

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Center for Transportation and the Environment**STATE:** GA**PROJECT TITLE:** Fuel Cell Hybrid Electric Van Deployment Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000828	DE-EE0006523	GFO-0006523-003	GO6523

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:

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.)

B5.15 Small-scale

renewable energy research and development and pilot projects Small-scale renewable energy research and development projects and small-scale pilot projects, provided that the projects are located within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) to develop, validate, and deploy fuel cell hybrid electric walk-in delivery vans. The fuel cell hybrid delivery vehicle design would be able to achieve extended range through an optimum combination of fuel cell and battery power while producing zero emissions.

Two previous determinations (GFO-0006523-001 and GFO-0006523-002) were completed for this project, covering BP1 tasks. This determination will review all BP2 tasks, which had previously been prohibited, as information was not then available regarding the activities to be performed and the locations where project work would be conducted. With the completion of BP1 tasks, this information is now available.

BP2 activities would consist of the assembly and field testing of sixteen (16) fuel cell hybrid electric fuel cell delivery vans.

Proposed project activities would include the following:

TASK 5: VEHICLE BUILD – This task would consist of the assembly and delivery of sixteen (16) fuel cell hybrid electric fuel cell delivery vans. Activities under this task would include vehicle assembly, commissioning, and delivery. Vehicle build activities would be performed at an existing manufacturing facility, operated by CTE's project partner, W.W. Williams, in Las Vegas, NV. W.W. Williams is a vehicle repair and service provider that regularly performs the assembly activities included in this project. Fuel cell assembly activities would be performed by project partner Hydrogenics, at its existing manufacturing facility in Carlsbad, CA. Hydrogenics regularly performs fuel cell design, manufacture, and assembly at its facilities. The hybrid vans would be delivered to one or more UPS locations in California. These actions are consistent with DOE CX 5.15 (small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects).

TASK 6: TRAINING AND EDUCATION – This task would consist of the provision of on-site vehicle operations and

fueling training for operators and first responders. All training activities would be coordinated by CTE. Activities proposed under this task are all administrative in nature and are consistent with DOE CX A9 (information gathering, analysis, dissemination; including document publication and classroom training).

TASK 7: VEHICLE TEST AND EVALUATION – As part of this task, the hybrid vans would be operated in routine UPS service for at least 5,000 hours of operation, over a two-year period. Field testing would be performed in Ontario, CA. Hydrogen fueling would occur at a Shell hydrogen fueling station in Ontario, CA. Operational support and vehicle maintenance would be provided by the project team throughout the testing period. Operational data would also be collected and reported throughout this period. Activities proposed under this task would fall into DOE CX B5.15 (small-scale renewable energy research and development and pilot projects).

TASK 8: PROJECT MANAGEMENT – BUDGET PERIOD 2 – This task would consist of ongoing project management activities, including coordination planning, reporting, and completion of a market assessment. Activities proposed under this task would be covered by DOE CX A9 (Information gathering, analysis and dissemination).

No physical modifications to existing facilities, construction of new facilities, ground disturbing activities, or any changes to the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would be required as part of this project. California Air Resources Board (CARB) permits would be required to operate experimental technologies in CA. CTE would secure these permits upon commissioning the hybrid vans.

The project would involve the use and handling of hazardous materials and heavy machinery with moving parts. Hydrogen would be handled and stored throughout the project. All handling and storage of hydrogen would be done in accordance with applicable codes and standards. Vehicles would be equipped with hydrogen detection systems to identify hydrogen leaks. The lithium-ion batteries to be installed in the vehicles are sealed units, which would be handled according to manufacturer specifications and guidelines. All entities involved in the performance of laboratory and/or manufacturing activities have established health and safety policies and procedures that would be adhered to, including employee training, the use of personal protective equipment, engineering controls, monitoring and internal assessments. CTE and its project partners would observe all applicable Federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Fuel Cell Technologies Office

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA Provision.

NEPA review completed by Jonathan Hartman, 11/11/2019

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.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____



Casey Strickland

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/12/2019

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: _____