

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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



RECIPIENT: New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

STATE: NY

PROJECT TITLE: National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0001767	DE-EE0008390	GFO-0008390-012	GO8390

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 New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to form a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) entity, the "National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium" which would be led by NYSERDA, along with key industry stakeholders and research institutions. The Consortium would finance research initiatives seeking to address the technical barriers faced by offshore wind developers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and supply chain partners, with the goal of reducing the Levelized Cost of Electricity (LCOE) for U.S. offshore wind plants and increasing opportunities for U.S. manufacturing.

The proposed project is divided into four (4) Budget Periods (BPs). DOE previously completed two NEPA reviews [Budget Period 1 (BP1 – Tasks 1-10 and 12-16) (GFO-0009380-001 CX A1, A9 and A13, 10/09/2018); and BP1 Task 11 and BP2 all Tasks (GFO-0009380-001 CX A1, A9 and A13, 1/13/2020)]. In addition, DOE has completed NEPA reviews for specific sub awards under Task 19. This NEPA review is for a sub award proposed to be made under Task 19 to General Electric Research, Research & Development facility located in Niskayuna, New York.

Task 19 in BP2 involves reviewing applications received in response to the solicitation released in Task 18, and then choosing specific projects which would receive a sub award. While NYSERDA is allowed under the previous NEPA determination to proceed with choosing projects under Task 19, all projects chosen for sub award are subject to additional NEPA analysis prior to NYSERDA contracting for the sub award and prior to any work being completed on the sub award.

Under the proposed sub award General Electric Research would complete computer modeling for predicting leading edge erosion for offshore wind blades. This work would include using simulated data generated from a high-fidelity physics model-based simulator to train, test, and validate the models and use the data from real-world wind turbines for the model calibration process and validation. The project scope would be limited to computer and design work: no fabrication or field testing would be included. This sub award is therefore limited to information gathering and data analysis.

Any work proposed to be conducted at a DOE laboratory may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant DOE NEPA Compliance Officer for the specific DOE laboratory prior to initiating such work. Further, any work conducted at a DOE laboratory must meet the laboratory's health and safety requirements.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

The NEPA Determination applies to the following Topic Areas, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

Budget Period 1
Budget Period 2
Sub Award to General Electric Research

The NEPA Determination does not apply to the following Topic Area, Budget Periods, and/or tasks:

Budget Period 3
Budget Period 4

Notes:

This NEPA determination does require a tailored NEPA provision
Wind Energy Technology Office
Roak Parker 10/02/2020

FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

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.

A portion of the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review. The NEPA Provision identifies Topic Areas, Budget Periods, tasks, and/or subtasks that are subject to additional NEPA review.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____

 Electronically Signed By: **Roak Parker**

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 10/2/2020

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: _____