



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: (0672-1574) Ford Motor Company (Ford) - Covalent and Metal-Organic Framework High-Capacity Natural Gas Adsorption Storage System

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): Dearborn, MI; Berkeley, CA; Aiken, SC

Proposed Action Description:

Funding will support efforts to develop a low-pressure natural gas storage system based on novel adsorbent materials. Proposed work will consist of: (1) development, synthesis, and characterization of adsorbent materials; (2) design and fabrication of a storage system prototype and testing apparatus; and (3) testing of the storage system prototype using the testing apparatus. Adsorbent synthesis will include lab-scale and small-scale pilot production of adsorbent materials, and will be limited to production of quantities needed for adsorbent characterization and testing of the storage system prototype.

University of California-Berkeley (UC-Berkeley) will develop, synthesize (at lab-scale), and characterize adsorbent materials at its university laboratories in Berkeley, CA. Ford will characterize adsorbent materials and will collaborate with Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) to design the storage system prototype at its industrial research facility in Dearborn, MI. SRNL will design and fabricate the storage system prototype and testing apparatus and will carry out testing of the storage system prototype at its specialized testing facility in Aiken, SC.

Additional project team members may be added to the project to develop a small-scale pilot production process for adsorbent materials, synthesize (at small-scale) adsorbent materials, and collaborate with Ford and SRNL to design the storage system prototype. However, no work may begin at locations other than Ford's Research and Innovation Center in Dearborn, MI, UC Berkeley's facilities in Berkeley, CA, and (3) Savannah River National Laboratory's facilities in Aiken, SC prior to completion of a subsequent NEPA determination by the ARPA-E NEPA

Compliance Officer

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B3.6 - Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

Date Determined: 09/21/2012