

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



RECIPIENT: University of Washington

STATE: WA

PROJECT TITLE : Towards Parametric Source Functions for Wave Energy Converters

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002415	DE-EE0009959	GFO-0009959-001	GO9959

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.)

**B3.6 Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects** Siting, construction, modification, operation, and decommissioning of facilities for smallscale research and development projects; conventional laboratory operations (such as preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than 2 years) frequently conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions, provided that construction or modification would be within or contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Not included in this category are demonstration actions, meaning actions that are undertaken at a scale to show whether a technology would be viable on a larger scale and suitable for commercial deployment.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the University of Washington (UW) to upgrade and deploy hydrophone instrumentation which would collect noise data generated by wave energy converters (WECs). Deployments would occur at the PacWave South (PWS) test site.

This NEPA determination (ND) does not apply to Subtask 3.2.0, Task 4.0.0, or Budget Period (BP) 2. DOE will complete a NEPA review for these activities when sufficient information is available to conduct a meaningful review.

This ND applies to activities that would prepare hydrophone instrumentation and plans for deployment activities. The hydrophone instrumentation involved with this project would include Drifting Acoustic Instrumentation Systems (DAISYs) and a NoiseSpotter®, both of which have been deployed in previous DOE-funded activities. Three existing DAISYs would be upgraded and bench-tested at UW laboratories (Seattle, WA). UW would also fabricate two additional DAISYs. The NoiseSpotter® would be upgraded and bench-tested by Integral Consulting Inc. (Integral) at their existing facilities (Santa Cruz, CA). Upgrades would focus on improving the ability for instrumentation to collect noise data while also increasing the amount of time they can operate while deployed.

Additional activities would include those of an academic, intellectual, and analytical nature. This would include the preparation of plans and procedures for anticipated deployments at PWS.

All facilities at UW and Integral are preexisting purpose-built facilities for the type of work to be conducted for this award. Facility modifications would not be required. Award activities would involve hazards associated with engineering laboratory work, such as handling electronic components and tools for fabrication of equipment. All such handling and storage would occur within controlled laboratory settings. Existing university and corporate health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed at all facilities, including: personnel training, proper personal protective equipment (PPE), engineering controls, monitoring, and internal assessments.

DOE has considered potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate adverse impacts on these resources.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a conditional NEPA determination.

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

Task 0.0.0  
Task 1.0.0  
Task 2.0.0  
Subtask 3.1.0

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

Subtask 3.2.0  
Task 4.0.0  
Budget Period 2

Notes:

Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO)  
NEPA review completed by Dan Cahill, 5/19/2022.

## 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.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/1/2022

**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: \_\_\_\_\_