

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Colorado School of Mines**STATE:** CO

**PROJECT TITLE:** Maximizing Scrap Recycling by Designing Cu Tolerant Steel Compositions

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0002252	DE-EE0009389	GFO-0009389-001	GO9389

**Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:**

**CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:**

Description:

**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.)

**B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects** Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the Colorado School of Mines to design copper tolerant steels using higher residual containing scrap which would result in significant energy savings for producers of high-quality steels. The project would be completed over two Budget Periods (BPs) with a Go/No-Go Decision Point in between each BP. This NEPA Determination is applicable to both BPs.

Lab experiments would be done to develop datasets on the United States scrap supply chain, melting characteristics of scrap mixtures, and behavior of scrap mixtures under certain process conditions. Datasets would be incorporated in a machine learning platform to predict optimal scrap blends and process conditions that do not result in diminished product quality. A techno-economic model would show the viability of manufacturing steel products through processes with higher residual copper tolerance.

Proposed project activities by location are listed below:

Colorado School of Mines – Golden, CO

- Sample characterization through microscopy, thermal-mechanical testing, and high temperature oxidation experiments.

Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) – Albuquerque, NM

- Thermal-mechanical testing, additive manufacturing, and computational work.

National Renewable Energy Laboratory – Golden, CO

- Techno-economic analysis.

Gerdau Long Steel North America – Tampa, FL

- Chemical characterization to determine the compositions of the material samples they are providing for the project.

Vallourec USA – Youngstown, OH

- Chemical characterization to determine the compositions of the material samples they are providing for the project.

Project activities would involve the use of metal powders for additive manufacturing, work under high temperatures, and mechanical and pressure hazards. Any associated risks would be mitigated through adherence to established health and safety policies and procedures. Protocols would include personnel training, the use of personal protective equipment, access to a fire extinguisher, the use of certified fume hoods, and engineering controls. All waste products would be disposed of by licensed waste management service providers. Colorado School of Mines and its project partners would observe all applicable Federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations. No changes in the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would be required as part of this project and no additional permits would be required in order to conduct any of the work activities.

Any work proposed to be conducted at a federal facility may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant federal official and must meet the applicable health and safety requirements of the facility.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Advanced Manufacturing Office

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Shaina Aguilar on 5/13/21.

## FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) 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 proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action 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.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



Casey Strickland

Date: 5/14/2021

NEPA Compliance Officer

## FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- Field Office Manager review not required  
 Field Office Manager review required

**BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :**

Field Office Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager

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