

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Institute for Market Transformation**STATE:** DC

PROJECT TITLE: Advanced Building Construction with Energy Efficient Technologies & Practices (ABC): Energy Efficiency Field Study in Large/Complex Buildings

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002099	DE-EE0009078	GFO-0009078-001	

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 funding to the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) to further develop the DOE Commercial Code Field Study methodology to consider commercial buildings that use complex mechanical systems and/or adhere to the performance path methodology for code compliance. This project would continue work IMT had previously undertaken to develop a code compliance methodology, which has since been adopted by DOE as a standard methodology (DOE Award No. DE-EE0007619 – DE-FOA-0001532; CXs A9, A11). IMT would visit new commercial building locations and active construction sites to collect data on code compliance and energy performance. Guidelines and training materials would then be developed using the data collected and disseminated to code officials and other relevant stakeholders. The project would be completed over two Budget Periods (BPs), with a Go/No-Go Decision Point in between each BP.

Proposed project activities would consist of data collection, computer modeling/analysis, and development of educational materials (e.g. guidance documents, trainings, checklists). Data would be collected on-site at approximately 80 – 100 commercial building locations. Data collection would consist solely of observational data logging (i.e. recording observations of building systems) and would not include the installation of any data-logging equipment or measurement devices.

The site locations for data collection are not currently known, but would be selected as part of the project. Potential site locations would be assessed in the Atlanta area, Boston/Cambridge area, the Mid-Atlantic region, and the Midwest. All site locations would either be un-occupied commercial buildings currently under construction or commercial buildings constructed within the past 18 months. Any construction activities at these sites would occur regardless of DOE funding and would be performed without the involvement of IMT or its project partners. Because the site locations are very new and DOE funding would not be connected to any potential construction activities or installations, DOE has determined that project work would not have the potential to affect historic properties.

All project activities would be coordinated by IMT. Its project partners would help select locations for field data collection and provide input on the data collection methodology, sampling protocol, and data collection forms/documents. Steven Winter Associates would assist IMT in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Slipstream would assist in the Midwest and Boston/Cambridge areas. Southface would assist in the Atlanta, GA area.

Project work may involve site visits to locations where hazardous materials could be present, including but not limited to, asbestos, lead paint, aerosols, sealants, and paints. Potential contact may occur during energy audit assessment site visits. In order to mitigate against potential health and safety hazards, IMT and its project partners would adhere to established corporate health and safety policies and procedures. Industry standards protocols

would be observed, including adherence to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines. IMT 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:

Building Technologies Office

This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Jonathan Hartman on 5/05/2020

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:

5/6/2020

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: