

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



**RECIPIENT:** Pacific Ocean Energy Trust (POET)

**STATE:** OR

**PROJECT TITLE :** Network Director for the TEAMER Program

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0002012	DE-EE0008895	GFO-0008895-008	G08895

**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.)

**A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the Pacific Ocean Energy Trust (POET) to administer the Testing and Access for Marine Energy Research (TEAMER) program. The primary objective of TEAMER is to provide marine hydrokinetic (MHK) technology developers access to a network of United States based testing facilities which provide testing and modeling expertise. Access would be provided through competitively awarded funds awarded under TEAMER and administered by POET. POET would be advised by a Technical Board which would include representatives from DOE, DOE National Labs, and National Marine Renewable Energy Centers. There would be up to nine funding cycles.

The proposed project would be divided into 4 tasks. DOE has previously completed seven NEPA reviews covering tasks 1, 2, and subtask 3.1 (GFO-0008895-001 CX A9; 11/14/2019), subtasks 3.2, 3.3.1 to 3.3.9, 3.4, and task 4. (GFO-0008895-002 CX A9, B3.6, B5.15; 07/22/2020; GFO-0008895-003 CX A9, B3.6, B5.15; 10/22/2020; GFO-0008895-004 CX A9, B3.6, B5.15; 11/04/2020; GFO-0008895-005 CX A9, A11, B3.16, B3.6, B5.15; 03/30/2021; GFO-0008895-006 CX A9, A11, B3.6, B5.15; 04/01/2021; GFO-0008895-007 CX A9, A11, B3.6, B5.15; 05/03/2021).

The recipient has received additional funds through a Determination of Noncompetitive Financial Assistance (DFNA), permitting the recipient to extend previously approved activities and add new project activities. The new tasks that have been added/modified are administrative in nature and are listed below:

Under Task 1: Establish the TEAMER Program, Deliverable 1.1.2 has been added which is that standard operating procedure (SOP) for RFTS calls will be developed and submitted to DOE for review and approval in coordination with the Technical Board.

Subtask 1.2: Communications/Marketing Plan, Risk Management Plan, and Diversity Equity and Inclusion Plan has been expanded to ensure clear and effective communication throughout the TEAMER project and to include a diversity, equity, and inclusion plan. This results in an update of Deliverable 1.2.1 regarding communications and marketing and a new Deliverable 1.2.5 to submit the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan.

Additional information has been included under Subtask 1.6.0: Periodic Review of Test Facility Network. Milestone 1.6.1 has been changed to Annual Facility Network Summit. Deliverable 1.6.2: Annual Facility Network Summit Reports has been added.

Subtask 1.7.0 was added: Establish TEAMER Media and Software Tools to increase efficiency of the RFTS review process. Deliverable 1.7.1 was added to verify additional software tools.

Subtask 1.8, Create Technical Board Charter, was previously numbered as subtask 2.5 and subtask 1.9, Annual Technical Board Summit, was previously numbered as subtask 2.6. As such, these subtasks were reviewed in a prior NEPA determination.

Task 3 has been expanded to offer educational and training opportunities to the marine energy sector.

Subtask 3.4 was changed to establish an education and training component of TEAMER, in which the Network Director would work to identify areas for short technical assistance courses and administrative instructional training courses. Related deliverables 3.4.1 and milestones 3.4.1 and 3.4.2 were added.

Subtask 3.5, Announce Accomplishments and Events, was previously numbered as 3.4. As such, this subtask was reviewed in a prior NEPA determination.

Subtask 3.6 was added: Establish a loaner pool of testing instrumentation in which network facilities may be allowed to purchase necessary instrumentation to increase capabilities for carrying out specific tests. Related deliverable and milestone were added.

Subtask 3.7 was added: Increase RFTS review capabilities, the Network Direct, along with the Technical Board will identify new reviewers and team leads to help carry out the RFTS review process.

Deliverable 4.1.2 under Subtask 4.1 was added: RFTS Reporting includes uploading all existing RFTS data into Submittable, therefore increasing reporting capabilities.

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:

All tasks are approved, however selection of technical assistance recipients is subject to additional NEPA review.

The NEPA Determination does not apply to the following Topic Area, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

All selections of technical assistance recipients made under Subtask 3.3.1 will be subject to additional NEPA review and must receive approval from the Contracting Officer prior to any work being completed on those projects.

Notes:

Water Power Technologies Office

This NEPA determination does require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Shaina Aguilar on 10/12/21.

## 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.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. The NEPA Provision identifies Topic Areas, Budget Periods, tasks, and/or subtasks that are subject to additional NEPA review.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  **Electronically Signed By: Roak Parker** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 10/12/2021  
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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager