

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: HRF - Colorado School of Mines 2

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE: Hydro Research Foundation University Research Awards

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	EE0002668/EE0006506	GFO-0006506-023	GO6506

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.

B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects

Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for small scale 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 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 Colorado School of Mines would use HRF grant funding provided by DOE to investigate the initiation and progression of internal erosion (piping) within materials representative of a typical earthen dam and to investigate methods for detecting internal erosion. Proposed activities would include: Soil displacement tests using a permeameter; analysis of test measurements, and production of a journal article describing the test results. Listed activities would consist of desktop research, analysis, and indoor, bench-scale lab work. All activities would occur at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO. The laboratory complies with government safety, emergency, and hazardous waste handling/removal regulations. There are not expected to be toxic emissions or hazardous wastes produced as a result of the proposed activities. The laboratory is currently used for work that is similar to the proposed activities; therefore, no new construction or building modifications or new or modified permits would be required.

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," A11 "technical advice" and B3.6 "Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects" 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 :

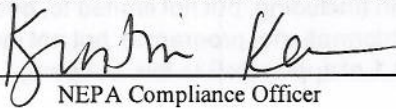
Water Power Program

This NEPA Determination does NOT require a tailored NEPA provision.

NEPA review completed by Logan Sholar, 5/19/15

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:


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:
