

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: HRF - University of Idaho

STATE: ID

PROJECT TITLE: Maximizing the habitat restoration potential of controlled releases at hydropower dams; Understanding impacts of hydrograph form on sediment transport

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	EE0002668/EE0006506	GFO-0006506-021	

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 (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), **Information 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 **gathering, limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies**, and **analysis, and information dissemination** (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and **dissemination classroom training and informational programs**), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the Hydro Research Foundation (HRF) to award grants to individual research projects through its University Research Awards Program. The intent of the grants is to support innovative research related to conventional or pumped-storage hydropower, stimulate interest among students and universities in this research arena, and provide students with a foundation for productive careers related to the hydropower industry.

DOE completed a previous NEPA review (GFO-0002668-002 CX A9, A11 3/23/2015) that included development of a Hydro Fellowship Program that would competitively award grants for hydropower-related, graduate-level research projects for one- to two-year periods of study. This NEPA determination applies to activities associated with one of the projects which has been selected to receive a grant award from the HRF.

The awardee at the University of Idaho would use HRF grant funding provided by DOE to investigate the effects of hydrographs on bed load sediment transport processes. Proposed activities would consist of desktop research and data analysis. All activities would occur at the University of Idaho Center for Ecohydraulics Research Stream Lab in Boise, ID.

Based on review of the project information and the above analysis, DOE has determined the activities associated with the proposed project 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" and is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If you intend to make changes to the scope or objective of your project you are required to contact the Project Officer identified in Block 11 of the Notice of Financial Assistance Award before proceeding. You must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved.

Note to Specialist :

Water Power Program

This NEPA Determination does NOT require a tailored NEPA provision.
NEPA review completed by Logan Sholar, 5/18/15

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

Justin Ker
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

6/4/2015

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:
