

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** University of Nebraska-Lincoln**STATE:** NE

**PROJECT TITLE:** MODULAR CONSTRUCTION: COMMERCIAL FIELD STUDY OF ENERGY EFFICIENT CODE COMPLIANCE THROUGH OFFSITE PREFABRICATION

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0002099	DE-EE0009082	GFO-0009082-001	G09082

**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 University of Nebraska-Lincoln to validate energy code compliance of a select set of modular multi-family buildings and compare that information to the electric and natural gas consumption of those buildings. Data would be collected on fully constructed buildings and buildings undergoing active construction in various representative climate regions in the United States. Results would be used to develop best practices for increased energy code compliance and energy efficiency of modular construction. The project would be completed over three Budget Periods (BPs), with a Go/No-Go Decision Point after each BP.

Proposed project activities would include literature searches and information gathering, data analysis, computer modeling, analytical reviews, document preparation, data dissemination, and paper studies.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) would lead the project. This would include tracking performance, allocating resources, managing meetings and progress reporting, and developing the Best Practices Guide and Final Report. Fieldwork would include in-person observations of prefabrication of homes and the assembly at their constructed locations, as well as the assessment of the energy performance of the fully constructed and occupied homes. UNL would observe and compare methods of design and construction of traditional homes to those of modular homes. New Buildings Institute and Colorado State University are subrecipients who would lead data collection efforts including creating protocols for data collection, recruiting, actual data collection, and energy modeling. There would be no physical products made or physical modifications to facilities, therefore no additional permits would be required to conduct any of the work activities. A portion of work on this project would be done at active construction sites, but would be limited to data collection and site observations. All personnel performing such visits would adhere to industry-standard health and safety policies and procedures and site-specific protocols.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Building Technology Office  
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.  
Review completed by Shaina Aguilar on 6/23/2020.

**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 Date: 6/24/2020  
NEPA Compliance Officer

**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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager