

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



**RECIPIENT:** NYSERDA

**STATE:** NY

**PROJECT TITLE :** National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001767	DE-EE0008390	GFO-0008390-038	GO8390

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:

<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.)
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Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to form a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) entity, the "National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium" which would be led by NYSERDA, along with key industry stakeholders and research institutions. The Consortium would finance research initiatives seeking to address the technical barriers faced by offshore wind developers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and supply chain partners, with the goal of reducing the Levelized Cost of Electricity (LCOE) for U.S. offshore wind plants and increasing opportunities for U.S. manufacturing.

The proposed project is divided into four (4) Budget Periods (BPs). DOE previously completed NEPA reviews for BP1, 2 and 3 (GFO-0009380-001 CX A1, A9 and A13, 10/09/2018; GFO-0009380-002 CX A1, A9 and A13, 01/13/2020; GFO-0009380-019 CX A1, A9 and A13, 12/02/2020). In addition, DOE completed NEPA reviews for 16 subawards made by the consortium under Task 19 (GFO-0009380-003 to 018, various CX determinations and dates) as well as awards under an Annual Operating Plan to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. This NEPA review is for a sub award proposed to be made under Task 27 to Cornell University.

Task 27 in BP3 involves reviewing applications received in response to the solicitation released in Task 26, and then choosing specific projects which would receive a sub award. While NYSERDA is allowed under the previous NEPA determination to proceed with choosing projects under Task 27, all projects chosen for sub award are subject to additional NEPA analysis prior to NYSERDA contracting for the sub award and prior to any work being completed on the sub award.

NYSERDA is proposing to provide funding to Cornell University (Cornell) to develop a decision support tool for use by the offshore wind industry that would aim to reduce economic risks associated with offshore wind development in North Atlantic right whale habitat. Cornell and project partners (the New England Aquarium and Lautec, US) propose to use existing data sets to develop ecological models of the probability of whale presence and generate economic and operational risk assessments for offshore wind developers. The proposed project would be limited to information gathering and analysis.

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 conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

