

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT:DOE

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE : Deep Direct-Use Feasibility Studies

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001601		GFO-FOA-0001601-001	

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:

- | | |
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| 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:

As part of Funding Opportunity Announcement (DE-FOA-0001601) the Department of Energy (DOE) is soliciting applications to conduct feasibility studies of large-scale, low-temperature deep-well geothermal systems (Topic Area 1) and to establish a community of practice for subsequent techno-economic validations of feasibility research and outreach activities (Topic Area 2).

For awards selected under either Topic Area of this FOA, all work to be performed is limited to paper studies, data analysis, computer modeling, and/or outreach. Anticipated project activities would consist exclusively of intellectual and academic tasks including: initial site selection, geologic modeling, resource assessments, and cost-benefit calculations.

Based on the review of the FOA Requirements Document, DOE has determined that all projects selected under this FOA will fit within the class of action(s) selected above. DOE has also determined that based on the types, scope, and scale of projects that could be selected under the FOA: (1) there would be no extraordinary circumstances (as defined by 10 CFR 1021.410(2)) that could affect the significance of the environmental effects of the activities; (2) the activities do not lead to segmentation to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and (3) the activities would have independent utility and would not be connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, related to other proposals with cumulatively significant actions, or an improper interim action. All projects selected by DOE and funded through this FOA are 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 :

This NEPA Determination applies to the issuance of the FOA as well as all awards selected under the FOA, provided the scope of the selected awards remains consistent with the intent of the FOA as currently described. If selected applicants propose to use project funds for activities outside the scope of this NEPA Determination, additional NEPA review will be required.

Geothermal Technologies Office

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA Provision.
NEPA review completed by Whitney Doss, 12/8/2016

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Casey Strickland Date: 12/12/2016
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