

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: Natel Energy, Inc.

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : Efficient, Modular Low-Head Linear Pelton Turbine with Simple, Low-Cost Civil Works

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001455	DE-EE0008011	GFO-0008011-001	

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.)

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to Natel Energy, Inc. to complete the full design and engineering of a small- and intermediate-scale hydropower turbine known as a Linear Pelton (LP) machine and barge-mounted civil layout. The proposed project would be divided into two Budget Periods (BP), with a go / no-go decision point prior to beginning BP2. This NEPA review applies to BP1 only.

BP1 would involve preliminary design, engineering, and feasibility work to be completed at Natel Energy's office space in Alameda, CA and Gracon, LLC's offices in Loveland, CO. BP1 activities would therefore be limited to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities and would require no physical materials beyond standard office supplies and computer equipment.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined that BP1 activities fit 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. All activities associated with BP1 of this proposal are categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination for this award, and funding for certain tasks under this award is contingent upon the final NEPA determination.

Insert the following language in the award:

You are restricted from taking any action using federal funds, which would have an adverse affect on the environment or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives prior to DOE/NNSA providing either a NEPA clearance or a final NEPA decision regarding the project.

Prohibited actions include:

Any activities beyond those described in Budget Period 1 of the Statement of Project Objectives.

This restriction does not preclude you from:

Any activities associated with Budget Period 1 as described in the Statement of Project Objectives.

If you move forward with activities that are not authorized for federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of the final NEPA decision, you are 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 requires a tailored NEPA provision.
NEPA review completed by Rebecca McCord
March 16, 2017

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Kristin Kerwin Date: 3/17/2017
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