

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



RECIPIENT: TreadStone Technologies, Inc.

STATE: NJ

PROJECT TITLE : R2R Manufacturing of Metallic Electrodes and Bipolar Plates for Flow Batteries

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002453	DE-EE0009793	GFO-0009793-001	GO9793

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 federal funding to Treadstone Technologies, Inc. (Treadstone) to advance flow battery metallic electrode and bipolar plate manufacturing by developing a roll to roll (R2R) manufacturing technology using carbon coating to decrease the cost of flow battery electrodes and bipolar plates. Project activities are divided into three budget periods (BP) with a Go/No Go Decision Point between the BPs. This NEPA Determination is applicable to all BPs.

Project activities include the qualification of carbon particle raw material and its suppliers, R2R coating process development, quality control/inspection method development, pilot scale R2R coating system development, and qualification through flow battery testing and demonstration. Project work would occur at Treadstone's research facility in Princeton, NJ with testing and evaluation of plate samples occurring at Columbia University, ESS, Inc., and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and Hellion, LLC. would provide confirmation testing and consultative support for the project. Developed coated metallic electrode and bipolar plates would be assembled into a 10kW/40kWh flow battery system. Final testing and validation of the assembled system would occur at one of DOE's National Laboratories. 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.

Project activities would occur within existing facilities/laboratories designed for the types of activities proposed using existing equipment; therefore, no modifications, new permits, additional licenses and/or authorizations would be necessary. No ground disturbing activities, no changes in the operation of existing facilities, and no installation of equipment outdoors would occur for project activities. The project would use non-hazardous materials under laboratory conditions with appropriate personal protective equipment and safety protocols. Treadstone's facility undergoes quarterly safety inspections and maintains safety, environmental, and hazardous material policies compliant with local, state and federal regulations. Columbia University would be producing small amounts of a hazardous material that would be neutralized through either discharge or metal addition. Materials not consumed in processing would be disposed of under currently approved methods for solvents and metal wastes. All materials would be managed in accordance with federal, state, and local environmental regulations. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Advanced Manufacturing Office
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

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: _____


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 1/3/2022

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: _____