

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** U.S. Department of Energy - Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office**STATE:** Mult**PROJECT TITLE:** HFTO FY21 R&D FOA

<b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b>	<b>Procurement Instrument Number</b>	<b>NEPA Control Number</b>	<b>CID Number</b>
DE-FOA-0002446	NA	GFO-FOA-0002446-001	

**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.)

**A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

Rationale for determination:

U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Technologies Office is proposing to issue the Hydrogen and Fuel Cells R&D 2021 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). Through this FOA (DE-FOA-0002446), DOE would provide federal funding to support research and development (R&D) to enable "H2@Scale" – a DOE initiative to achieve large scale production, storage, transport, and utilization of hydrogen across multiple sectors. The FOA includes four Topic Areas of Interest:

Topic Area 1 - Fuel Cell R&D for Heavy-Duty Applications  
Topic Area 2 - Efficient and Innovative Hydrogen Production  
Topic Area 3 - High-flow Fueling Applications  
Topic Area 4 - Cost Analysis for Fuel Cells, Hydrogen Production, and Hydrogen Storage

DOE has reviewed the descriptions of each Topic Area and concluded that this NEPA Determination will apply only to awards selected under Topic Area 4. All awards selected under Topic Areas 1 through 3 will require separate reviews.

Federal funding provided by DOE to successful applicants to Topic Area 4 would support activities involving computer-based cost analyses of various hydrogen and fuel cell technologies in office settings. The type of activities that would be conducted under Topic Area 4 of the FOA are limited to information gathering, analysis, and dissemination and may include technical advice and assistance to organizations. This NEPA Determination applies to awards selected under Topic Area 4 of the FOA. All projects selected and funded under Topic Area 4 of this FOA are categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Any work proposed to be conducted at a federal facility may be subject to additional NEPA review by the cognizant federal official and must meet the applicable health and safety requirements of the facility.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

**Topic Area 4 - Cost Analysis for Fuel Cells, Hydrogen Production, and Hydrogen Storage**

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

Topic Area 1 - Fuel Cell R&D for Heavy-Duty Applications  
 Topic Area 2 - Efficient and Innovative Hydrogen Production  
 Topic Area 3 - High-flow Fueling Applications

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

This NEPA Determination applies to awards selected under Topic Area 4 of the FOA, provided the scope of the selected awards remains consistent with the intent of Topic Area 4 of the FOA, as issued. If selected applicants propose to use project funds for activities outside the scope of this NEPA Determination, additional NEPA review will be required.

Notes:

Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Technologies Office  
 This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.  
 NEPA review completed by Casey Strickland 01/14/21

#### 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.

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: Casey Strickland  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 1/14/2021

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