

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



RECIPIENT: Electric Power Research Institute

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : DESIRED – Deep Efficiency and Smart Grid-Integrated Retrofits in Disadvantaged Communities

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002206	DE-EE0009783	GFO-0009783-001	GO9783

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.)
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Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) to analyze, design, and demonstrate Grid Interactive and Efficient Buildings (GEB) technologies at selected sites in Connected Communities (CC) in Seattle, WA and New York, NY, in order to provide energy options to Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) households within the CCs. Neighborhoods would be technologically retrofitted by utilizing coordinated control of buildings and community-scale DERs to optimize customer energy bills and grid services.

EPRI (Washington, DC) would design the CC technology packages, as well as developing the Distributed Energy Resource (DER) platform. EPRI would work with the Gas Technology Institute (GTI) (Des Plaines, IL), Vistar Energy (Rocklin, CA), Sentient Buildings (Elmsford, NY), Seattle City Light (Seattle, WA), and Community Roots (Seattle, WA) for developing measurement metrics, data analyses, development of virtual energy audit platform, controls platform for flexible building loads, providing electrical engineering support, and occupant surveys.

This award would be carried out in five budget periods (BPs). This NEPA Determination (ND) includes all of Budget Period (BP) 1. The remaining BPs are dependent on customer engagement, location selection, and data gathered in BP1. As such, the potential impacts of these remaining activities cannot be reviewed at this time, and additional NEPA review would be required in the future.

The proposed award activities in BP1 would consist of intellectual, academic, and analytical activities only, such as working with an industry advisory committee, developing a cybersecurity blueprint, progressing CC technology packages for the demonstration sites, preparing for occupant surveys, and advancing the DER control platform. The project plans incorporating community and customer involvement would be submitted to the cognizant Institutional Review Board (IRB) to determine if any of the proposed activities are considered human subjects research and, if so, IRB approval in accordance with 10 CFR 745.103 would be obtained prior to initiating the proposed activities in the field.

All activities would be conducted in existing purpose-built office or laboratory settings. No installation, construction, or ground disturbing activities would occur in BP1.

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: All tasks.

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

- Budget Period 2: All tasks.
- Budget Period 3: All tasks.
- Budget Period 4: All tasks.
- Budget Period 5: All tasks.

Notes:

Building Technologies Program (BTO)
 Review completed by Alex Colling, 04/13/2022.

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:  Electronically Signed By: Casey Strickland Date: 4/15/2022

 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