and focus groups.

Based on a review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined that activities associated with the Oregon State 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 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 5/27/14

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5/27/2014

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