

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** HRF - Northern Arizona University**STATE:** AZ**PROJECT TITLE:** Hydro Research Foundation University Research Awards

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	EE0002668/EE0006506	GFO-0006506-018	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.) |
| 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 the Hydro Research Foundation (HRF) to award grants to individual research projects through its University Research Awards Program 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 Northern Arizona University would use HRF grant funding provided by DOE to determine the effectiveness of artificial floods in the Marble Canyon reach of the Grand Canyon in distributing tributary-supplied sand to sandbars located downstream of Glen Canyon Dam. Proposed activities would include creation of a composite fingerprint (CFP) capable of distinguishing between sediment from different sources; application of the CFP to samples from nine separate high-flow experiment (HFE) locations throughout Marble Canyon; and analysis of data to determine Marble Canyon's reliance on Glen Canyon sand for sandbar growth and the effectiveness of HFEs as a sandbar maintenance practice. No new collection of samples would be undertaken, and no work would occur in the Grand Canyon or in Marble Canyon as a result of this project.

Based on a review of the project information, 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 exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination" 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.

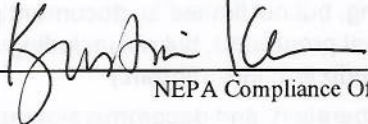
Insert the following language in the award:

You are required to:
Consult EERE and obtain NEPA approval before NAU researcher collects any new sediment samples from any part of the Grand Canyon.

Note to Specialist :

Water Power Program
This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.
NEPA review completed by Rebecca McCord, 6/17/15

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Date: 6/17/2015
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