

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** International District Energy Association**STATE:** MA

PROJECT TITLE: Verification and Validation of Performance with Dissemination of Best Practices in District Energy and CHP for Enhanced Resiliency, Energy Efficiency and Cybersecurity

| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| DE-FOA-0001980 | DE-EE0009142 | GFO-0009142-001 | GO9142 |

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.)

A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations

Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to International District Energy Association (IDEA) to analyze performance data collected from existing district energy (DE) systems in order to develop a series of best practices and recommendations for 1) integrating combined heat and power (CHP) and microgrid systems; 2) integrating renewable, intermittent energy sources and thermal energy storage (TES); and 3) enhancing cybersecurity for DE systems. The project would be completed over three Budget Periods (BPs), with a Go/No-Go Decision Point in between each BP. This NEPA Review will be applicable to all three BPs.

IDEA would collect data from approximately 40 - 60 existing district energy, distributed generation, and microgrid sites from diverse regions across the United States. Sites would be selected during the first BP. These sites could potentially include municipalities, universities, hospitals, and airports, among other localities. All site locations would be selected from candidates that form part of IDEA's member network. IDEA would engage directly with candidate sites in order to coordinate data collection. Data would be obtained from questionnaires formulated by IDEA and completed by the selected site locations. IDEA would analyse the data collected and develop strategy plans and guidelines for dissemination to industry stakeholders through webinars, lectures, and publications.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Advanced Manufacturing Office

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA Provision.

NEPA review completed by Jonathan Hartman, 04/06/2020

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: 4/6/2020

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: _____