

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Hydro Research Foundation**STATE:** CO**PROJECT TITLE:** Hydro Fellowship Program

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
FOA-0000069	DE-EE0002668	GFO-0002668-002	GO2668

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.)

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 Hydro Research Foundation to establish a competitive Hydro Fellowship Program (HFP) to support graduate student research and academic interest in research and careers in conventional and/or pumped-storage hydropower. The HFP would provide 10-15 grants for one-to-two year periods of study.

This award previously received a NEPA determination (GFO-10-150; CX A9 and A11; 2/01/2010) for project activities which included the HFP grantees conducting relevant research in the fields of hydropower-related engineering and environmental science; sponsoring Hydro Fellows Roundtables; web-publishing research results; working to establish career opportunities for Fellows within the industry; publicizing the Fellowship Program; and administration of the HFP grants.

At this time, no HFP grantees have been selected meaning sites and activities for research projects are unknown; therefore, this NEPA determination does not apply to any work that would be conducted by the HFP grantees. Further, each project selected for an HFP grant is required to complete a separate NEPA review. This NEPA determination only applies to the administration of the next round of HFP grants.

Proposed project activities include the administration of the HFP, including surveys of other research programs, analysis of financial support for potential HFP grantees, selection of HFP grantees and other information gathering, analysis, and dissemination activities only.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the proposed project activities would not have a significant individual or cumulative impact to human health and/or environment. DOE has determined the proposed project is consistent with actions contained in DOE categorical exclusion A9 "information gathering, analysis and dissemination," and A11 "Technical advice and planning assistance" and is categorically excluded from further 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:

Prohibited actions include any work on the selected Hydro Fellowship Program grant projects.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

This restriction does not preclude you from the administration of the Hydro Fellowship Program, including surveys of other research programs, analysis of financial support for potential fellows, facilitating the selection process for Hydro Fellowship Program grants and other information gathering, analysis, and dissemination activities.

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.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:

Each project selected for an HFP grant is required to complete a separate NEPA review.

Note to Specialist :

Water Power Program

This NEPA Determination requires a tailored NEPA provision, see above.

NEPA review completed by Logan Sholar, 3/17/15

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: 
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 3/23/2015

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: _____
Field Office Manager

Date: _____