

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: University of Arizona

STATE: AZ

PROJECT TITLE: Hydro Research Foundation University Research Awards

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	DE-EE0006506	GFO-0006506-405	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.)

## Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the Hydro Research Foundation (HRF) to competitively select and provide funding 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 The University of Arizona would use HRF grant funding provided by the DOE to conduct a legal and policy analysis of the historic and ongoing changes in key water, energy, and environmental laws, to understand how these laws create constraints and opportunities for hydropower generation. Proposed activities would include analysis of legal and policy documents, literature searches and information gathering, interviewing, analysis of collected literature and information, and policy report writing. The proposed project would be limited exclusively to intellectual, academic, or analytical activities and would use no physical materials beyond basic office supplies, computers and software.

Based on the review of the proposal, DOE has determined 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 :

Water Power Technologies Office

This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision, however please note that this NEPA determination applies to this subaward only. Each subaward requires an individual NEPA review. NEPA review completed by Rebecca McCord, 05/08/2017

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

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:  Electronically Signed By: Kristin Kerwin \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 5/12/2017  
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