

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** University of Washington**STATE:** WA

PROJECT TITLE: 3rd Generation Integrated Instrumentation: Enhancements to the Adaptable Monitoring Package

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001418	DE-EE0007827	GFO-0007827-004	GO7827

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Policy 451.1), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

B3.16 Research activities in aquatic environments Small-scale, temporary surveying, site characterization, and research activities in aquatic environments, limited to: (a) Acquisition of rights-of-way, easements, and temporary use permits; (b) Installation, operation, and removal of passive scientific measurement devices, including, but not limited to, antennae, tide gauges, flow testing equipment for existing wells, weighted hydrophones, salinity measurement devices, and water quality measurement devices; (c) Natural resource inventories, data and sample collection, environmental monitoring, and basic and applied research, excluding (1) large-scale vibratory coring techniques and (2) seismic activities other than passive techniques; and (d) Surveying and mapping. These activities would be conducted in accordance with, where applicable, an approved spill prevention, control, and response plan and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices. None of the activities listed above would occur within the boundary of an established marine sanctuary or wildlife refuge, a governmentally proposed marine sanctuary or wildlife refuge, or a governmentally recognized area of high biological sensitivity, unless authorized by the agency responsible for such refuge, sanctuary, or area (or after consultation with the responsible agency, if no authorization is required). If the proposed activities would occur outside such refuge, sanctuary, or area and if the activities would have the potential to cause impacts within such refuge, sanctuary, or area, then the responsible agency shall be consulted in order to determine whether authorization is required and whether such activities would have the potential to cause significant impacts on such refuge, sanctuary, or area. Areas of high biological sensitivity include, but are not limited to, areas of known ecological importance, whale and marine mammal mating and calving/pupping areas, and fish and invertebrate spawning and nursery areas recognized as being limited or unique and vulnerable to perturbation; these areas can occur in bays, estuaries, near shore, and far offshore, and may vary seasonally. No permanent facilities or devices would be constructed or installed. Covered actions do not include drilling of resource exploration or extraction wells.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the University of Washington (UW) to develop and field test an integrated instrumentation package purpose built for environmental monitoring and marine hydrokinetic sites.

The proposed project would be divided into three Budget Periods (BP), with a Go/No Go decision point between each BP. DOE previously completed three NEPA reviews which reviewed BP1 (GFO-0007827-001 CX A9 and B3.16, 12/08/2016); Tasks 2, 3 and subtask 4.1 in BP2 (GFO-0007827-002 CX A9 and B3.6, 9/14/2017); and subtasks 4.2 and 4.3 in BP2 (GFO-0007827-003 CX A9 and B3.16, 12/08/2016). Subsequent to these determinations UW modified the scope of their project to add a testing site for tasks 3.2 and 4.2., specifically to include the Applied Physical Laboratory research dock, located on Lake Washington, and owned by the University of Washington (hereinafter University dock). This NEPA review is only regarding that change of scope as it applies to subtasks 3.2 and 4.2. This NEPA Determination does not apply to BP3.

As previously reviewed, in subtasks 3.2 and 4.2 UW would field test the iAMP device at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's (PNNL) Sequim Bay. UW now proposes to do some or all of those tests at the University dock.

The iAMP device is approximately 3 by 6 feet and integrates active acoustic, passive acoustic, and optical sensors.

The active components would include an optical stereo camera, a multi beam sonar, a 38kHz – 200 kHz sonar (known as the EK80), and an acoustic camera. Dockside testing would involve lowering the iAMP device into the water at the University dock, using the dock's overhead crane. The iAMP would be suspended in the water dockside for a two week period. During that time sensors on the iAMP would duty cycle and system component would be monitored to detect any malfunctions. After two weeks the iAMP would be lifted out of the water. The iAMP would never make contact with the lakebed.

The University dock is a preexisting research dock at which research, such as the research proposed here, is regularly conducted. It is located in an urbanized freshwater lake environment. No modifications to the dock or facilities would be required for this proposed testing. No threatened or endangered species, or species eligible for listing would be within the project area during testing. There are no critical habitats located in the project area. DOE has determined that the proposed activities will have no effect on threatened or endangered species or critical habitat.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

[All Budget Period 1 Tasks](#)

[All Budget Period 2 Tasks](#)

The NEPA Determination does not apply to the following Topic Area, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

[All Budget Period 3 Tasks](#)

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

[Any work proposed to be conducted at a federal facility may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant federal official and must meet the applicable health and safety requirements of the facility.](#)

Notes:

[Water Power Technology Office](#)

[This NEPA determination requires a tailored NEPA provision](#)

[NEPA review completed by Roak Parker 2/8/19](#)

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to

other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. The NEPA Provision identifies Topic Areas, Budget Periods, tasks, and/or subtasks that are subject to additional NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/11/2019

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

- Field Office Manager review not required
- Field Office Manager review required

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature: _____

Field Office Manager

Date: _____