

**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-0008390-042	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:

**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:

A1 Routine DOE business actions - Routine actions necessary to support the normal conduct of DOE business limited to administrative, financial, and personnel actions.

A13 Procedural Documents - Administrative, organizational, or procedural Policies, Orders, Notices, Manuals, and Guides.

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, 22 subawards made by the consortium under Task 27, as well as awards under an Annual Operating Plan to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (various CX determinations and dates). This review is for BP4.

Budget Period 1 tasks included Consortium formation (e.g. incorporation, Bylaws development, and governing procedures; definition of Consortium structure and operating procedures (e.g. Consortium and members); development of communications and outreach strategies; stakeholder engagement; establishment of Consortium membership eligibility requirements and related policies; development of a research pillars roadmap; and development of templates (e.g. Project Financial, IP, and Contractual), Terms and Conditions, Guidelines and Policies.

BP2 included updating information developing in BP1 and the making of 16 sub awards.

BP3 included updating information developing in BP1 and 2 and the making of 22 sub awards.

BP4 Tasks 33 and Tasks 36-40 would involve updating information developed or produced during BP1, 2, and 3,

sharing that information with Consortium members and other stakeholders, and reporting on ongoing subawards. These project activities would be carried out by NYSERDA at its existing offices in Albany, NY. All project activities would be administrative in nature and would not result in any significant emissions or waste, beyond those attributable to standard office activities. No change in the use, mission, or operation of NYSERDA's existing facilities would arise out of these efforts. NYSERDA would comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local environmental regulations.

Task 34 would involve developing and releasing a competitive solicitation for research proposals to be funded.

Task 35 would involve reviewing applications received in response to the solicitation released (see Task 34) and then choosing specific projects which would receive a sub award. Sub awarded projects may potentially include modeling, analysis, preliminary design, lab-scale research, instrumentation, monitoring, site characterization, or ground disturbing activities. NYSERDA may release the solicitation (Task 34) and review proposals submitting in response to the solicitation. NYSERDA may make initial choices of projects to receive sub awards. However, each sub-award negotiated by the Consortium would require additional NEPA analysis prior to contracting for the sub award and prior to any work being completed on the sub award. All sub awards will be subject to additional NEPA review at a later date, when additional information is available.

All sub awards made under Task 35 will be subject to additional NEPA review prior to any work being completed on those projects.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

Budget Period 1
Budget Period 2
Budget Period 3
Budget Period 4

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

All sub awards made under Task 35 (in Budget Period 4) will be subject to additional NEPA review prior to any work being completed on those projects.

Notes:

Wind Energy Technologies Office
This NEPA determination does require a tailored NEPA provision.
Review completed by Roak Parker, 12/28/2021

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:  _____ Date: 12/28/2021
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