

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Pacific Ocean Energy Trust (POET)**STATE:** OR

PROJECT TITLE: Network Director for the U.S. Testing Expertise and Access for Marine Energy Research (TEAMER) Program

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002012	DE-EE0008895	GFO-0008895-001	

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.)

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the Pacific Ocean Energy Trust (POET) to administer the Testing and Access for Marine Energy Research (TEAMER) program. The primary objective of TEAMER is to provide marine hydrokinetic (MHK) technology developers access to a network of United States based testing facilities which provide testing and modeling expertise. Access would be provided through competitively awarded funds awarded under TEAMER and administered by POET. POET would be advised by a Technical Board which would include representatives from DOE, DOE National Labs, and National Marine Renewable Energy Centers. There would be up to nine funding cycles.

The proposed project would be divided into 4 tasks.

Under Task 1 POET would establish the TEAMER testing facility network. This would include identifying partners who would provide testing and modeling expertise, establishing communications plans and risk management plans, determining qualifications for testing partners, identifying testing facilities, and establishing work agreement with the identified partners and facilities. After each funding cycle, or periodically as appropriate, POET would review the testing facility network to ensure compliance with requirements. All work under this task would be administrative.

Under Task 2 POET would establish the requirements for participants, including application requirements, award process, and participant rights and responsibilities. All work under this task would be administrative.

Under Sub-task 3.1 POET would create the application for participants to apply for the competitively awarded TEAMER assistance. The application would be called the Request for Technical Support (RFTS). After each funding cycle POET would reevaluate the RFTS and incorporate lessons learned from previous funding rounds. All work under this task would be administrative.

Under Sub-tasks 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 POET would select participants to receive specific assistance, would aid participants in completion of federal requirements, including NEPA requirements, prior to receiving assistance, and would announce selections and disseminate accomplishment. A meaningful review of these sub-tasks would require a review of services to be provided by testing partners and facilities. Since these services and facilities have not yet been identified a review cannot be completed at this time and these subtasks are restricted.

Task 4 would involve the reporting and dissemination of testing results. This task is reliant upon the restricted subtasks above (3.2-3.4) and thus cannot be meaningfully reviewed at this time. Task 4 is restricted.

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.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

[Task 1 - Establish the TEAMER Test Facility Network](#)
[Task 2 - Establish TEAMER Program Technical Process](#)
[Sub-task 3.1 - Request for Technical Support \(RFTS\)](#)

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

[Subtask 3.2 - Release, review and select RFTS participants](#)
[Subtask 3.3 - Coordinate with TEAMER participants and DOE National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) office to ensure NEPA compliance](#)
[Subtask 3.4 - Announce Accomplishments and Events](#)
[Task 4 - Provide for Reporting and Public Dissemination of Test Results](#)

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: _____

 Electronically Signed By: **Roak Parker**

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/14/2019

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: _____