

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



RECIPIENT: [Spokane Edo LLC](#)

STATE: [WA](#)

PROJECT TITLE : [Spokane Connected Communities Project](#)

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DOE-FOA-0002206	DE-EE0009775	GFO-0009775-001	

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.)
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Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to Spokane Edo LLC to demonstrate a scalable business model which meets regional and local grid needs. This would be accomplished through a mix of grid interactive efficient buildings (GEBs) providing energy efficiency (EE) opportunities and hosting distributed energy resources (DERs) which could deliver grid services (GS). Overall project activities include planning and outreach as well as the development, deployment, and field testing of hardware (e.g. equipment controls, HVAC systems, solar PV, EV charging stations, battery storage, etc.) in the Spokane area.

Award activities would be carried out over five budget periods (BPs). This NEPA Determination (ND) includes all of Budget Period (BP) 1, as well as Subtask 7.1 through Subtask 7.5 in BP2. The remaining tasks in BP2 and all tasks in BP3, BP4, and BP5 are dependent on customer engagement and data gathered in BP1 and Subtask 7.1 through 7.5. 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 award activities being reviewed would consist of design, data analysis, cybersecurity planning, grid modeling, community engagement and data gathering, testing hardware equipment, conducting building audits, and software development. Surveys and behavioral research would be submitted to the cognizant Institutional Review Board (IRB) to determine if these 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 construction or ground disturbing activities would occur in BP1 or Subtasks 7.1 through 7.5. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project being reviewed in this ND.

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](#)

[Budget Period 2: Subtasks 7.1 through 7.5](#)

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

[Budget Period 2: Subtasks 7.6 and 7.7, Task 8 and Task 9](#)

[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, 04/11/2022.

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

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 4/15/2022

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: _____