

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



**RECIPIENT:** The Research Foundation of CUNY on behalf of City College

**STATE:** NY

**PROJECT TITLE:** Data Driven Commercial Building Energy Code Compliance and Technology Inventory for New York City

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0002099	DE-EE0009081	GFO-0009081-001	

**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 Research Foundation of City University of New York (CUNY) on behalf of City College to collect and analyze building data to develop a Building Automation System (BAS) Stretch Standard of Care (SSOC) for owners, designers, and building operators to use as a tool to predict future energy consumption and environmental impact for commercial buildings. The project would gather public and proprietary datasets of New York City (NYC) buildings and create a database of buildings over 25,000 square feet that characterizes energy related building systems and components. The project would be completed over 3 Budget Periods (BPs), with a Go/No-Go Decision Point between each BP.

Proposed project activities would include intern recruitment and hiring, information gathering, data collection and analysis, database development, computer modeling, data dissemination, and pilot testing of the draft SSOC. The project would collect and aggregate building and energy data (i.e. heating, cooling, lighting, etc.) from building permits, energy audits, retro-commissioning measures, and utility data. It would also access and use proprietary data under NYC interagency agreements to analyze building energy consumption through benchmarking data, DOE Building Asset Score, and regression models. The project would identify the way in which BAS data can be captured in order to reasonably predict and document energy consumption and environmental impact for commercial buildings and develop an SSOC for building owners, designers, and operators. A pilot test would be implemented of up to ten buildings with existing BASs in which the BASs would be programmed to capture necessary data to ensure the draft SSOC accurately predicts building energy performance across a range of commercial building types.

CUNY would oversee the project. Work would be performed in CUNY office spaces used by the CUNY Building Performance Lab. Partners on the project would be the New York City Mayor's Office of Sustainability and New York City's Department of Buildings. All participants would share similar tasks of information gathering, data collection and analysis, modeling, document preparation, and data dissemination.

Testing would rely on existing BASs within buildings and only software programming and calibration would be needed, therefore there would be no expected modifications to existing facilities and no additional permits required to conduct any project activities.

This project involves only office-based work and no significant health and safety risks are anticipated. CUNY would adhere to established health and safety policies and procedures and would observe all applicable 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 Shaina Aguilar on 7/22/2020.

**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:



Signed By: Casey Strickland

Date: 7/22/2020

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:

Field Office Manager

Date: