

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



RECIPIENT: Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE : Hydrogen Shot Incubator Prize

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
N/A	N/A	GFO-H2Prize2022-001	

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 authorize the administration of a prize competition, known as the "H-Prize: Hydrogen Shot Incubator" (Prize), designed to solicit multidisciplinary contributions to identify, develop, and test technologies that would reduce the cost of clean hydrogen production. In support of DOE's Hydrogen Energy Earthshot initiative, the competition would be comprised of two phases (Propose! & Prove!), each offering a cash prize for select participants. The competition would be administered by DOE and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). NREL directs and administers the DOE-funded American-Made Network prize competitions, responsible for helping competitors utilize national laboratory resources. Through the proposed Prize, DOE would progressively award federal funding in the form of cash prizes and vouchers to competitors.

For this prize competition, competitors would be tasked to present innovative pre-commercial technology with the potential to produce clean hydrogen with the goal cost of \$1/kg. This would include decarbonization, chemical production, energy storage, and transportation technologies that would reduce current clean hydrogen costs. Specific competitors are unknown at this time.

Up to 10 competitors from the Propose! phase would be selected to receive \$10,000 cash and \$50,000 vouchers to collaborate with national laboratories. All activities in the Propose! phase would be of an intellectual, academic, and analytical nature. Activities would include data analysis, computer modeling, and document preparation. Only those competitors selected in the Propose! phase would be eligible for the Prove! phase where they would further develop their concepts into laboratory demonstrations. This NEPA determination reviews activities associated with the Propose! phase of the Prize only.

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:

The Propose! phase of the H-Prize: Hydrogen Shot Incubator.

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

The Prove! phase of the H-Prize: Hydrogen Shot Incubator

Notes:

Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office (HFTO)
Review completed by Alex Colling on 06/06/2022.

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: _____



Casey Strickland

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 6/8/2022

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: _____