



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

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Proposed Action Title: DNV GL - Enabling the Internet of Energy through Network Optimized Distributed Energy Resources

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): Chalfont, PA; Lubbock, TX; San Francisco, CA

Proposed Action Description:

Funding will support the project team's small-scale, research and development activities to develop an innovative Internet of Energy (IoEn) platform for the automated scheduling, aggregating, dispatch, and performance validation of network optimized Distribute Energy Resources (DERs) and controllable load. Specifically, the project team will: (1) develop and validate a baseline for DERs and load models; (2) develop representative distribution circuit models and integrate those models on the IoEn platform; (3) develop and integrate market regulation scenarios on IoEn platform; (4) conduct Hardware-in-the-Loop testing of IoEn platform; and (5) develop control and aggregation methods and conduct testing of aggregated DER system. If successful, a greater number of local devices would be able to connect and contribute to the IoEn, increasing renewables penetration above 50% while maintaining required levels of grid performance. Minor modifications to install a computing and network server at GroupNIRE's Reese Technology Center will be necessary to accommodate the proposed work.

Project tasks will be conducted in dedicated laboratory and testing facilities at DNV GL (Chalfont, PA); GroupNIRE (Lubbock, TX); and Geli (San Francisco, CA). Project tasks will be conducted in accordance with with established safety and materials/waste management protocols and pursuant to applicable Federal, State, and local regulatory requirements.

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: 04/27/2016

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