

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



RECIPIENT: DE-FOA-0002597 Topic Area 1

STATE: NM

PROJECT TITLE : Nine awards under Topic Area 1 only

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002597		GFO-0002597-001	GO

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 provide federal funding to nine awardees for projects selected under Topic Area 1 of the Solar Energy Technologies Office Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) DE-FOA-0002597: "Renewables Advancing Community Electricity Resilience (RACER)." Topic Area 1 ("Innovative Community-Based Energy Resilience Planning") would be focused on the development of locally appropriate energy resilience planning at the community level, including the development and integration of new and existing metrics and preparedness and response plans, via robust multi-stakeholder participation and collaboration.

This NEPA Determination applies only to the nine awards listed below and does not apply to any alternate selections under Topic Area 1 which may be considered for federal funding in the future.

DE-EE0010412 Electric Power Research Institute
 DE-EE0010413 Wayne State University
 DE-EE0010414 VA Department of Energy
 DE-EE0010415 Groundswell
 DE-EE0010416 Kansas State University
 DE-EE0010417 NC State
 DE-EE0010418 University of Central Florida
 DE-EE0010419 City of Duluth
 DE-EE0010420 Navajo Technical University

DOE has reviewed project documents for each of these awards and has determined that all work to be performed would consist exclusively of intellectual, academic, or analytical tasks. Project teams would collect and analyze utility data, perform system modeling, conduct stakeholder workshops, and create resilience planning guidelines. No technology development or demonstration would be performed.

Project activities would be primarily desktop-based, or else involve a range of collaborative efforts to be conducted indoors at various public or corporate meeting sites. No change in the use, mission, or operation of existing facilities would arise out of these efforts. Federal funding provided by DOE in support of these projects (including Recipient cost-share) would not be used to acquire or install any new solar PV installations or directly enable the initiation of such work. Completion of the proposed projects would require no resources beyond basic office supplies, computers, servers, and software.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)
Review completed by Whitney Donoghue on 02/16/2023.

This NEPA Determination applies to the following nine awards selected under Topic Area 1 of Funding Opportunity Announcement DE-FOA-0002597: "Renewables Advancing Community Electricity Resilience (RACER)." This NEPA Determination does not apply to any other projects funded under DE-FOA-0002597, including any alternate selections under Topic Area 1.

- DE-EE0010412 Electric Power Research Institute
- DE-EE0010413 Wayne State University
- DE-EE0010414 VA Department of Energy
- DE-EE0010415 Groundswell
- DE-EE0010416 Kansas State University
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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:


NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 2/21/2023

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: