

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



**RECIPIENT:** Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments

**STATE:** NC

**PROJECT TITLE** Powering Energy Efficiency & Impacts Framework: Mapping a comprehensive energy strategy for the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments Region

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0001403	DE-EE0007738	GFO-0007738-001	

**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.)

**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 funding to the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Government (UCPCOG) to facilitate a mapping system for data-driven energy-efficiency analysis and decision-making to foster collaborations between multiple government and non-governmental entities.

The proposed project would create an enterprise geospatial database of existing federal, state, utility and local energy-efficiency programs in the service area of a rural electric cooperative utility and city-owned utility. The geospatial database would be integrated with a utility energy monitoring software to track the energy savings from participating homes in the program with an emphasis on aiding low-income households. The proposed project would increase organizational collaboration, support better decision-making, and increase energy efficiency in low-income households. The UCPCOG, located in Wilson, ND, would coordinate participant activities.

The participants include:

- NC State University- NC Clean Energy Technology Center, Center for Geospatial Analysis and System Design and Optimization;
- NC Sustainable Energy Association;
- NC Justice Center; Teracell Energy;
- University of South Carolina, Department of Geography, Environment& Sustainability; and
- Vermont Law School, Institute for the Energy & the Environment.

The proposed activities would be limited exclusively to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities and would include the research and development of a software tool to analyze energy usage geospatially. Project participants would use no physical materials beyond basic office supplies and software.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined that the proposal fits within the class of action(s) selected above. DOE has also determined that: (1) there are no extraordinary circumstances (as defined by 10 CFR 1021.410(2)) related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; (2) the proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and (3) the proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, related to other proposals with cumulatively significant actions, or an improper interim action. This proposal 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 the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved. If the Recipient moves forward with activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of a final NEPA decision, the Recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving Federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Office of Strategic Programs

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Chris Rowe, 8/30/2016

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Kristin Kerwin

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 8/31/2016

**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: \_\_\_\_\_