

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



RECIPIENT: Wind Energy Technology Office - Department of Energy

STATE: CO

PROJECT TITLE : Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) FOA to Address Key Deployment Challenges for Offshore, Land-Based, and Distributed Wind

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002828		GFO-0002828-FY22-001	

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:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) FOA to Address Key Deployment Challenges for Offshore, Land-Based, and Distributed Wind" (DE-FOA-0002828). Goals of the funding opportunity include the advancement of United States wind power systems, reducing the cost of electricity, addressing the climate crisis, accelerating the deployment of wind power, and advancing environmental justice. Applications will be selected for four specific topic areas: High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) for Offshore Wind, Advancing Deployment of Distributed (ADD) Wind, Offshore Wind Energy Social Science Research, and Bat Deterrent Technology Development.

Topic Area (TA) 1 (specifically, subtopic 1a): High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) for Offshore Wind, TA 2: Advancing Deployment of Distributed (ADD) Wind, and TA 3 (subtopics 3a and 3b): Offshore Wind Energy Social Science Research, would be limited to information gathering, data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and document preparation. Some projects might install sensors to collect electricity generation and consumption data and the associated communication and software tools, however these would not require new construction or modification of existing facilities. TA 4: Bat Deterrent Technology Development would include the development of bat deterrent technologies and field testing. Projects under TA 1b, TA 1c, and TA 4 are not included in this NEPA Determination and will require further NEPA review once awards under those Topic Areas are selected.

Recipients and proposed project locations are not known at this time. However, activities anticipated under the Topic Areas included in this NEPA determination would not have the potential for adverse environmental impacts. Selected projects would be focused on information gathering, data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and document preparation. Selected projects could include the installation of sensors to collect electricity generation and consumption data at existing facilities.

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.

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 Areas 1a, 2, and 3

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

Topic Areas 1b, 1c, and 4

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

This NEPA Determination applies to all awards made under Topic Areas 1a, 2, and 3 of the FOA, provided the scope of the selected awards remains consistent with those Topic Areas as issued. If selected applicants propose to use project funds for activities outside the scope of Topic Areas 1a, 2, 3, and/or this NEPA Determination, additional NEPA review will be required.

Notes:

Wind Energy Technology Office (WETO)
NEPA review completed by Andrew McClellan, 11/23/2022

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:

 Electronically Signed By: Casey Strickland
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 11/23/2022

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: _____

Date: _____

Field Office Manager