

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Electricore, Inc.**STATE:** CA

**PROJECT TITLE:** High Pressure, High Flow Rate Dispenser and Nozzle Assembly for Heavy Duty Vehicles

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0002044	DE-EE0008817	GFO-0008817-001	GO8817

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.)

**B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects** Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

**B5.22 Alternative fuel vehicle fueling stations** The installation, modification, operation, and removal of alternative fuel vehicle fueling stations (such as for compressed natural gas, hydrogen, ethanol and other commercially available biofuels) on the site of a current or former fueling station, or within a previously disturbed or developed area within the boundaries of a facility managed by the owners of a vehicle fleet. 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 Electricore, Inc. for the design, development, fabrication, and testing of a dispenser and nozzle assembly (nozzle, receptacle, hose, and breakaway) capable of fueling heavy-duty (HD) vehicles to help enable wide-scale hydrogen production, delivery, storage, and use across the HD vehicle sector. Project activities (administration, management, design, engineering, manufacturing, and testing) would occur within the offices of Electricore (California) and Quong & Associates (California), as well as at the facilities of Bennett Pump Company (Michigan), WEH Technologies (Texas), WEH GmbH headquarters (Germany), and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Colorado. Field demonstration of the dispenser and nozzle assembly would occur at a site that has yet to be determined. The project would be completed over two Budget Periods (BPs), with a Go/No-Go Decision Point in between the BPs.

Activities would occur within existing facilities designed for the type of work proposed. No changes in the operation of existing facilities would occur. Any new permits, additional licenses and/or authorizations necessary for project activities would be in place prior initiating project activities at those sites. Modifications would be made at Bennett Pump Company to expand the existing test chamber to support additional dispenser testing capacity for the project. The project would involve the use and handling of hydrogen gas. All such handling would occur within existing indoor and outdoor facilities specifically designed to handle hydrogen gas. These facilities have dedicated proper health, safety and environmental practices to ensure project activities that involve hydrogen gas would pose no risk to the public. Existing health and safety policies and procedures would be followed, including employee training,

proper protective equipment, engineering controls, monitoring, and internal assessments. All waste would be disposed of or recycled in compliance with Federal, state, and local regulations.

The exact location of the field demonstration has yet to be determined but would occur at an existing hydrogen station with test equipment being swapped for existing hardware at the site. Installation of the nozzle assembly would occur and replacement of the existing dispenser could occur if needed to test fueling of HD vehicles or test equipment. The testing of components may involve modifications to existing components such as tubing to handle larger flow rates. No ground disturbance or new construction would occur other than making connections and mounting the dispenser. The site would be returned to its initial state once project activities are completed.

DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Fuel Cell Technologies Office

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

## 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.

DOE has determined that work to be carried out outside of the United States, its territories and possessions is exempt from further review pursuant to Section 5.1.1 of the DOE Final Guidelines for Implementation of Executive Order 12114; "Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions."

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: 5/4/2020

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_