

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Scientific Solutions, Inc.

STATE: NH

PROJECT TITLE : Standardized Drifting Noise Measurement Systems and Integrated Data Products

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000971	DE-EE0006786	GFO-0006786-001	

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), 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.)
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Rationale for determination:

DOE is proposing to provide funding to Scientific Solutions to further develop their Drifting Noise Measurement System, a type of current drifting noise measurement buoy system that would be used to monitor noise inputs and outputs in ocean environments around marine hydro-kinetic energy devices.

The project is broken into two Budget Periods. Budget Period 2 (BP2) lacks sufficient detail and data to complete a NEPA determination and is not being reviewed at this time. Budget Period 1 (BP1) consists of the following tasks and subtasks.

BP1:

Task 1: Establish requirements, data products definition, and test site

Task 2: Deployable Noise Measurement System Design and Build-Test –Build

- * Subtask 2.1.1: Preliminary Design
- * Subtask 2.1.2: Preliminary Design Review
- * Subtask 2.1.3: Detailed Design
- * Subtask 2.1.4: Critical Design Review
- * Subtask 2.1.5: Control and Data Acquisition Software Development
- * Subtask 2.1.6: Prototype Build and Validation Test

Task 3: Data Analysis and Signal Processing

Throughout Task 1 Scientific Solutions would establish system requirements based on the needs of the end-user community and DOE guidelines. Activities proposed in this task consist of research, data gathering, stakeholder engagement, and planning.

During Task 2 Scientific Solutions would start the design process, develop system software requirements and, in subtask 2.1.6, build a prototype and test it in a lab setting and potentially a field site in a marine environment. Details of Subtask 2.1.6, including site location, are not known at this time, therefore a NEPA determination cannot be made for this subtask. Subtasks 2.1.1 through 2.1.5 activities would consist of research, data gathering, preliminary design, and planning. Task 3 is connected to the testing portion of the activities proposed in sub-task 2.1.6, and therefore cannot be conducted until the NEPA approval of subtask 2.1.6 is complete; therefore this task is also conditioned upon further NEPA review for subtask 2.1.6.

Based on the information provided, DOE has determined that Task 1 and Sub-tasks 2.1.1-2.1.5 are consistent with actions covered under DOE CX A9; and therefore are categorically excluded from further NEPA review. All other tasks and sub-tasks are conditioned pending a final NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

- Subtask 2.1.6: Prototype Build and Validation Test
- Task 3: Data Analysis and Signal Processing
- ALL Tasks and Subtasks in Budget Period 2
- Fabrication and testing, including in the laboratory and marine/field environments

This restriction does not preclude you from:

- Task 1: Establish requirements, data products definition, and test site (all subtasks)
- Subtask 2.1.1: Preliminary Design
- Subtask 2.1.2: Preliminary Design Review
- Subtask 2.1.3: Detailed Design
- Subtask 2.1.4: Critical Design Review
- Subtask 2.1.5: Control and Data Acquisition Software Development

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are doing so at risk of not receiving federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

NEPA review completed by Laura Margason on September 3, 2014.

*This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: _____
NEPA Compliance Officer

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

Field Office Manager review required

NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

- Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

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

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager